Car: The Definitive Visual History Of The Automobile
Synopsis

Tracing the history of the automobile, from the first prototypes to the super cars of today, Car covers the technological developments and manufacture of cars, the cultural backdrop against which the various models arose, and the enduring impact the car has had on society as an object of curiosity, symbol of luxury, and item of necessity. The most lavishly illustrated treatment of the subject on the market, featuring the most noteworthy cars of each decade in beautifully photographed catalogs, Car is truly an international view of the automobile through time, with histories of the men and machines that created brands which are now household names.

Book Information

Hardcover: 360 pages
Publisher: DK; 1st edition (May 2, 2011)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 0756671671
Product Dimensions: 10.2 x 1.2 x 12.1 inches
Shipping Weight: 4.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)
Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars See all reviews (74 customer reviews)
Best Sellers Rank: #25,602 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #2 in Books > Arts & Photography > Vehicle Pictorials > Automotive #4 in Books > Engineering & Transportation > Automotive > History #49 in Books > Engineering & Transportation > Transportation > History

Customer Reviews

This is a coffee table book, definitely not for the detailed aficionado but perhaps for someone who enjoys cars and reading their stories and looking at their pictures. It is concerned more with speed and performance than with the newer fuel efficient models. The book is divided into; the first automobile to 1920, then the 20's, 30's, 40's, 50's, 60's, 70's, 80's, 90's and 2000 onward, how an engine works, a glossary and an index. The pictures are beautiful and most all in colour. There are smaller illustrations listing the origin, the engine and top speed and a bit of their history. Then there are specific cars singled out for a larger page display, such as the Model T, Rolls Royce Silver Ghost, and the DeLorean DMC-12. Those who want an illustrated story of the automobile’s history might enjoy this book.

Although the overall quality is okay, the description fails to mention that this book is predominantly
about foreign cars. There is only minimal mention of American cars and the innovations that were made by the domestic brands of the U.S.

Wow, what a great gift for the car enthusiast. It is big, colorful and very detailed about the history of the car. It has images and information about cars I never knew existed. I purchased it as a gift for my father who is a classic car buff, and he loved it! Great value for the price and the big full color images make you want to spend time just reading about all of the different makes and models. I would recommend it for anyone who collects, restores or dreams about the automobile.

Dorling Kindersly (DK) specializes in visual histories of everything imaginable. This new book is just delightful with well-printed, mostly color photos of cars of every era. It's neither scholarly nor a definitive history of automobiles. Rather, it's a pictoral overview of the development and wonderful variety of four-wheeled (and occasionally three-wheeled!) personal transportation. The large format makes it that much better. We have a number of DK's books and always enjoy them.
Recommended.

This book is a fantastic visual overview of all things car from their humble beginnings to the present day. It is exactly what you would expect out of a DK book: superb photographs, full color, high quality, and an interesting and informative layout. This book does exactly what a coffee table book should do: allows you to flip through it for a few minutes, see some fantastic images, and read a few short blurbs about both great and merely interesting automobiles. It is a must-have for any auto aficionado; no matter the level of knowledge, there is something new and interesting to learn from this book.

I bought this as a Christmas present for a relative who fixes up and sells cars. It's printed on nice, heavy, glossy paper. The book is divided into sections starting with early cars (through 1920), and then with a section for each decade thereafter. AT the beginning of each section is a double page with small pictures of representative cars from that decade, each labelled, and then closer looks at cars from that decade. It's well done. There are descriptions of the workings of an internal combustion engine, but they are not too technical. This book is very nice for anyone who likes cars, or, really, for someone who enjoys looking at the progression of something which is really central to our lives today.
This was actually a gift for my three year old daughter and my husband for Christmas! My daughter and husband are both obsessed with cars. This has been one of the best car books I've looked through - it is a complete history! Both have spent hours looking and reading about all the cars. I like how the book is separated by decade!

I bought this book for a friend who is into antique cars, so I didn't actually read the book, but I did browse the photos. And what photos there are! I love the early cars that are as much sculpture as engineering. Those cars were not just something to get you somewhere. They were something to be proud driving and riding in, and people took them out on the road to be seen. Cars today are so plentiful, car ads so insistant, that we take them for granted. But back in the early days of the automobile, there were only a few on the roads, and people took notice when one went by. This book has them all.

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