

Aussie carbon fibre hot rod launched

By Carsguide team | Carsguide | 27 March 2012

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The result is a body that's half the weight of steel or fibreglass.

The Australian designed Voodoo 32R hot rod is the first of its kind in the world market.

Two revered icons celebrate their 80th anniversary this year, both are world famous but are totally different: the Sydney Harbour Bridge needs no explanation and is many hot-rodgers around the world nor does the 1932 Ford the first mass produced Ford that was available with a V8 engine.

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But it's not just the fact the '32 or '33 as it is commonly known, could be had with a side-valve V8 when now that has made it the most loved car for collectors and hot rodgers, it is its uncomplicated styling and wide variety of body styles (coupe, cabriolet, roadster, van, sedan and variations of them) that has made them so popular.

Worldwide, Ford produced upwards of 850,000 cars and commercial vehicles for the 1932 model year and up until now hot rodgers have pretty well stuck with either original or reproduction chassis that replicate the 30 year old design (parallel rails with front, centre and rear cross members) and reproduction bodies made in either fibreglass or metal.

Now, an Australian owned company, Voodoo Hot Rods, has launched the world's first Kauri's action fiber bodied '32 roadster and fully engineered tubular space frame chassis onto the world market.

The Voodoo 32R ('V' for Revolution) made its debut at the legendary Grand National Roadster Show in Los Angeles earlier this year in the company of 800 of America's most historically significant examples of the 1932 Ford ever assembled in one location.

One example at the show has been valued at US\$1 million and its owner has another six in his collection.

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Steve Wainosky and represents more than five years development and \$400,000 investment to create the most significant change to the overall design of a '32 Ford in eight decades.

The result is a body that's half the weight of steel or fibreglass and offers more advantages in its design than anyone could imagine. Wainosky has incorporated 21st century materials and design elements into a car that was conceived early in the last century.



It features side impact protection, Watts brace front and rear for really improved ride and handling, rack and pinion steering and an element of safety not found in reproduction '32 Fords currently on the market.

A technical officer for the Southern California Timing Association which runs the Donnerberg Speed Trials gave it the thumbs up to run at speeds in excess of 200mph, something they will not allow a conventional chassis '32 Ford to do.

Kauri's carbon fibre body but you have to look close to spot them and some may even go unnoticed by the most discerning hot rodger, for starters the body comprises three modules, the outer skin, the interior module and the seat module, the latter two are bonded in to the shell to provide superior strength and rigidity (good 'body' to the car).

Then there is an extra 100mm in the floor length there are raised wheel arches and the only steel in the body are small lengths of galvanized steel to provide precise frame mounting points for the door hinges and door locks, and yes, flashes of carbon fibre to emphasize the use of the unique composite material are obvious.

At its debut at the prestigious CNRS the crowds were in awe of what the former Sydney-based journalist and media specialist had presented and comments such as "simply awesome" "brilliant" and "fantastic" were being heard for the entire three days of the show. It agreed it was the most significant advancement in '32 Ford design for 80 years.

For many hot rodgers the key of the '32 is irreplaceable and the availability of the Voodoo 32R will further tempt hot rodgers around the world to build what they consider the ultimate hot rod.