

THE ICONIC FORD FALCON XB GT

SCALE
1:8



Left Door



Language of Customisation

Published weekly
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POST-APOCALYPTIC EDITION

THE ICONIC FORD FALCON XB GT

ISSUE 16

ASSEMBLY GUIDE

3

Work starts on assembling the left passenger door, fitting the handle, keyhole and mirror.

CUSTOM MADE

7

The language of customisation lists the ways your pride and joy can be shown off to other enthusiasts.

CARS ON SCREEN

10

The Wolf of Wall Street (2013) contained swearing, sex and drug use, but it was the demise of a white Lamborghini that most upset audiences!

YOUR MODEL

You will be building a 1:8 scale replica of a customised 1973 Ford Falcon XB GT. Features include a lift-up bonnet that reveals a detailed engine, opening doors, wind-down windows and an 'active' steering wheel. A remote-control fob illuminates the main lights, brake lights and indicators.

Scale: 1:8
Length: 62cm
Width: 25cm
Height: 19cm
Weight: 7+kg



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All parts belong to a kit. Collectors' item for adults. Not suitable for children under 14. Some parts may have sharp edges, please handle them with care.

The installation of electronic parts must always be carried out by an adult. When replacing batteries, use the same type of batteries. Please ensure that the battery compartment is securely fastened before you use the model again. Used batteries should be recycled. Please make sure to check with your local council how batteries should be disposed of in your area. Batteries can present a choking danger to small children and may cause serious harm if ingested. Do not leave them lying around and keep any spare batteries locked away at all times.

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t=top, c=centre, b=bottom, l=left, r=right, u=upper

Stage 16: Left Door (1)

Work starts on assembling the left side passenger door, fitting the door handle, keyhole and mirror.



List of parts:

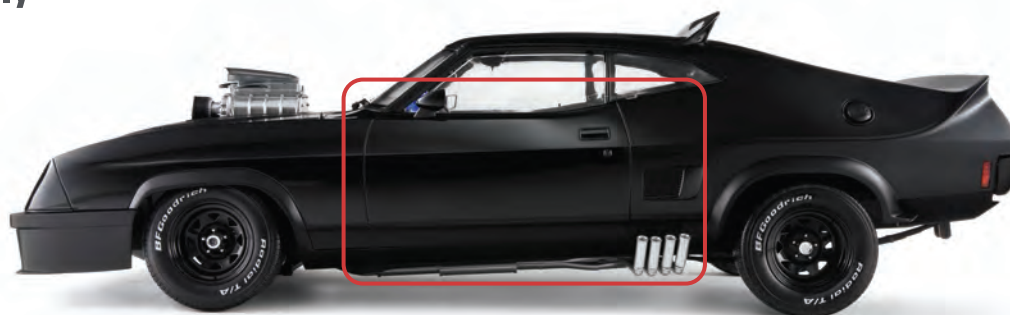
- 16A** Left door
- 16B** Door handle
- 16C** Door keyhole
- 16D** Mirror housing
- 16E** Mirror plate
- 16F** Reflective mirror sticker
- 16G** Window sliding felt band
- PS12** Two* 1.2 x 4mm PB screws
- PS38** Two* 1.8 x 4mm PB screws
- DS02** Two* 2.3 x 4.0 mm PM screws

