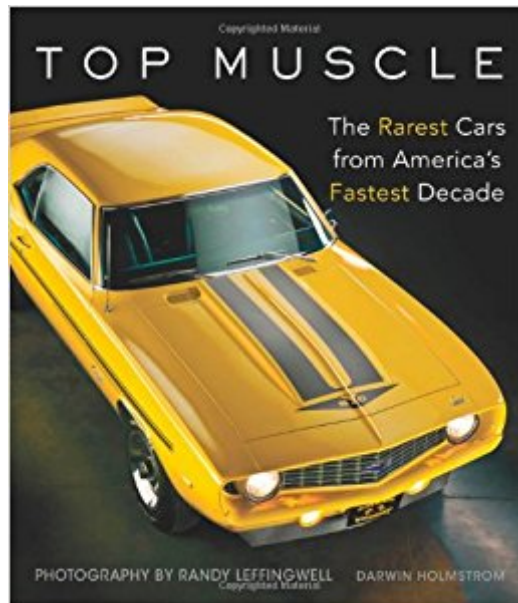


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Top Muscle: The Rarest Cars From America's Fastest Decade



Synopsis

A muscle-car book unlike any other, featuring the rarest vehicles on Earth. In the 1960s, something explosive happened in the automotive world: the United States's evolving V-8 engine technology was met by 75 million baby boomers, all with an extreme need for speed and all entering the auto market at the same time. The result was the golden era of factory muscle cars, brutish machines that were unlike any the world had ever seen or will likely ever see again--they truly embodied the "sex, drugs, and rock-and-roll" generation. For some, even a factory muscle car wasn't enough. Detroit automakers responded, secretly building some of the most outrageous muscle cars ever created behind their superiors' backs and ultimately creating some of the most powerful vehicles ever sold to the public. In *Top Muscle*, author Darwin Holmstrom chronicles the ultimate collection of these super-rare high-performance beasts. Captured by the lens of renowned auto photographer Randy Leffingwell, these cars represent the absolute zenith of the most valuable collector cars in existence, with fascinating histories that illuminate the wildest age in American automotive history. The Brothers Collection features over 600 cars, including such rarities as:- The very first Chevelle Z16 ever built, which was also the very first muscle car that Chevrolet ever built- The very first Chevelle SS454 LS6 off the assembly line- The only 1969 Mach I Mustang ever built with a factory sunroof- The very first A12 (440-6) Roadrunner ever built- The very last Hemi 'Cuda convertible Plymouth produced, One of the eight convertible Trans Am Ram Air III Firebirds that Pontiac built in 1969

Book Information

Hardcover: 224 pages

Publisher: Motorbooks; Reprint edition (May 15, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0760345147

ISBN-13: 978-0760345146

Product Dimensions: 10 x 1 x 11.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (20 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

Once Again Randy Leffingwell has done a Stellar Job with the Beautiful Photography, The Writing by The Author Darwin Holmstrom while good and in depth leaves little to be desired with the curse words and "Proletarian" to describe something as well as the Mentioning of Viet Nam which should not be in a car book. The cars Selected Are Beautiful I am disappointed there was no Corvettes as the L-88/ZL-1 can be a Muscle car besides A Sportscar. Also, In a Previous Book Titled "Corvette" by the publisher/Newhardt it was Mentioned that the Motion 76' Can-Am Spyder Corvette (More photos of it) would be coming in the Top Muscle book for some reason either it will be in a future book or not used since it was Not in this Book Top Muscle. My Favorite Car is the Cover car, The Camaro, The Douglass-Yenko Camaro/Yenk Camaros - The Beautiful Blue Camaro and of course the Green Chevelle, all The GM Cars Basically. The Author is right that Ford as it has admitted did not have any Muscle cars during this era to take on Mighty GM Muscle and Mopars but they are included nonetheless. Overall, Love the Cars pictured specifically with the Dash on, Lights on and Taillights on, a Quick read at a Era that is sorely Missed which I wish I would have known.

Of all the "coffee table car books" out there, this one is the best I've ever seen. Photos and text are very good. I thought I know everything about these rare cars, but I was surprised and pleased to have learned something new.

Darwin Holmstrom explores the rarities of the 60s muscle car era in his book, "Top Muscle: The Rarest Cars from America's Fastest Decade". With photographer Randy Leffingwell alongside him, he is able to create a compelling book that focuses on many of the vanished classics. Readers will receive significant insight into the world of autos, especially during a time when "the classical muscle car era began with John Z. DeLorean". This man took charge of GM's Pontiac line and encouraged a "creative interpretation" of the company's rules. The result: powerful and beautiful cars! This book offers beautiful photos of the ultimate car lover's collection, including the world's first Chevelle Z16 and the only 1969 Mach I Mustang with a sunroof. When will you get another chance to see those? Readers will find comfort comparing this book to other picture books like Holmstrom's other book GTO 50 Years: The Original Muscle Car and car history books like Allan Girdler's American Road Race Specials, 1934-70: Glory Days of Homebuilt Racers. Of course, each of these books has its own specific area. If you are more interested in a general approach to muscle cars, "Top Muscle" is a great choice. Holmstrom and Leffingwell present the reader with brilliant studio-lit photos. Each photo comes with a wonderful story, but the result is a quick read that will leave you

wanting to learn more.

I expected more from this book. The photography is stunning, borderline breathtaking at times, but the stories regarding the cars are a little thin in my opinion... It's more a portfolio of car-photography rather than an automotive "book". The Rothers Collection is so significant, they could have mentioned it more, and also how the cars were found, restored or preserved with a bit more detailed descriptions.

Great book, quick delivery, well packaged

This book has wonderful photos and some useful information. Like most "muscle car" books, it does occasionally fall into myth territory. For example, the book suggests that the only modification to performance on the original 440 6 pack test car, as driven by Ronnie Sox, was a removed air cleaner element." This is false. The "Super Stock and Drag Racing Illustrated" editor (Ro McGonegal), who witnessed the event and penned the published road test, wrote a detailed article about that test car years ago. The car was a full tilt factory ringer, complete with a hotter than production cam, a partially blueprinted engine, and an "experimental" intake manifold and carb set-up.

It was purchased as a gift for someone who has that interest. The reaction from the recipient was good...and in any event it would make an interesting coffee table book. Quality was good.

nicely done!

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