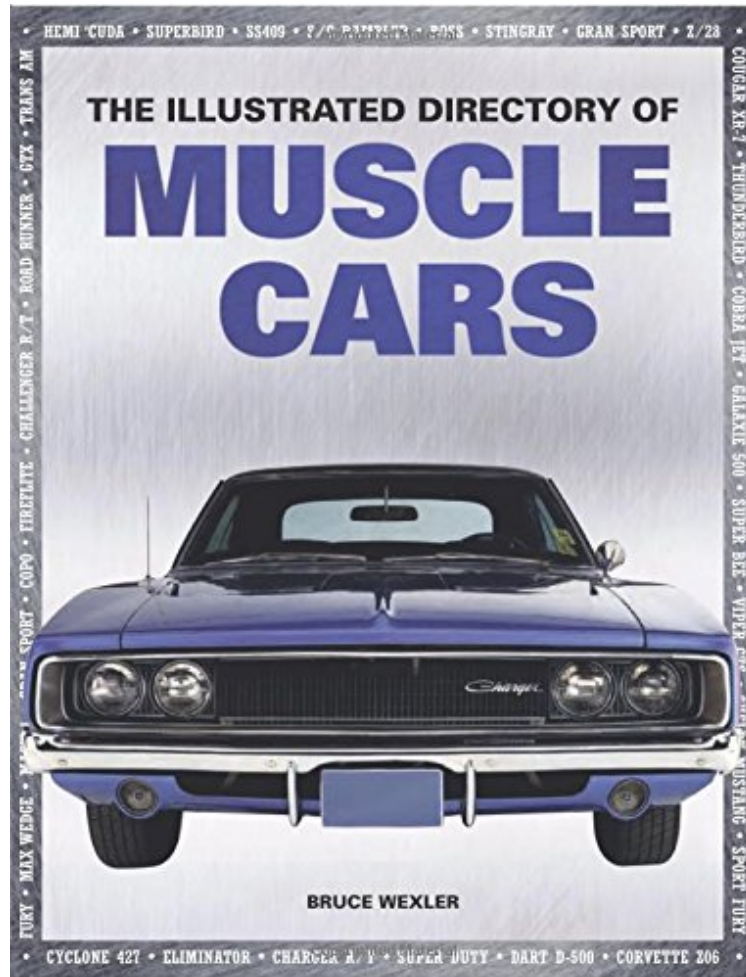


(Download ebook) The Illustrated Directory of Muscle Cars

## The Illustrated Directory of Muscle Cars

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**From Chartwell Books : The Illustrated Directory of Muscle Cars** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Illustrated Directory of Muscle Cars:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. An awesome, yet unfairly flawed book. By Peter Haight For starters, don't let my low review score fool you-- this is actually an amazing book for the price (if you can look past its flaws,) and I'll explain why I thought so. But first, let me get the bad out of the way. My opinions and criticisms may seem harsh to some, but it's just me expressing how I feel. This book's most prominent flaw is simply the fact it falls victim to extremely poor editing-- spelling mistakes, incorrect labels/pictures, plain wrong information, and just some really bad formatting. For example, the book makes an outlandish claim that Pontiac's "1975 GTO" sold tremendously for that model year, but many car enthusiasts know the triumphant GTO ended its life during its (sad) third generation as a 1974 model (essentially, a rebadged 2-door Pontiac Ventura with a 350ci V8 and shaker hood.) Really?!? Another thing that really bothered me about the book was the fact that some pictures were totally in the wrong spot... One later

