



I have a long time fan of Chip Foose, so when this kit came out I knew I had to build it. When I opened the kit I realized that this is indeed a variation of original Firebird kit [#85-2342]. First this kit is a 2N1 like the last release and builds as the stock Foose Design and drag versions. Next at one hundred and fifty one pieces this kit is very detailed. Finally the kit is nicely rendered with no flash to be found.

**For the modeler;** This is skill level 2 kit and features a racing or standard V-8 engine and authentic Foose Design graphics decals. The body parts are molded in white with red and clear transparent parts as well as a chrome tree. Authentic engine, body and interior color selection; the use of black washes; chassis and stance correction; exhaust detailing; wheel back chrome issue; the use of chrome foil; suggestions for extending the original Foose design with other parts; chassis insertion tips; rear quarter decal advice; are all fully examined in this Step-by-Step review.

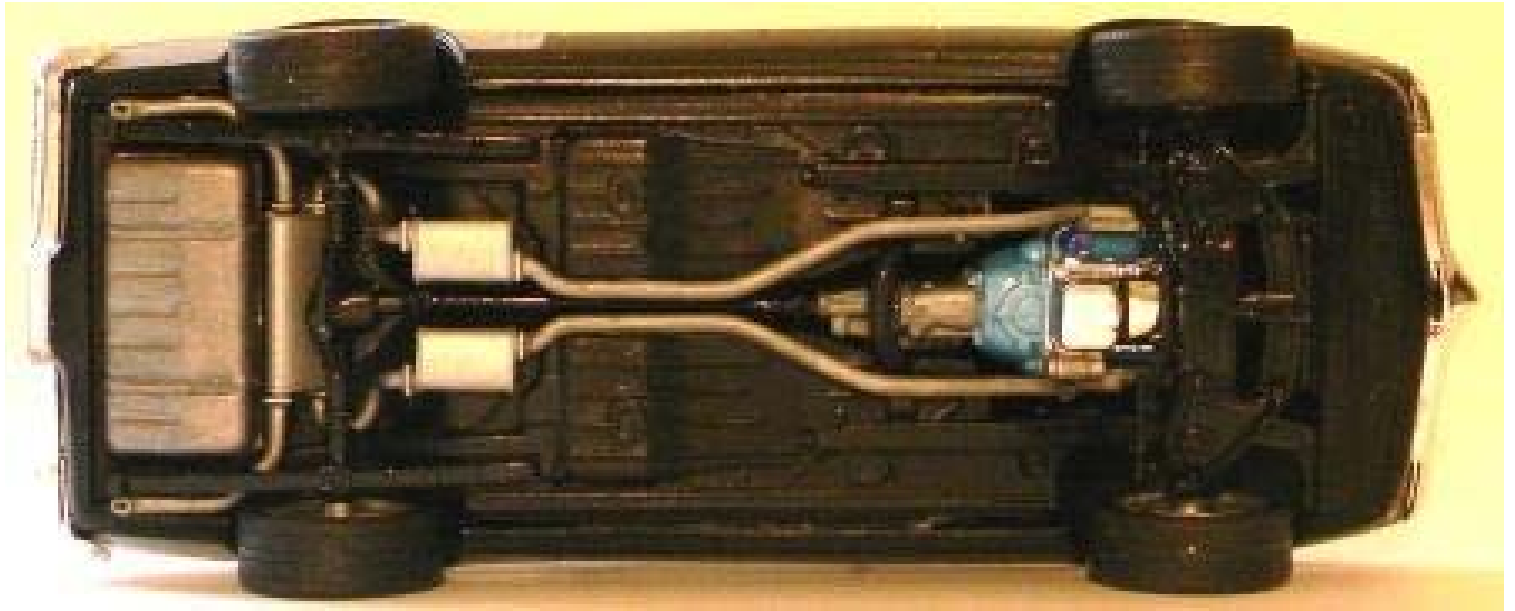


[fig 2 contents] As always I started this build with the engine. The 1968 Firebird has the 400 cubic inch motor and this kit features really good representation of it with 18 pieces stock [19 for the race version]. In general, I use a bottle of Testor's plastic cement for everything except windows/clear parts. For those I use Elmer's Glue-All because it dries clear and cleans up easily.