* Including spare

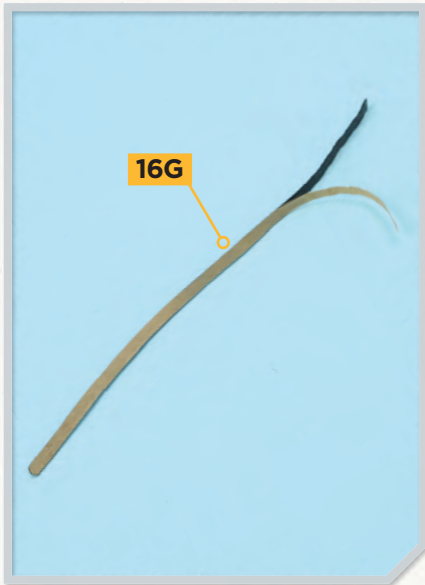
PB = Pan head for plastic

PM = Pan head for metal

Area of assembly

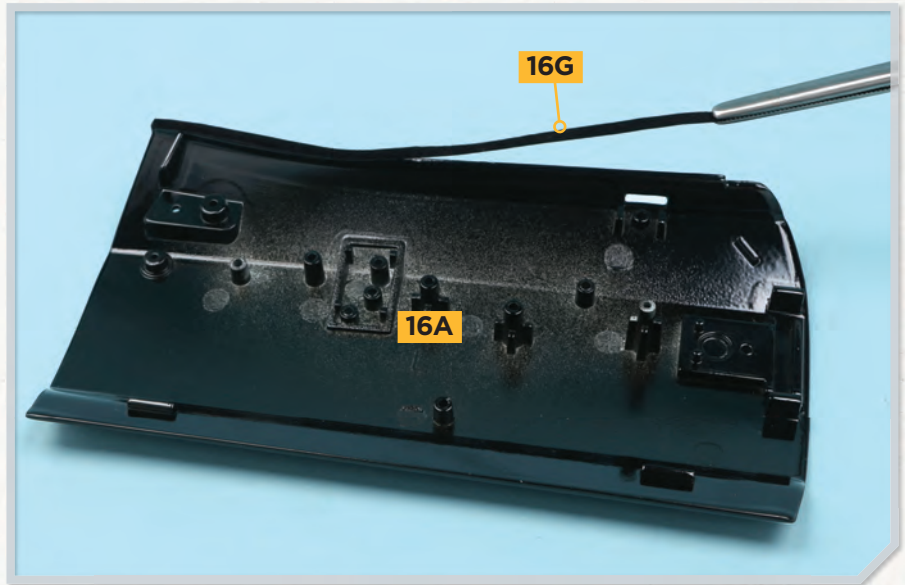


Stage 16: Left Door (1)



STEP 1

Take the window felt **16G** and peel away the protective backing.



STEP 2

Apply the window felt **16G** along the inside edge of the door **16A**. Make sure you align the top of the felt with the top edge of the door. Trim away any felt that hangs over the end of the door.



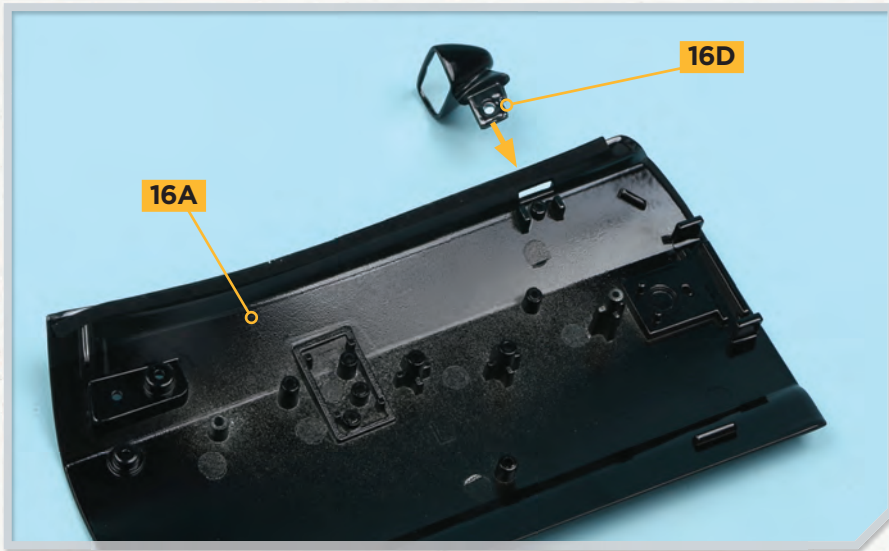
STEP 3

Take the two parts of the mirror **16D** and **16E**. Fit them together so that the pin on the back of part **16E** fits into the socket in part **16D** and the edges of the mirror plate fit into the rim in part **16D**. If necessary, use a pointed file or similar to slightly enlarge the hole in part **16D**. This is a push-fit connection.



STEP 4

Take the reflective mirror **16F** and peel away the protective backing. Stick it in place on the mirror plate **16E**. Note that the mirror has a protective film. You can peel this off (inset) or leave it in place until later to ensure you do not damage the surface of the mirror.

