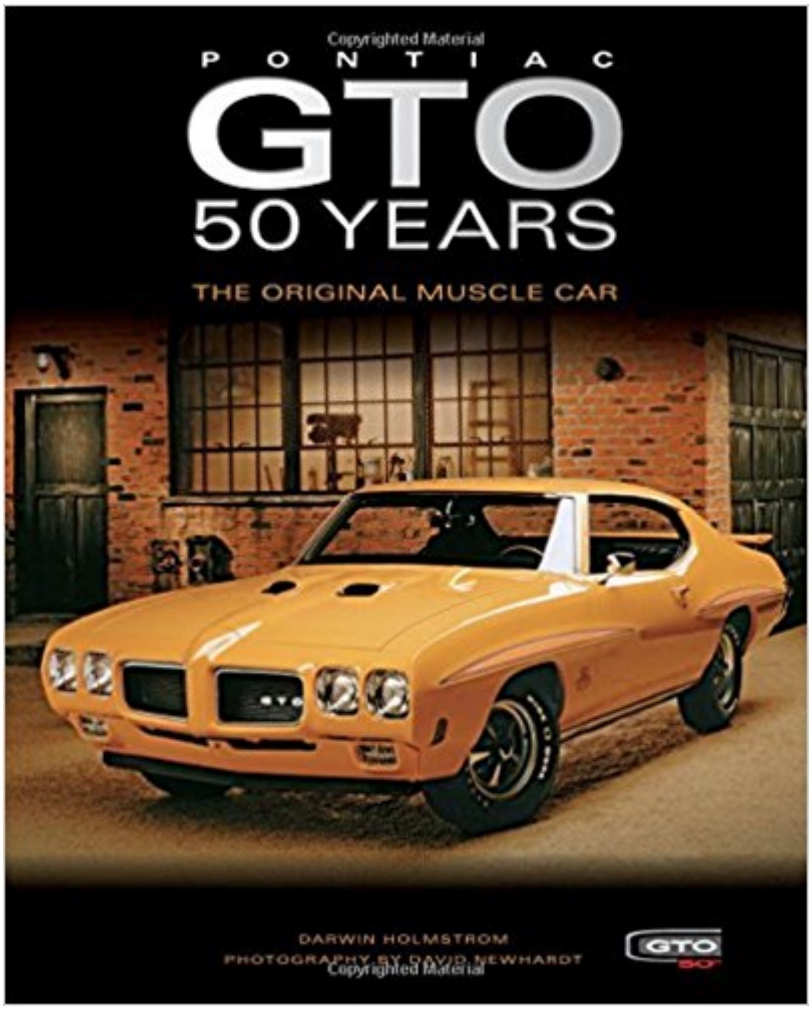
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Pontiac GTO 50 Years: The Original Muscle Car



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Synopsis

This is the car that launched the muscle car era and gave the Baby Boomers high-speed wings. Trivia freaks might know that Pontiac's "GTO" means "Gran Turismo Omologato," but muscle car fans know it earned its nickname?"The Great One?"at a time when America built the greatest cars on earth. It wasn't the fastest, the most powerful, or the most outrageous muscle car, but Pontiac's GTO resides at the very top of the pantheon because it was the first. Pontiac GTO 50 Years: The Original Muscle Car follows the rise of this iconic vehicle from the day in 1963 when Chief Engineer John Z. DeLorean bolted a 389-cubic-inch GTO engine into a prototype Tempest coupe through the final GTO rendition in 2006. Wedding that massive V-8 to a mid-size GM chassis created one of the fastest production cars of the time but also made it a car just about anyone with a job could afford. It started as an option package that was supposed to be limited to 5,000 units. Instead, word of mouth pushed sales to more than six times that many in its first year. Hundreds of photographs round out this thoroughly researched history and offer insight into the vehicle that, through redesigns, repackages, and relaunches, came of age with the Baby Boomer generation. From classic 1960s models to the GTO's revival in 2004, the exhilarating story of the outlaw that should never have been?"and will never be again?"will thrill any auto enthusiast.

Book Information

Hardcover: 224 pages
Publisher: Motorbooks; Revised ed. edition (January 6, 2015)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 0760347115
ISBN-13: 978-0760347119
Product Dimensions: 10.2 x 1 x 12.4 inches
Shipping Weight: 4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)
Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 24 customer reviews
Best Sellers Rank: #414,700 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #69 inÃ Â Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Antiques & Collectibles > Transportation #141 inÃ Â Books > Arts & Photography > Vehicle Pictorials > Automotive #232 inÃ Â Books > Engineering & Transportation > Automotive > History

Customer Reviews

The Men Behind The GTO The muscle car broke absolutely no technological ground when it first appeared in the guise of PontiacÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s GTO. An example of pure parts-bin

engineering, it was not an invention of technology; it was an invention of marketing. Automakers had been building fast, lightweight cars with big engines for years, but these were purpose-built race cars, marketed to serious racers. The brilliance of the GTO was that it was created as a street car to be marketed to the baby-boom generation, the largest influx of new consumers in human history. And the story of the GTO is the story of a few key individuals, most of whom you have probably heard about, and at least one that you probably havenÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t. This list includes serious car guys such as Bunkie Knudsen (seen right), Pete Estes, John DeLorean, Jim Wangers, and, later, Bob Lutz. It also includes a serious noncar guy named F. James McDonald.

