

CMA'S 1932 CHRYSLER IMPERIAL SPEEDSTER IN 1:14



THE REWARDS FOR HARD WORK are many—and occasionally, they're pretty damned cool, to boot. When the Chrysler Corporation decided in 1995 to jolly up its top-drawer international distributors for a good year's work, the home office forewent a trip to the local back pat shop and decided to give these well regarded (and for the most part, hysterically well heeled) folks something truly special.

So, what do you get for the car guy who has everything? Put down that Steuben glass tiger and try this on for size:

Bohemia, New York's Creative Miniature Associates (CMA) was asked to furnish a run of 25 completely hand built model cars, based on the custom 1932 Chrysler Imperial Speedster that Walter P. himself once owned. The good news for CMA (and the guy at the helm, our own Marshall Buck) was that the car was accessible, in freshly restored condition, in the collection of Sam Mann. Even better, Mr. Mann gave Mr. Buck the go-ahead to measure and micro-inspect the old Imperial, which he most certainly did, given the scaled piece's outstanding attention to detail.





This particular sample is Buck's own copy; in 1:14, it's, well, *big*, and made almost entirely of resin, save the hand-laced wire wheels, a few photoetched detail parts and the secondary grille slats. Lavishly painted and hand polished, each of the curbside models wears the color of the restored car's one-off Le Baron body, as well as all of the details and changes that got built into the car during its rebirth. It's a stunning visual; even the subtle crinkling on the leather-look seats (again, in resin) reads as real.

As far as rarity—and final production numbers—28 models were ultimately made. Twenty-two went to the

aforementioned lucky Chrysler affiliates, one went to the president of Chrysler Financial, and yet another was placed in the Chrysler Museum. For his troubles, Sam Mann got one, too, as did two of CMA's "persistent" customers, one in Argentina and the other here in the USA. The final copy, built in 1998, is the one you see here. According to Buck, only one of the cars has ever been presented for sale, after the passing of its owner, and it fetched over \$8,000.00.

Whether it's pushing real cars, or making exquisite models of them, hard work is a very good thing.—*CRM*