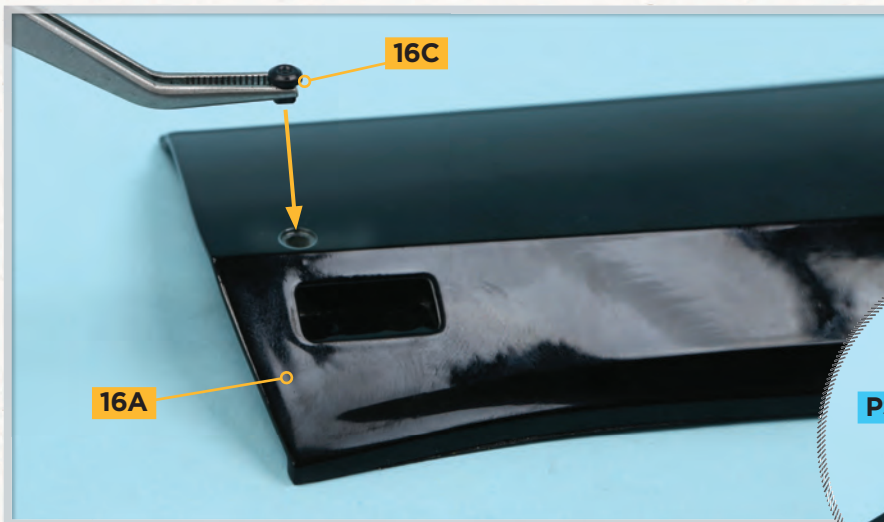


STEP 5

Take the door **16A** and identify the fixing point for the mirror: the tab on part **16D** fits through the slot in the top of the door.

STEP 6

Fix the mirror in place with a **DS02** screw. The inset below shows the mirror in place, viewed from the outside of the door

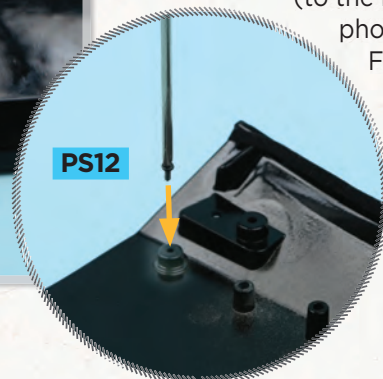


STEP 7

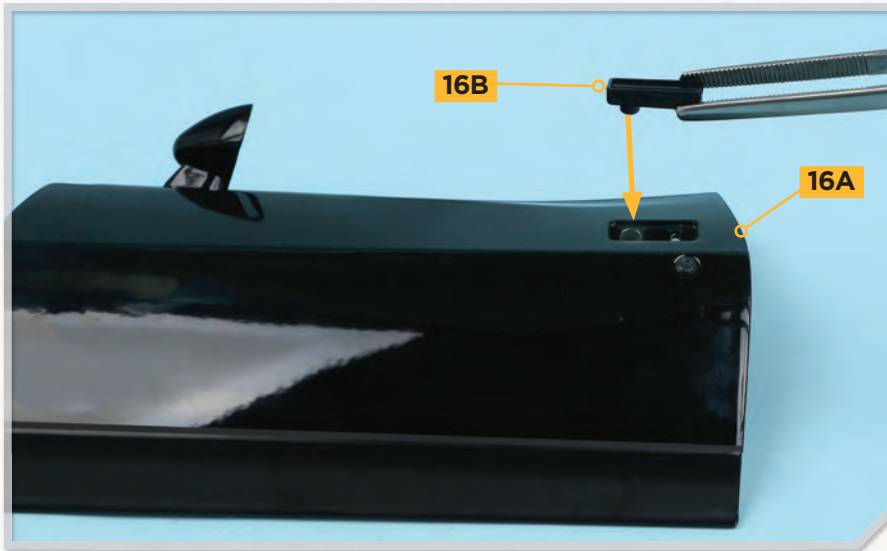
Take the keyhole **16C** and fit it into the large single socket in the door **16A**. Note that one side of the key hole is flat and this should face towards the edge of the door

(to the right in the photograph).

From behind, fix it in place with a **PS12** screw.



Stage 16: Left Door (1)