John Z. DeLorean Pete Estes Bob Lutz McDonald and DeLorean Out with the old, in with the new. F. James McDonald (left), who represented the new breed of MBA-type bean counters, replaced DeLorean (right), who represented the old, loose-cannon car guys who had created General Motors, as head of Pontiac Division.

The GT O was the first General Motors car to feature a slick-shifting Hurst shifter instead of the awful Inland units used on other manually shifted GM products. David Newhardt. The passage of a half century has only made the genius of the original GT O design more apparent. GM Media Archives. Though it was heavier than earlier versions, the 1968 GT O was still a force to be reckoned with at the drag strip. GM Media Archives. The 1970 GTO was one of the most elegant cars of the entire muscle-car era. GM Media Archives.

Darwin Holmstrom has written, co-written, or contributed to over thirty books on subjects ranging from motorcycles and muscle cars to Gibson Les Paul guitars, including Indian Motorcycles, GTO: Fifty Years, Let's Ride: Sonny Barger's Guide to Motorcyclying,Top Muscle: The Rarest Cars from America's Fastest Decade, BMW Motorcycles, The Life Harley-Davidson, and The Complete Idiot's Guide to Motorcycles. Darwin is the senior editor for Motorbooks. Prior to that he served as Midwestern editor for Motorcyclist magazine.David Newhardt is one of the best automobile photographers working today and has provided photography for best-selling Motorbooks titles Muscle: America’s Legendary Performance Cars, Corvette: Fifty Years, Mustang: Forty Years, Mopar Muscle: Fifty Years, and Shelby Mustang: Racer for the Street.

I thought the book was pretty good, with a nice initial presentation. It has good coverage of the ’60s models. Even though I’m a 1969 guy, I thought the 73-74 sections were treated as an after-thought.

The 1974 has 8 pages of pictures of the same car, yet not a single interior, engine compartment, trunk or under carriage shot. I know the 1974 body-style, interior, and options were more varied than shown. For that matter, the engine compartment shots were weak book-wide, unless you're only looking for tri-powers or ram-air. I would have liked a few more interior detail pictures. As always, the greatest emphasis is placed on the 04 GTO than the combined 05-06. On the brighter side, all the cars used were factory originalÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| no aftermarket add-ons that other authors include. Holmstrom and Newhardt seem to have a great grasp of the Great-One.

Good pics. Good info. Somewhat jaded outlook on GM. Pro-GTO!

Well written, nice pics, fresh, not the same old ones. Good buy for the GTO guy who has all the books.

Awesome book. Great pictures.

Husband and son loved this book! Great Father's Day gift.

The book has an excellent array of photographs, both of production cars, and styling exercises, as well as a fair amount of technical information. It also has a section dedicated to the latest generation of "Australian GTOs"....

Very nice book about America's first muscle car! I own a '65 GTO

A great book

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Technique,30+ Bulking Recipes,3x books in one , The Bodybuilding Cookbook: 100 Delicious Recipes To Build Muscle, Burn Fat And Save Time (The Build Muscle, Get Shredded, Muscle & Fat Loss Cookbook Series) Fitness Nutrition: The Ultimate Fitness Guide: Health, Fitness, Nutrition and Muscle Building - Lose Weight and Build Lean Muscle (Carbs, Protein, Muscle ... Workout Nutrition, Nutrition For Athletes) Pontiac Firebird: 50 Years Car insurance book: A Complete Guide to Car insurance (Auto insurance book, Understanding your car insurance) Low Car(bon) Communities: Inspiring car-free and car-lite urban futures HOW TO BUY A USED CAR: A Complete Guide from Start to Finish On How To Buy A Used Car; FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF AN EXPERIENCED LICENSED CAR DEALER Buying Checklist Included Car Talk: 25 Years of Lousy Car Advice Ferrari 250 GTO: The autobiography of 4153 GT (Great Cars) Ferrari 250 GTO Manual: An insight into owning, racing and maintaining Ferrari's iconic sports racer How to Rebuild Pontiac V-8s (Workbench How to) Pontiac Firebird '82 thru'92 (Haynes Repair Manuals) General Motors: Chevrolet Malibu (1997 thru 2003) Chevrolet Classic (2004 and 2005) Oldsmobile Alero (1999 thru 2003) Oldsmobile Cutlass (1997-2000) Pontiac Grand Am (1999 thru 2003) Intermittent Fasting: Everything You Need to Know About Intermittent Fasting For Beginner to Expert Ã¢â ¬â œ Build Lean Muscle and Change Your Life (Lean Lifestyle, Lean Muscle, Lose Fat)

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