[fig 3 & 3a completed motor]

I decided to do my kit stock, so I painted mine Pontiac engine blue and followed the stock path. The instruction sheet is correct [for both versions] making assembly simple and accurate. The engine bay paint scheme was done as follows: Engine block halves [parts#11&12], cylinder heads [part#33 (x2)], intake manifold [part#23] and front cover [part#13] are assembled and spray painted with PlastiKote Pontiac Engine Blue enamel. Once dry the transmission [shaded area in step 1a] is painted Testors Aluminum. Decal #11 is applied to the front of the right cylinder head. Exhaust Manifolds [parts# 27&28] are painted Testors Steel. Air cleaner/Distributor [parts# 24 & 6] are spray painted with Duplicolor Gloss Black enamel. Belt/fan assembly [parts 15 & 16] are spray painted with Duplicolor Gloss Black enamel. Belt section of part # 15 is painted Testors flat black. Alternator [part #14] is painted Testors Aluminum then "black washed" with Testors Flat Black [that has been thinned 2:1 (2 parts thinner to 1 part paint)].



[fig 4 completed chassis]

The chassis goes together fairly well. However now you come upon the big issue with this kit. Revell put the large diameter "Foosse" wheels/tires in the kit, but they left the stock suspension in it as well. This means that with no modifications the car will sit too high. Now contrary to some reports I've heard it doesn't look as bad as you think. The box art depicts the sketch Chip Foosse made not the actual car that was redone on the movie OverHaulin'. The paint scheme for the underside was as follows: Rear muffler/tailpipes [parts#60a & 60b] muffler halves painted Testors Aluminum and tailpipes painted Testors Steel [after tips were painted Testors flat black]. Exhaust pipes/mufflers [parts #59a & 59b] mufflers painted Testors Aluminum and exhaust pipes painted Testors Steel. Chassis [part # 53] is spray painted with Duplicolor Semi Gloss Black enamel. Rear axle assembly [parts# 57 & 99] are spray painted with Duplicolor Gloss Black enamel. Front suspension [parts# 54, 55 & 56] are spray painted with Duplicolor Gloss Black enamel. Rear shocks [parts# 61 & 100] are painted Testors Flat White. Driveshaft [part# 58] is spray painted with Duplicolor Gloss Black enamel. I put flat black in my exhaust tips before I [brush] paint the steel on the exhaust pipes to give them a more realistic look.





[fig.6 Modified front suspension]

The front end is lowered simply by removing 1mm [1/16th inch] from the front mounting points as well as shaving the raised areas from the cross member. This will allow the front tires to sit further up in the body.

The tire backings [parts #151] are supposed to be chrome, but the ones in the first run were not [according to Revell this will be fixed on the next run]. Revell will replace them, but since I didn't want to wait I just painted mine flat black/chrome and applied the disc brake decals.



[fig 7 rims/tires] The only rims in the kit are the large diameter Foose wheels and are intended for both versions. However they are well done. The tires in this issue are the new softer more realistic rubber. They do lack any raised lettering. However Foose center cap decals are provided.

[fig 8 interior] The interior again replicates a stock four speed version of the car and consists of 14 pieces. It is the new "multi piece" type interior and assembles very well. Included are six decals and with some detail painting/BMF it looks very good. The paint scheme for the interior is as follows: Seats/console [parts# 49 (x2), 50 (x2), 45 & 51] are spray painted with Duplicolor Semi Gloss Black enamel. Shifter knob on part# 84