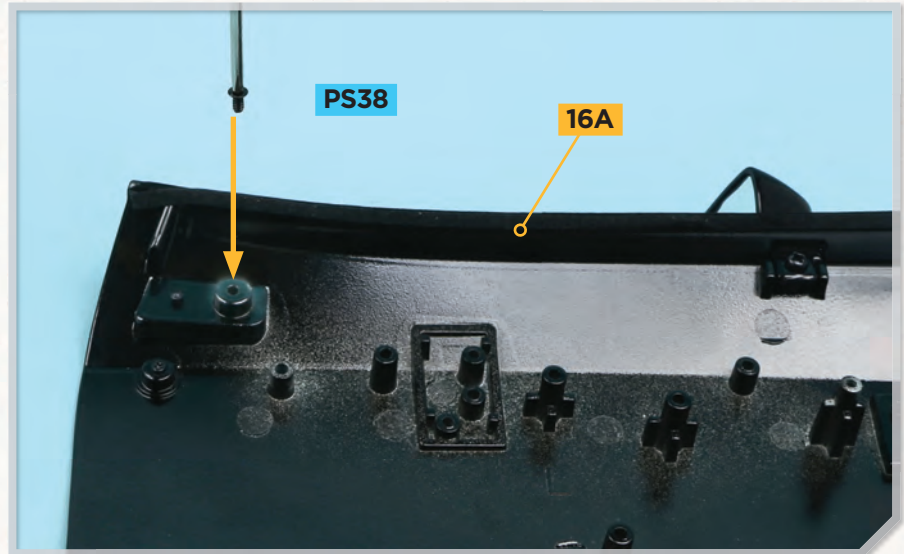


STEP 8

Identify the fixing point for the door handle **16B**. The screw socket on part **16B** fits into the large socket in part **16A** (arrow) and a peg on part **16B** fits into the smaller hole.

STEP 9

Turn the door over and fix the door handle in place with a **PS38** screw.



COMPLETED ASSEMBLY

The mirror, door handle and keyhole have been fitted to the left passenger door.

Language of Customisation: Showing the Speed

There is no point in owning a fine example of customisation if you can't show it off. Whether you want to race, or just show off, there are plenty of ways to let others see your pride and joy.



SPEED SITES

Dry Lakes Racing events along dried up lake beds at locations such as Muroc in California and Arizona's El Mirage.

Bonneville Flats A long smooth surface of salt in Wendover, Utah; when dry, it is a perfect location for races and land speed record attempts. In use since 1912, the first land speed record was set there in 1935 by Malcolm Campbell in his 'Blue Bird'.

Drag Racing Supposedly so called because it started out on the main drag or street in town, drag racing

involves one or more vehicles racing across a measured distance to see which car and driver is fastest. Drag racing meets usually take place on a quarter mile long track, since early events were held on half-mile long runways and the cars needed a further quarter mile to stop.

Super Stock A class in drag racing where highly modified racing machines resemble, to some extent, factory production cars.

E.T. (Elapsed Time) In drag racing, an E.T. is measured from the time the vehicle leaves the start line until it

Bonneville Flats holds an annual speed week when hot rods and dragsters can test their performance.

crosses the finish line. It is, however, NOT measured from the time the light goes green. See also R.T.

R.T. (Reaction Time) In drag racing, this is the time it takes for a driver to react to the green light and begin to accelerate. It has zero influence on the Elapsed Time.

Christmas Tree The traffic light system at a dragstrip used to line up

Language of Customisation: Showing the Speed



the competing vehicles, begin the race and measure the initial acceleration and reaction time.

Quick Change (rear axle)

A removable pair of cogs attached to the rear of an axle that allow a swap of the final drive ratios that supply power from the propshaft to the rear axle. They allowed a car to drive to the racetrack sedately then, with the quick change turned around, have greater acceleration or top speed.

Cruising The act of driving around, usually at night, to meet people and show off the car. More recently it has become an impromptu gathering in car parks or organised meets at coffee shops; the act of actually cruising is now virtually non-existent.

DRIVING

Wheelie To lift the front wheels off the ground during acceleration.

Wheelie Bar A bar, often with one or a pair of wheels, attached to the rear of a vehicle that prevents it from flipping over during a wheelie.

Right: A wheelie bar holds the road as a Chevrolet Camaro lifts its wheels.

Wheelstand A controlled wheelie that is held for some distance with the front wheels — and sometimes momentarily all four wheels — off the ground with the vehicle riding on its rear bumper or wheelie bar. Wheelstander exhibition vehicles have separately braked back wheels.

Hopping When someone discovered that rapidly raising then lowering the hydraulic suspension of a lowrider makes the vehicle bounce or leave completely leave the ground, the sport of hopping was born.

Above: A Chevrolet Corvette (nearside), and a Plymouth Superbird leave the Christmas Tree at Santa Pod Raceway, Podington, Northants, UK.

Donuts Doing donuts is to apply some steering lock then lots of power so the vehicle spins around in circle. The burnt rubber marks seen from above resemble a doughnut.

Burnout Spinning the driving wheels to heat the tyres, laying down burnt rubber and give more traction when pulling away. It has become an



Right: A Chevrolet lowrider dances down the street with assistance from its hydraulic suspension.

unwelcome means of creating smoke and showing off at car shows.

