#### The Legendary Ford GT40: Unraveling its Production Racing and Individual Chassis History



The Ford GT40 is an iconic sports car that left an indelible mark in the history of motorsports. Its groundbreaking design, exceptional performance, and remarkable achievements on the racetrack have solidified its place as one of the most legendary automobiles ever created.

#### The Birth of a Legend

In the early 1960s, Ford had a grand ambition: to beat Ferrari at the renowned 24 Hours of Le Mans race. Inspired by Enzo Ferrari's abrupt decision to end negotiations for a potential buyout, Henry Ford II spared no expense in

assembling a team of engineers and drivers to create a car that could compete with the dominant Italian manufacturer.



#### Ford GT40: Production & Racing History, Individual Chassis History by Trevor Legate (Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 4.7 out of 5
Language : English
File size : 27927 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting: Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled

Print length



: 332 pages

Designed by a team led by Carroll Shelby and built in partnership with Lola Cars, the Ford GT40 made its racing debut in 1964. Despite initial setbacks and reliability issues, the car showed tremendous promise, quickly evolving into a true contender.

#### **Production Racing History**

The Ford GT40's production racing history is littered with triumphs and records. In 1966, it achieved its ultimate goal by clinching a 1-2-3 finish at the 24 Hours of Le Mans, marking the first time an American manufacturer won the prestigious race.

Over the years, the GT40 continued to dominate various racing circuits around the world. Its powerful V8 engine, aerodynamic shape, and exceptional handling made it a force to be reckoned with. With victories at Daytona, Spa-Francorchamps, and Sebring, among others, the GT40 quickly became a symbol of Ford's engineering prowess and determination.

Each iteration of the GT40 brought significant improvements, with constant refinements in aerodynamics, engine power, and overall performance. From the Mark I to the Mark IV, Ford relentlessly pursued perfection, leaving its mark on the history of motorsports.

#### **Individual Chassis History**

One of the most intriguing aspects of the Ford GT40 is its individual chassis history. Each chassis has a unique story to tell, with victories, losses, and even tragic incidents etched into their metal frames.

Chassis number GT40/P-1001, for example, was the first GT40 prototype built by Ford Advanced Vehicles in the UK. It paved the way for subsequent models and proved instrumental in gathering crucial data for further improvements. Despite not achieving any notable racing victories, GT40/P-1001 played a vital role in the development of the GT40 program.

On the other hand, chassis GT40/P-1075 holds the distinction of winning the 24 Hours of Le Mans in both 1968 and 1969. Piloted by Pedro Rodriguez and Lucien Bianchi in its first victory, it continued to showcase its dominance the following year with Jacky Ickx and Jackie Oliver behind the wheel. This chassis remains one of the most celebrated in GT40's history.

#### **Preserving the Legacy**

The Ford GT40's legacy lives on not only in the museums and private collections that house these iconic machines but also in the hearts of racing enthusiasts around the world. Today, these cars fetch astronomical prices at auctions and continue to be cherished by those lucky enough to own them.

Restoration projects, undertaken by passionate individuals and organizations, aim to preserve the authenticity of these masterpieces. By meticulously recreating the original specifications and race liveries, these projects ensure that the GT40's heritage endures for generations to come.

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The Ford GT40's production racing and individual chassis history stand as a testament to the determination, innovation, and resilience of all those involved in its development. From the ambitious vision of Ford's leadership to the skillful craftsmanship of the engineers, drivers, and mechanics, this legendary car represents the perfect union of technology and human spirit.

As time marches on, the GT40's legacy continues to grow stronger. Its distinctive shape and thunderous engine resonate with aficionados of motorsports, while collectors and historians meticulously document and preserve its story.

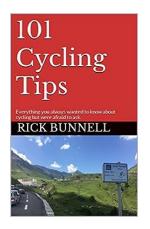
The Ford GT40 will forever hold its place in the annals of racing history, captivating generations with its undeniable charm and undeniable impact on the world of sports cars.



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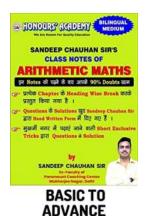
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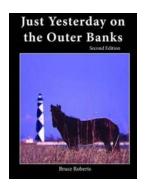
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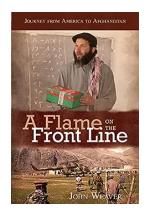
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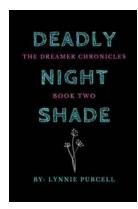
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