

PLASTIC DREAMS Jaguar XK 140

*Written & Submitted by Tech Editor
For June 2012 BACLV Spanner Newsletter*

Two sunbeam Tigers, a bright red Austin Healey 100-6, and a low slung white Lotus Europa with a black racing stripe. These classic British beauties are a part of my car collection. The nice thing is that they don't occupy precious space in my garage. They sit on a glass shelf in my model room. These cars are part of my collection of built and un-built kits plus die-cast models which I have collected over the years. As a young boy I enjoyed spending hours building model cars and airplanes. Unfortunately, only a couple of those models survived the household relocations over the years. Why models? It's a simple question with as many answers as there are model enthusiasts; one person loves the creative process that goes into building a dream car he or she lusts after. Yet another enthusiast amasses an array of assembled and unassembled model kits and die-cast metal models in many scales devoted to their interests. What's the driving force behind all of this?....It's the love of cars.



*Ron Couturier
Technical Editor*

About twenty years ago, I started building kits again but I realized my interest was really in collecting un-built kits. I started attending toy shows and looking in hobby shops for those old dusty kits that had sat on the seller's shelf for a long time. Un-built kits which are still factory sealed are the most valuable. Some collectors have doubles of kits in their collection so they can build one for display and keep one kit in its sealed box. Quite often a boxed kit is overpriced....that's when negotiating skills are important. When talking with the seller, you usually get a feel for how eager he or she is to make a sale.

The kit pictured below this article is a 1975 issued kit of the Jaguar XK 140 Roadster. The actual XK 140, which was manufactured from 1954-57 was a re-engineered XK 120. The nostalgic box art is somewhat typical of the kits which were manufactured in the '50s and '60s. Sometime during the late '70s to the early '80s, photographs began to replace the colorful art work found on box tops. The KX 140 (1/32 scale) kit was put out by Lindberg, which began building balsa flying model kits in 1933. The kit is a very basic one with very few parts to glue. The body is one piece in red plastic. Parts include a windshield frame, four plastic tires and wheels, a steering wheel, and two axles. An engine is not included in the kit and the dash is molded into the body. There is a single page of painting and assembly instructions which has turned a parchment color with age. I paid \$12.00 for the kit in July of 1998. A recent check on ebay showed one for sale at \$56.00.

Happy Motoring.....Ron Couturier

References for this article:

[Ward, Arthur, *Classic Kits*. London: Harper Collins, 2004](#)

[B. Coulter & B. Shelton. *Directory of Model Car Kits*. Acworth, Ga., 2000](#)

[Langworth, R. *Complete Book of Collectable Cars*, Lincolnwood, Ill., 1994](#)



an authentic scale plastic model construction kit