Peel Out Pulling away fast in order to deliberately spin the tyres.

Powershift To change gear without releasing the accelerator. It allows for greater acceleration but runs the risk of blowing up the engine.

Quick-Shift Mainly used on motorcycles, a quickshift briefly cuts the fuel supply to the engine or stops the ignition just long enough to select a new gear without releasing the throttle or using the clutch.

Shut Down To be beaten in a race.

MAGAZINES

Hot Rod The publication that began in January 1948 and was the first to report on the hot rodding culture, bringing respectability to the sport. *Hot Rod* was published continuously every month until 2024 when the magazine became a quarterly.



Rod & Custom Originally a monthly magazine, with the first issue released in 1954, *Rod & Custom* finally ceased publication in 2014.

Custom Cars A 'How To' magazine from the mid 1950s, giving readers the low down on how to make the most of their vintage vehicles, it only survived for three years. The UK magazine, *Custom Car*, launched in 1970 is Britain's most popular custom car magazine.

Australian Hot Rodder A relatively new magazine on the streets of Oz, published twice a year, seen as a

replacement for *Australian Street Rodding Magazine*, which closed in 2023 after reaching issue 400.

ORGANISATIONS

NHRA The National Hot Rod Association is the governing body that sets the rules for drag racing and has done since it was formed in 1951. The NHRA encouraged the public and the police to understand there was a difference between reckless street racers and law abiding hot rodders by arranging safe drag racing and organised car clubs.

In the UK, the National Hot Rod Promoters Association governs racing; The National Street Rod Association is the biggest hot rod club in Europe, for enthusiasts with pre-1972 vehicles.

In Australia, the International Hot Road Association Australia operates racing events, while the Australian Street Rod Federation (ASRF) promotes street rodding.

S.C.T.A. Formed in 1937 the Southern California Timing Association is America's oldest operating racing organisation. Formed from 11 clubs the SCTA is a non-profit sanctioning body for dry lake speed trial events.



Left: A hot rodder joins the show at an ASRF event in Victoria.

The Wolf of Wall Street (2013)

This outrageous tale of stockbroker Jordan Belfort contained more swearing than any previous movie, copious sex and drug use, yet it was the wrecking of a white Lamborghini that most shocked the audience!

Jordan Belfort was a stockbroker who made a fortune through often unethical trading on Wall Street during the 1980s and 1990s. Played by Leonard DiCaprio, *The Wolf of Wall Street* charts Belfort's extravagant rise to power.

Directed by Martin Scorsese, the film contains drug use and a fair amount of obscenities. It says a lot about DiCaprio's acting abilities that the audience like and sometimes even admire Belfort. The movie was certainly popular, earning almost \$407 million worldwide, five Academy award nominations and a pair of Golden Globe nominations.

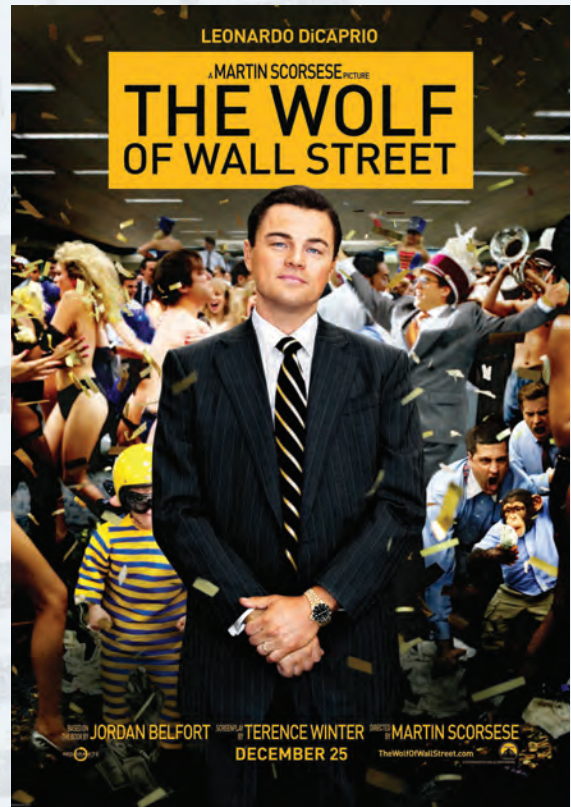
THE CARS AS STARS

Belfort spent his fortune on cars. The movie opens with him behind the wheel of a red 1992 Ferrari 512 TR as his voiceover informs us in reality his car was actually white — like the one in *Miami Vice*. At which point it morphs into a white Testarossa.