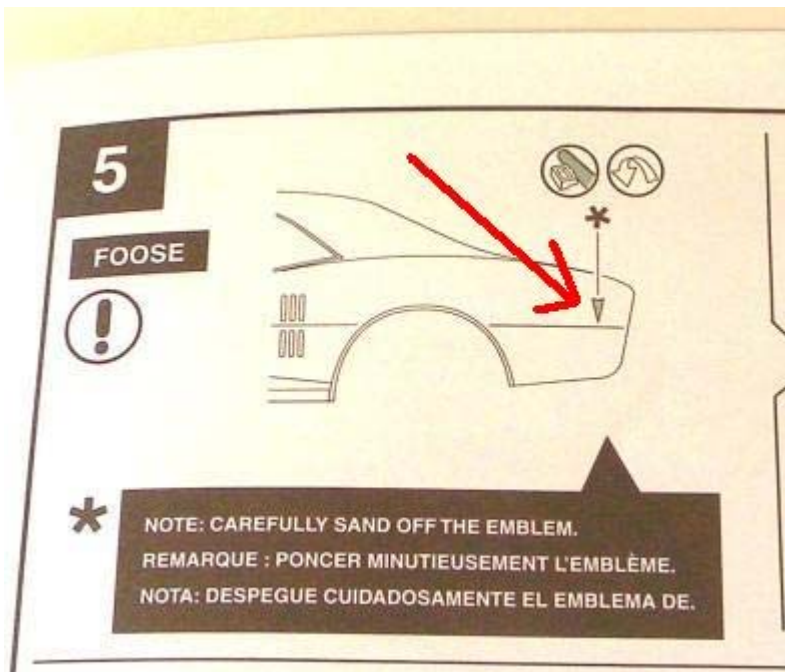
is painted Testors Gloss White to simulate Hurst shifter. Decal #4 applied to clock on console. Interior sides [parts # 43 & 44] spray painted with Duplicolor Semi Gloss Black enamel. Door handles and window cranks painted with Testors Chrome Silver. Dashboard [part #46] spray painted with Duplicolor Semi Gloss Black enamel. Decals # 2,3,5 &6 applied to dash then accents [trim around instrument panels, radio knobs and heater outlets] are painted Testors Chrome Silver. Steering wheel/column [parts# 47 & 48] are spray painted with Duplicolor Gloss Black enamel. Turn signal lever [part# 87] leave handle chrome and paint the rest Testors Gloss Black. Apply decal # 1 to steering wheel. Firewall/brake reservoir [parts # 34 & 35] are spray painted with

Duplicolor Gloss Black enamel. On part #35, paint the top [cap] Testors Aluminum. It should be noted that actual Foose Firebird was an automatic with Cobra racing seats. These could be kit bashed from other kits to make a more authentic build.



[fig 10 & 11] Final assembly is very straight forward, This may seem obvious, but I will mention it anyway. When installing the completed chassis I found it easier to put the front in first and then work the back in. With a little maneuvering the chassis sits in place nicely.

I found it helpful to apply a very small amount of cement to sides of the radiator wall [where it meets the underside of the fenders] and clamp in place to dry. This made sure the front tires sat at the correct height. The only other thing worth mentioning is the rear panel decals. They are a little thicker than normal, but this is a good thing as the fit of these is not the best. I had to "work" them for awhile to get them into proper position and I would suggest having Micro-sol or another decal solvent on hand [just in case]. When the decals are applied to the body they wrinkle up at the front and rear of the wheel well. Using a damp Q tip you have to work out the wrinkles. Working them to the sides and then down toward the bottom. Then pat them down with a paper towel to remove any bubbles. I would have some Micro-sol or other decal setting solvent on hand as well in case needed to get the decal to lay into the "faux" air intakes on the rear quarters. For novice builders maybe to section the decals into three pieces [separate the bottom sections] and apply them as three decals instead of one. This would eliminate most of the wrinkling.



The body is well done with only a couple of seams on the rear quarter panels by the roof. These remove simply with a sanding stick. Before painting the body; don't forget to sand off the Pontiac emblems from the rear quarter panels if you doing the Foose version.

[fig 9 sheet step 5 ]



[fig 5a stance] The rear stance looks fine to me as is, but can be lowered similar to the front by taking 1mm [1/16th inch] off of the height of the rear mounts of part #57. The body is painted Duplicolor Universal Black lacquer with Testors clear coat from a spray can.

#### Final Impression

This kit builds extremely well despite the few problems listed above and is looks very nice on the shelf. It should be suitable for most builders. I would give this kit 8.5 out of 10 stars. I would probably build this kit again.

