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GTO: Pontiac's Great One



Synopsis

In 1963 Pontiac's Chief Engineer John DeLorean and his two favorite staff engineers, Bill Collins and Russ Gee, came up with an inspired way to keep Pontiac cars in the performance limelight: bolt a big engine into Pontiac's upcoming Tempest intermediate body. Thus was the GTO born. Through cunning, resourcefulness, and outright trickery the minds of Pontiac managed to get this rocket into dealerships and out onto America's highways, and to introduce that most iconic of American automobiles, the muscle car, to the nation's most discriminating drivers. This is the story of the GTO, of the people who made it a reality and a sales sensation, of those who owned and loved the cars. And it is, above all, a story of the cars themselves, from the initial option package offered for the 1964 model year through the high-performance late-model standouts. With color photographs, drawings, and detailed stats, this book is not so much the story of a historic car as an illustrated biography of American muscle.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Review from Peter Lorenzo, Autoextremist.com "A new and very large (10.5" x 12") coffee table book about the Pontiac GTO is making its debut this month, and I will warn enthusiasts right now: It's a must-have book, no matter what your particular auto passion is. Written by Darwin Holmstrom with photography by David Newhardt, GTO: Pontiac's Great One is the definitive record of how the legendary Pontiac GTO came about, complete with anecdotes by the people who were there and who made it happen. Holmstrom's entertaining, informative and appropriately irreverent writing style captures GM's "maverick" division well and gives one of the all-time great American

cars ever built its proper due, and David Newhardt's beautiful images of famous GTOs completes the impact of the book. GTO: Pontiac's Great One is jam-packed with information, but as with any great automotive story it's the people who make the legend of the GTO that much more special. Given the death knell of Pontiac, the remembrances and stories of those times brought to life by Holmstrom are especially poignant. I highly recommend it.

•Review from AutoNewsWire.net on May 22, 2009" This is a great book, one that you can't put down and so well written that you find yourself skipping the photos and captions and having to go back and read it over again. And that's what you will do with this anthology on the "Goat." You'll pick it back up just to remember, to reminisce the good-ole days when the GTO was king of the streets, and G.M. was the king of automakers around the world. Reading Pontiac's Great One, GTO is like reading a letter from a long-lost friend. It should be arriving in bookstores about now and we suggest you get a copy, find a shady seat under a tree, and take a few days off." --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

In 1963 Pontiac's Chief Engineer John DeLorean and his two favorite staff engineers came up with an inspired way to keep Pontiac cars in the performance limelight: bolt a big engine into Pontiac's upcoming Tempest intermediate body. Thus was the GTO born. Through cunning, resourcefulness, and outright trickery the minds of Pontiac managed to get this rocket into dealerships and out onto America's highways, and to introduce that most iconic of American automobiles, the muscle car, to the nation's most discriminating drivers. This is the story of the GTO, of the people who made it a reality and a sales sensation, of those who owned and loved it. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Hello from Montana, We had visited the auto museum in Las Vegas but the only book on GTO's was ratty and shop worn. I saw my husband Dwain debating about buying it anyway, but I talked him out of it. Then I ordered these books from for his gift. He loved it. He has a 1966 GTO that he is preparing to sell. Lots of history and fully restored. The license plate says GTO4ME The only reason we are selling is because we have six adult kids and ten grandkids who all want it. But, they really want the memories of restoring it with Grandpa. So we are going to sell it and take the whole famdamily on a cruise so everyone has great memories. We were able to learn even more history and the back story of GTOs from this book. Thanks for the time and effort to write it. Judy Helm Wright aka Auntie Artichoke, author of Out Of Balance? Be a Bounce Back Person

GTO: Pontiac's Great One by Darwin Holmstrom (photos by David Newhardt) is an excellent read. Being a Mopar guy with a side interest in Pontiac's GTO, I didn't expect much more than good photos from this large size soft covered book. I was pleasantly surprised to find this book very readable and compelling. Lots of period advertisements, magazine articles and historical pics to make a case for why the GTO is one of the greatest muscle cars of all time. "GTO" also details (in its early chapters) what exactly led to the inception of the GTO, with some unique historical racing photos I have never seen before. If you only want one GTO book in your muscle car book collection I would highly recommend this one.

When we get to a certain age, let me ask you a question. What is more important, chasing after single women, or chasing after classic cars? You can answer this all by your lonesome and this book tells you all about your choice. There have been quite a few books written about the Pontiac GTO but this is one of the more complete. Not a service manual, or a restoration book, but more of a history book. My only complaint is that it is big and heavy and that frame (chassis) bolts are not included. ;?) The cover car (a 67) is my favorite, which one is yours? It is in there in full detail. I will end by saying; it is a must have for your collection and reading pleasure. Who knows, it might inspire you to find and restore one or you just might drain your bank account and buy one that's ready to drive!

THIS IS ONE VERY SPECIAL BOOK! STARTING JUST FROM THE BOOK PHYSICALLY, IT HAS A UNIQUE AND VERY ATTRACTIVE COVER (BE SURE TO REMOVE THE PROTECTIVE FILM!!!) INSIDE YOU WILL FIND THE MOST COMPLETE AND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORY OF OUR GREAT ONE EVER PUBLISHED! SO MANY BEAUTIFUL COLOR PHOTOS I HAVE NEVER SEEN BEFORE AND, BELIEVE ME, I HAVE EVERY BOOK EVER WRITTEN ON THE GOAT!! HAVE GONE THROUGH IT PAGE BY PAGE THREE TIMES AND I JUST GOT IT YESTERDAY. NOW I AM GOING TO ACTUALLY READ THE TEXT!! IN LIGHT OF THE SAD NEWS I HEARD TODAY, THAT BEING PONTIAC IS GOING TO BE KILLED OFF IN AN ANNOUNCEMENT MONDAY (APRIL 27) IT IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT TO HAVE THIS MEMENTO. GREAT BOOK..A MUST HAVE FOR ALL OF US GTO ENTHUSIASTS!

Great price, awesome facts, a joy to read a little at a time just to absorb all the info on a great car, the GTO

My husband is a classic car lover and big GTO fan so I got him this book as a gift. Its a large book, beautiful pictures and great info. He finished it in 2 days. For 5 bucks it was a great value and could be sold for more, very happy with the purchase. If you love GTO's you won't be disappointed.

This is by far the best book on the GTO that I have ever seen. The photography is incredible, and, worth the price of the book by itself. It's sad that I received mine on the day they announced the death of Pontiac as a brand, but, this is a fitting tribute to the car that started the muscle car era. I'm ordering another one to keep "in the wrapper".

Purchased this for my father at Christmas time. He is really hard to buy for and I took a chance on this GTO book because he recently purchased a restored 64 GTO at a Barrett-Jackson auction in Vegas a few months ago. He loved it!

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