chapter showed a picture of a pro-touring 1969 Camaro under the 1970 AMC AMX section. Early on in the book, even, it was evident that there were going to be some careless mistakes throughout. These may be nitpicks to casual car enthusiasts or the seasoned weekend reader, or even a bookstore browser, but to the car fanatic, it really upsets me that such a huge, beautifully illustrated book would ultimately be sub-par due to mistakes in proofreading and the like. The book had a very "rushed" feel to it, and the quality suffers as a result. Another thing that really upset me, there were absolutely NO cars from the late 70s to the late 80s... It jumped from mid-70s to the mid-90s. What? Are we totally going to forget the late-model performance vehicles such as the Yenko Turbo Z Camaro, or the Chevy Cosworth Vega? What about the Buick Grand National/GNX? Perhaps the Chevy Monte Carlo SS, the turbo'd Pontiac Trans-Am, Ford Mustang SVO, Chrysler Conquest TSi, or the Callaway Sledgehammer? I understand that it just wasn't the right time for muscle to flex, and sure, those cars may have been limited in their production, but wow, I guess I expected a little more from this ginormous book! This book is a bit harsh in its purity: no cars between 1974-1994 are even mentioned, despite many great cars released between those years, like the IROC-Z Camaros, the Fox body 5.0 Mustangs, etc. I guess they aren't muscle cars, but on the other hand, there are many factors of that era that would lead to their exclusion from the book. While the book does a decent job of mentioning some impressive 90s cars such as the 94 Impala SS (ultimate sleeper) and the really powerful SLP-tuned Z28 SS Camaros, as well as the Dodge Viper, it makes some unfair exclusions. I would have loved to have seen the 2003-4 Ford Mustang Cobras, or even the Saleen S351. While I may have expected too much from this bargain-priced hardcover, if you are able to look past these flaws and place some prideful opinions aside, this is actually an amazing book, especially considering the price! While I wouldn't say this book is anything near authoritative, it definitely has some awesome pictures and nice variety in cars, ranging from the roots of muscle in the late 1940s with the Olds 88 to the present day reborn muscle with the Big Three's offerings towards performance. It certainly had some neat cars, and not just the typical Camaros, Mustangs, Challengers, etc. An impressive lineup of golden-era muscle from all contributing parties is presented handsomely. For the larger, more well-known models, there's quite a few pages containing information and pictures not only on that model year but the later model years of that car. Though I do not know everything about cars, especially muscle, I learned a lot from the book, there were plenty of cool and interesting facts about all the cars. One thing I would have liked to see more of was more in-depth specs on all the cars-- not all of them had weight, or price-when-new filled out, but I guess this is just a nitpick. It would also be cool to see horsepower-to-weight ratios or top speeds. The book itself is a huge, heavy coffee table book. It's elegant and well-bound. In the hands of somebody who doesn't trash their books, it could easily last a lifetime. Ultimately, this book falls short in many areas, but if you're able to look past them, it's a great book. It would sit right at home in the collection of the gearhead or enthusiast, whether casual or hardcore, or in-between, like I am.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Recipient of "Muscle Cars" book delighted  
By Southwest History Gramma  
This book definitely satisfied my expectations but, more importantly, it delighted its recipient. It was ordered as a gift for my son, who has followed this interest since he was a teen and has restored a number of muscle cars (although he is partial to the Firebird). He phoned to thank me for the book, and absolutely raved about it. One point he noted especially: the print is large enough that his 50-something eyes can read it. Somehow, I didn't think the BOOK would be so large -- or so heavy. (It cost a fortune to mail it, even at "media mail" rates.) But that allowed the inclusion of many large photos of various cars of the past. If YOUR guy is as taken with muscle cars as my son is, this would make an excellent gift -- just have send it direct!

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. High expectations  
By Texican  
Rating is based on prompt and safe shipping from distributor. Can't comment on content as book is wrapped in plastic...purchased it for vbrother-in-law Christmas present. He has rebuilt several muscle cars from the 50s and 60s, so I thought he would like this collection. If the inaccuracies are as bad as other reviewers have said, he and I will both be disappointed.

The American public's love for speed and power has inspired generations of muscle cars. The rising popularity of street racing, stock-car races, and quarter-mile drag races in the pre-war years led to the formation of the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing in 1947 and the National Hot Rod Association in 1951. These organizations and the growing plethora of specialist auto magazines (including Hot Rod and Motor Trend) stimulated America's fascination with speed and performance. In turn, this resulted in the development of the first production muscle cars. These powerful models took their heritage from the street racers of earlier days, with small bodies equipped with large and potent engines. The Illustrated Directory of Muscle Cars celebrates the complete history of the muscle car, from its earliest inception through to the sophisticated beasts of today. Beautifully illustrated throughout in full color, this book includes full technical specifications for each car featured.