During an argument with his wife, Belfort drives his 1999 Mercedes Benz SL straight through the garage door. Two SLs were purchased for the film. His garage also contained a red 1974 Porsche 911 Carrera. Early in the movie he owns a yellow 1964 Jaguar XK-E roadster and later uses a 1995 V12 Mercedes S-Class. A silver 1987 Alfa Romeo 2000 Spider also makes a brief appearance driving along Broadway. As with most

of these background vehicles, it was borrowed for filming. The Alfa's owner later offered it for sale on eBay for \$54,999 but had no takers.

The scenes that most viewers remember, even the non-car people, involves Belfort's drive home in his Lamborghini. Despite being only three minutes of screen time in a three-hour long film, not since the wrecking of the Miura in *The Italian Job* (1969) has a movie Lamborghini caused such anguish. Jordan Belfort climbs into his Bianco Polo White 1989 Lamborghini Countach Anniversary Edition and in the process of trying to return home he completely wrecks the car.



The personification of charm, DiCaprio takes the lead in posters for the film.

Did you know?

- When the film was shown in Abu Dhabi it had 45 minutes of footage edited out to remove over 600 curse words, drug use, nudity and sexual content.
- Because of its content the film is banned in Nepal, Malaysia, Kenya and Zimbabwe.
- Vitamin D powder was used as a substitute for cocaine during filming. DiCaprio's co-star Jonah Hill was hospitalised with bronchitis after snorting large quantities of it.
- The film's title was borrowed from a 1929 silent movie about a ruthless copper trader.

In reality Belfort had actually smashed a convertible Mercedes, but for the film a Countach was chosen instead. It was a genuine 5.2-litre, 455bhp V12 Lamborghini, one of 657 Anniversary cars made to celebrate the 25th birthday of Lamborghini. It had a top speed of 183mph with modified air intakes, side skirts, wheels and bumpers.

LAMBORGHINI VEHICLES

A mint condition 1989 Countach was sourced and rented by the production from owner Joe Eckart as the hero car. This was intended to be used for all the close up filming since Joe refused to sell it when he discovered they planned to wreck the vehicle. It was chassis no.ZA9CA05AOKLA12722 and it had an American spec front bumper, a black and white steering wheel cover and it also lacked a rear wing (the wing and engine cover from the other Countach was briefly fitted for continuity

Belfort has a bit of explaining to do after wrecking his Lamborghini.

purposes). In the end, Eckart's car only appeared on screen for a total of 16 seconds: in one scene driven by a stunt double and in another shot where DiCaprio climbs out.

The crew originally sourced a mock up Countach based on a kit car for all the stunt work. However, director Scorsese demanded realism and didn't like the way the fibreglass car cracked when hit. He insisted on dented metal — which meant using the real thing. So a second Lamborghini was found.

This car was VIN LA12692, also a genuine 25th Anniversary Edition with Bianco leather interior and a one-owner car with around 7,000 original miles. One of just 12 white with white interior, American-spec Countachs, this car was used for all the stunts, being crashed into road signs, mailboxes and other cars. It was accidentally smacked into a tree the first time the stunt driver got behind the wheel. Surprisingly, it survived all this on-screen abuse quite well, so Scorsese ordered the film crew to repeatedly smash a flatbed truck into the Lamborghini

then hit it with a sledgehammer to damage it further.

So what happened to the cars after filming? The first Lamborghini was entered into an auction at the New York headquarters of RM Sotheby in early December 2023. Having turned down offers in excess of \$1-million for the car, owner Eckart was no longer happy using his Countach in traffic and decided to sell. Anticipated to achieve between \$1.5 to 2 million, in the end it sold for \$1.6 million, double the previous best auction price for an Anniversary Edition.

The wrecked Countach remains in its smashed up condition. In November 2023 it was entered into a Bonhams auction of supercars held on the racetrack before the Abu Dhabi Formula 1 Grand Prix. Bidding began at \$700,000 but the Countach failed to reach its reserve, with the highest bid for the non-functional car being \$1.35 million. It is currently awaiting a wealthy new owner who will have to decide whether or not to restore it. ■



COMING IN ISSUE 17



• ASSEMBLY GUIDE

The window, cogs and hinge mechanism are fitted to the left-hand door.

• CUSTOM MADE

California became the birthplace of customisation in the 1930s and 1940s.

NEW PARTS

Window, cogs, hinge mechanism, window sliding mechanism and screws.



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