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Top Gear: The Cool 500: The Coolest Cars Ever Made



Synopsis

The undisputed coolest rides on the planet, from the car fanatics at Top Gear Ever since Karl Benz first powered up his Patent-Motorwagen in 1885, man has salivated and swooned over automobiles; and none more so than the motoring fanatics at Top Gear Magazine, who have test-driven, critiqued, and worshipped some of the finest cars in motoring history. While many have fallen short of Top Gear's exacting standards, others have triumphed, proving so damn cool they're termed "SubZero." This unique bible of motoring coolness recounts the stories behind history's greatest cars, from prewar vintage motors to the supercars of the future, pairing stunning Top Gear photography and rarely seen archive photographs with expert commentary. It breaks down the technology behind these incredible machines and places each car in the context of its time, with anecdotes and analysis that explain just what's so cool about each one. From the quintessential British luxury of the Bentley Brooklands to the Italian sex appeal of the Bizzarini Strada, the old Hollywood glamour of the Chrysler Airflow to the futuristic lines of the Aston Martin Bulldog via Steve McQueen's Ford Mustang and James Dean's doomed Porsche Spyder, this is social history as much as car worship. This is the evolution of cool, Top Gear-style; the definitive guide to the undisputed coolest cars on the planet.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is better than expected and very thorough. I bought it for my 11 year old son and he enjoys it a lot. It is however, written for an adult. The commentary about each car is done in British

fashion with words spelled differently than American's would. My son questioned why 'color' was spelled 'colour'. Their written humor is over the top of most kids as well, but very entertaining for car enthusiast adults. I'd definitely recommend for anyone of any age.

I just received this book via Prime and have fallen in love with it. It's elegant, informative, well organized and classic. It doesn't just focus on super cars; it offers a wonderful variety of vehicles from all walks of life. I highly recommend it!

My husbands reaction to this gift was awesome! He likes Top Gear but loves cars. This book shows the top 500 cars of all time and a little history with each! It has great pictures and it's Hardcover. How can you go wrong! Great Valentines gift this year!

Nice book, they crammed in a lot (500 cars) with short description. They did incorrectly identified Porsche 964 Turbo as 993 Turbo.

I ordered this book expecting it to just be a normal medium sized picture book filled with someone's favorite cars. However, when I received it, I was pleasantly surprised to see its size! It's a large book and is perfect for display and fits on the average bookshelf. The content was informative, but in a way that doesn't bore you to tears. My ONLY complaint, was that it was a bit dirty on the front and back covers when I bought it. It had some sort of small crusty things stuck to it, which was unsettling, but I simply cleaned it off and it was perfect. The dirty covers could have simply been a one time mistake. I recommend this for any Top Gear fan or car fanatic!!!!

I bought this as a gift and my fianc  spent hours reading it and telling me about why this car or that one was impressive. Lord knows some of the cars in those pages don't look like much but they represent a turning point in this or that feature. He loves it and it was well worth the price. Its a large book.

This book delivers exactly what the title states, a list, in chronological order of 500 of the coolest cars ever made. Of course the book is filled with the supercars that make fanatics drool like the Ferrari Enzo, Lamborghini Countach, and the Aston Martin DB5. It isn't all 6 and 7 figure supercars though, there are quite a few more practical and eclectic cars thrown into the mix. Things like the 1965 Ford Transit Van and the 1962 Peel P50. Every entry is accompanied by a photo of the car

and short entry giving some information or thoughts on the vehicle. Being a BBC book the whole thing has a bit of eurocentric feel as may be expected. Of the 500 cars featured it seems that about 90% of them are European. The few American cars included feel like they were included only grudgingly and usually have some backhanded compliments or snide remarks in the entry. A few examples: From the 1953 Chevrolet Corvette, "It ought to be stressed, however, that while there has never been a truly bad 911 (speaking of the Porsche), there has seldom been a Corvette that qualified as even half-way good." From the 2000 Saleen S7, "Although Americans are widely, and quite rightly, ridiculed for most of the detritus they manufacture in the name of motoring, there are some monumental exceptions." From the 2004 Cadillac CTS-V, "Cadillac has never made much of an impression on the UK, perhaps because we didn't want overpriced, dynamically redundant saloons with slushy auto boxes and all the class of a pimp's thong." While it wasn't much of a problem for me, if your love is for American cars then you should look elsewhere. I personally enjoyed seeing lots of the lesser well known European cars I'd never been exposed to before.

I bought this book for my boyfriend for Christmas. It took a long time to get it (as it shipped from the UK), but it was totally worth it. He could not put it down. It is a great coffee table book with nice pictures and descriptions. Perfect gift for a Top Gear fan.

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