

## VETTE VUES - MODEL SCENE

Please address specific correspondence relating to this column to: William J. Landis, Inc., 1841 Ashton Drive, Lebanon, PA 17046. (717-273-8977) Self Addressed Stamped Envelope requested for a reply. Clear photos of readers modeling efforts are encouraged.

### The 2005 Franklin Mint Corvette Model

This is a striking model, painted Magnetic Red Metallic with Cashmere interior. The model is hefty in weight and features the usual opening hood, doors, hatch, and steering front wheels. The roof panel is removable. You will definitely find it more removed than installed since there is nothing whatever to locate it in place other than your eye-balls and the slight curve in the windshield frame. The slightest movement of the model makes it either slide off or fall into the interior. The same frustration exists trying to figure out where the thing is supposed to fit into the rear luggage area.

The interior is well done with all the minute details and the fuzzy rug surface. The exterior has good panel fit and all the appropriate emblems and marker lights. The rear deck brake light does look a bit large to us, and the thick black trim around the headlight openings grossly exaggerates the open headlights. We still don't care for the open headlights to the point we don't think we will order a new Corvette, even though we would like to. This model does not help us get used to the idea. The under hood details look great even if they are all in black. It's good there are some decals here and there and some silver items to create a little interest.

The chassis looks too simple, but then we have never tried to turn a real Corvette over to compare. The chassis is finished in silver and black two tone. Whatever isn't silver is black! The silver parts are the rear and front suspension (less the springs), the drive train between the suspensions, the mufflers, and four big flat panels under the interior. Buried under all this are springs that actually do let the wheels bounce up and down, if only a bit.

It's funny how when you look at a model it is from a completely different perspective than the real car. How often do you go up a tall ladder to look down on the car in your driveway? From this higher vantage point the back of the car (...the model) looks, well ... fat. The front looks great, except those headlights, then from the doors back things start to grow bigger. We looked at the similar view in the Corvette brochure and it doesn't look as big in that photo. We can't say "Here's what they did wrong with the model", because the model seems to have all the twists and turns where they should be. But, to the writer, it still looks fat when view from high and to the rear. Come to think of it, I probably don't look so good viewed from high up and to the rear

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either... or even from the front for that matter!

Since there still do not seem to be any promotional models flooding the dealerships, this may be a "must have" piece just to have a model of the 2005 in a scale close to the promos.



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## National Corvette Museum 1993 Signature Series

A 1993 40th anniversary Corvette promotional model was used by the National Corvette Museum without the 40th anniversary stickers that came with the model for the sides of the hood. There is a prominent large round Corvette Museum logo added to the hood of the model. The logo is red, white and black. We are unaware if the model was available without the showcase. The model shown is part of a serial numbered series owned by Dr. Paul Noble. The model is ruby red metallic. Dave McLellan's signature appears on the car and the rear portion of the display case along with his photo.

