

A Pony of a Different Colour

Building Yow Modelli's Giugiaro Mustang

by Wayne E. Moyer

In 1965 Ford selected Carozzeria Bertone to build a Mustang show car; it had to be different while still being immediately recognizable as a Mustang. Bertone gave the task to young Giorgetto Geiger, who gave the Pony a new sloping nose and a full fastback roof. I never really liked the Bertone Mustang; although reminiscent of some Ferraris, it always looked more like a Plymouth Barracuda to me. Fast forward 40 years; the 2005 Mustang is the most wanted car built in the USA but after the initial rush of pony-car fever, Ford turned again to Giugiaro, now operating his own design facility, to create a Mustang show car that was different, but still immediately recognizable as a Mustang. Giugiaro gave the task to his son Fabrizio, who built the striking "Giugiaro Mustang" for the 2007 car show circuit. Although there's not a single stock body panel, Fabrizio's Mustang retains the overall look of the '05 with two major differences; scissors-hinged doors and a one-piece glass top that includes the windshield and backlight in that single piece. I really liked the more muscular appearance of the Giugiaro Mustang and when the Yow Modelli kit (YOW43018) appeared in FSW I ordered one and waited for the FBB.

This time when I opened the FBB I got a couple of surprises; instead of a box the kit is packaged in a clear plastic "envelope". And the "instructions" consist of four photos all printed on the same 4" by 6" card. My initial thought was that the lack of instructions wouldn't be a problem since there were only 29 parts including a screw and a piece of soft wire whose function I never did discover. There are no white-metal castings; the tyres and back of the wheels are cast in black resin while the brake discs and front half of the wheels are resin castings that must be "plated". There's very little flash and only a couple of small mold lines on the resin body, so cleanup didn't take long, but the first primer coat showed that it had a "textured" surface and that there were areas under the rear end and inside the

side coves where the surface wasn't smooth and continuous. It almost looks as if the master for the body were made of plaster. It took some sanding and a couple more coats of primer to get a surface that was ready for painting, and of course all the panel lines had to then be opened up with a scribing tool.



After several coats of primer.

There's absolutely NO clue in the instructions about the interior colours or details, and I noticed that while there were several small instrument face decals there were none for the bigger gauges. Obviously I needed more help than Yow Modelli provided so I began searching the 'Net. Fortunately there are lots of photos there, some of the best being on carand-driver.com and motortrend.com. The base colour for the interior is dark brown, with orange insert panels (neatly scribed in the kit parts) and three-colour "Pinto" horsehide inserts in the seats. The best match I could come up with for the base interior colour was Testors Model Master "Burnt Umber"; you may see the colours differently on your computer monitor. After spraying the inside of the body shell and all the interior parts "Burnt Umber" I began trying to match the body colour.

Here again I was matching what I saw on my computer (since Yow has no instructions, there's no colour information!) and what you see may be different. I mixed a shade I liked from Model Master's "Boyd" colours; "Sunburst" and "Orange Pearl" lightened with Model Master "Chrome Yellow". These are all enamels, so after applying several coats I put the body away for several days to dry thoroughly.

Time to work on the interior!



Wayne's completed model of Yow Modelli's Giugiaro Mustang

The base brown was an enamel, so I mixed an orange that's noticeably lighter than the body colour from Tamiya Orange, White, and Brown; the acrylic Tamiya paints won't eat into the brown enamel when brushed on. I hand-painted the door and console contrast panels with several coats of this colour. Then it was time to mix the three shades for the horsehide seat inserts. The entire inserts were first painted with a very light tan mixed from Tamiya paints, and when that was dry the two darker colours were mixed from Model Master enamels and brushed on to match the patterns I saw in photos. The dashboard appears to have a brushed aluminium horizontal centre section with a bright chrome molding below that, and was duly painted thus. By this time I was strongly wishing that Yow had included at least the horsehide inserts as decals, but my finished interior didn't look too bad. The speedometer and tach faces are aftermarket decals (VIR105).



The completed interior parts.

It would have been nice if the "power bulge" on the hood had been a decal, too, but that had to be masked and painted. I used Tamiya Semi-Gloss Black, which went on over the orange enamel with no problems.

Lacking any kind of instructions, I glued the dashboard and interior side panels to the inside of the body shell, and crossed my fingers that the base-plate would fit. It did, quite nicely in fact, so I added the front seats and steering wheel to complete the main assembly. The interior looks even better when it's all in place. All photos show fairly dark tinted glass; the vacuum in the kit is clear, so I sprayed the inside of that with several thin coats of Tamiya "Smoke". The windshield/top needs to be trimmed carefully (there's no spare) but fits well, as do the rear quarters and side windows. I left the driver's side window "down" to better see the interior.

That left the wheel/tyre assemblies. If you didn't notice that there were no axles in the first photo, look again. In fact, the back side of the wheel has about a 0.3 inch hole in it, so there's no way of mounting the wheels on axles. I used Alclad

II "Chrome" (ALC007) in the wheels and brake discs, and then painted the calipers "Steel" since they appear to be stock Mustang units. The outer part of the wheel has a black hub with small body-colour accents on the inner part of the spokes. The only way to mount the wheels is to glue the tire directly to the body! I glued one front wheel inside the wheel arch where it "looked right", then used thick, slower-setting "Hot Stuff" super glue (5-minute epoxy would work, too) to fit the other front wheel with the body shimmed to the correct height above a piece of plate glass so the front would be level when the glue set up. One rear wheel was added in the "looks right" position and then the other was added with the body "level" in both directions. Time-consuming, but it worked.

I wasn't quite done yet. The three-lens taillights are neatly scribed into the body, but I knew "Stoplight Red" paint wouldn't stand out if applied directly to the bright orange body. My solution was to cover all six lenses, and the faux gas cap, with Bare-Metal foil and then paint over that with "Stoplight Red". I'd have settled for decals, there, too! The grille, side, and "gas cap" decals went on easily.

My finished model captures the road-hugging stance and muscular look of the Giugiaro Mustang very well. The interior took some time, but the results are worth it. Giugiaro's '07 Mustang is definitely different, but still a Mustang, and Yow Modelli's model captures the lines and details very well. I've just retired the old engineer's scale in favour of a set of digital calipers; if, and that's a BIG if, dimensions found on the 'Net are correct the model is about 0.1 inch short but other dimensions are right on 1/43 scale. As I said, it looks good to me. Set side by side with Politoys' Bertone Mustang, it gives you a really good appreciation of just how far we've come in both full-scale and 1/43 scale cars since 1965!

To sum this one up, Yow Modelli's castings are good but not quite as good as those, say, from Marsh Models. That may have something to do with the material from which the master was made or the resin used. The major fault I find is the complete lack of instructions; the kit's simplicity and good castings really don't require them for assembly but you have to go to the Internet for interior photos if you want an accurate model. And it is an accurate-- and very attractive-- model when completed.

