

1968 shelby gt 350

Ebook Title: 1968 Shelby GT350

Ebook Description:

This ebook delves into the iconic 1968 Shelby GT350, a legendary muscle car that holds a significant place in automotive history. It explores the car's design, engineering, performance, and cultural impact, examining its role in shaping the muscle car era and its enduring legacy. The book will appeal to car enthusiasts, history buffs, and anyone interested in the golden age of American automotive innovation. It combines technical specifications with captivating storytelling, offering a detailed and engaging account of one of the most sought-after classic cars ever produced. The book will feature rare photographs and historical data, providing a comprehensive overview of the 1968 Shelby GT350's production, variations, racing history, and its lasting influence on the automotive world.

Ebook Name: Kings of the Road: The 1968 Shelby GT350

Ebook Outline:

Introduction: The Legend of the Shelby GT350

Chapter 1: The Genesis of a Legend: Carroll Shelby and the Ford Partnership

Chapter 2: Design and Engineering: A Mustang Transformed

Chapter 3: Performance and Handling: The Beast Unleashed

Chapter 4: Production and Variations: Understanding the Models

Chapter 5: Racing Heritage: Triumphs and Trials on the Track

Chapter 6: The Cultural Impact: The GT350 in Popular Culture

Chapter 7: Collecting and Restoring: Preserving a Piece of History

Conclusion: The Enduring Legacy of the 1968 Shelby GT350

Kings of the Road: The 1968 Shelby GT350 - A Comprehensive Look

Introduction: The Legend of the Shelby GT350

The 1968 Shelby GT350 isn't just a car; it's a legend. A symbol of American muscle car prowess, it represents a pivotal moment in automotive history. This book explores the fascinating story behind this iconic machine, from its inception to its enduring legacy. We will delve into its design, engineering, performance, and cultural impact, examining what makes it so desirable and influential even today. The 1968 model year marked a significant evolution for the GT350, solidifying its place as a high-performance icon. This ebook aims to provide a comprehensive and engaging exploration of this magnificent automobile.

Chapter 1: The Genesis of a Legend: Carroll Shelby and the Ford Partnership

The story of the Shelby GT350 begins with Carroll Shelby, a legendary race car driver and entrepreneur. His vision, combined with Ford's engineering expertise, resulted in a car that redefined performance. This chapter details Shelby's racing background and his collaboration with Ford, emphasizing the crucial decisions that led to the creation of the GT350. It discusses the initial goals – to create a competitive race car capable of dominating the SCCA racing scene, and how that translated into a road-going machine. We'll explore the initial design concepts, the selection of the Mustang as the base platform, and the early challenges faced in developing this high-performance vehicle. This section will also explore the business acumen of Shelby and the marketing strategies employed to build the brand's reputation for excellence.

Chapter 2: Design and Engineering: A Mustang Transformed

The 1968 Shelby GT350 wasn't just a Mustang with stripes. Significant engineering modifications transformed the pony car into a handling machine. This chapter examines the specific changes made to the chassis, suspension, brakes, and engine. We'll dissect the improvements to the suspension geometry, the upgraded brakes crucial for high-speed handling, and the powerful 289 cubic inch V8 engine, its modifications, and performance characteristics. The chapter will also cover the aerodynamic improvements, the unique Shelby styling cues (including the iconic racing stripes), and the overall philosophy behind the GT350's design, highlighting its purpose-built nature.

Chapter 3: Performance and Handling: The Beast Unleashed

The 1968 Shelby GT350 was a powerhouse. This chapter focuses on the car's performance capabilities, comparing it to its competitors and highlighting its key strengths. We'll delve into the engine's horsepower and torque figures, analyze its acceleration, braking, and handling characteristics, and examine its performance on both the road and the track. We'll use data from contemporary road tests and racing results to illustrate its remarkable performance, detailing its unique capabilities and the factors contributing to its success. The handling and responsiveness will be highlighted, along with an analysis of its limitations.

Chapter 4: Production and Variations: Understanding the Models

While the 1968 Shelby GT350 is iconic, there were variations within the model year. This chapter details the different production numbers, identifying specific features that distinguish various GT350s from one another. We'll explore the differences between the fastbacks and convertibles, discuss the options packages, and analyze the rarity of certain configurations. The chapter will also provide insights into the production process at Shelby American, emphasizing the handcrafted nature of many of the components and the attention to detail that went into each car.

Chapter 5: Racing Heritage: Triumphs and Trials on the Track

The Shelby GT350 was born on the racetrack. This chapter explores its racing history,

detailing its successes and failures in various competitions. We will examine Shelby American's involvement in motorsport, highlight key victories and drivers associated with the GT350, and discuss the car's contributions to the development of racing techniques and technology. We will analyze the GT350's performance against competitors of the time and discuss the evolutionary improvements made to the car throughout its racing career.

Chapter 6: The Cultural Impact: The GT350 in Popular Culture

Beyond its performance, the 1968 Shelby GT350 made a significant cultural impact. This chapter explores its appearances in movies, television shows, music, and advertising, examining how it has become a symbol of a specific era and lifestyle. We will explore its iconic status in popular culture, analyzing its representation in various media forms and discussing its role in shaping the perception of muscle cars and American automotive culture.

Chapter 7: Collecting and Restoring: Preserving a Piece of History

The 1968 Shelby GT350 is a highly sought-after collector's car. This chapter explores the world of collecting and restoring these vehicles. It provides guidance for prospective buyers, discusses the importance of proper restoration techniques, and examines the value and appreciation of these classic cars over time. We'll offer insights into the process of authenticating a GT350, provide advice on finding reputable restorers, and discuss the challenges and rewards of owning and maintaining such a valuable asset.

Conclusion: The Enduring Legacy of the 1968 Shelby GT350

The 1968 Shelby GT350 remains a legend, its influence still felt in the automotive world. This concluding chapter summarizes the key takeaways from the book, reiterating the car's significance and lasting impact. We will reflect on the car's enduring appeal, its contribution to automotive history, and its place in the hearts of car enthusiasts worldwide. The chapter will also provide a glimpse into the future of the GT350 and its continued relevance in the world of classic automobiles.

FAQs

1. What makes the 1968 Shelby GT350 so special? Its combination of performance, handling, and iconic styling set it apart from other muscle cars of its time.
1. How many 1968 Shelby GT350s were produced? The exact number varies depending on the specific model variation, but overall production was relatively low, making them highly collectible.

1. What engine did the 1968 Shelby GT350 have? Typically a 289 cubic inch V8 engine.
1. How much is a 1968 Shelby GT350 worth? The value depends heavily on condition, originality, and documented history; values range widely.
1. What are the common problems with a 1968 Shelby GT350? As with any classic car, mechanical issues can arise; routine maintenance and expert care are essential.
1. Where can I find parts for a 1968 Shelby GT350? Specialized classic car parts suppliers and restoration shops are the best resources.
1. Is a 1968 Shelby GT350 a good investment? Classic cars can be valuable investments, but their worth is subject to market fluctuations.
1. What are some key features to look for when buying a 1968 Shelby GT350? Matching numbers, documented history, and overall condition are crucial.
1. Are there any clubs or communities for 1968 Shelby GT350 owners? Yes, several clubs and online forums dedicated to Shelby enthusiasts exist.

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4. Muscle Car Era: A History of American Automotive Power: Provides context for the GT350 within the muscle car landscape.
5. Restoring a Classic Muscle Car: A Step-by-Step Guide: Offers practical advice for restoring classic automobiles.
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