

9 BEST NEW KITS

Some of the coolest cars we've seen come to market in the past year or so

by the Editors

If the past year or so is any indication of things to come, we kit car fanatics are in for some major treats with regard to new products. Having just returned from our two major car shows, we can tell you that the kit car biz is alive and kicking. There is some very exciting product development coming down the pike, in addition to what has arrived in the recent past. You will, of course, have to stay tuned to these pages as we search out this new stuff and report on it as it becomes available.

We will show our hand a little here, though, and tell you that there are two very exciting cars that address what seems to be the future of the kit car business. You can read a little bit about the awesome Attack and the new Vitesse coupe (available now) in our coverage of the Carlisle show beginning on page 24.

We offer this annual "Best New Kits" feature to recognize those manufacturers who have reached out to offer new

designs and those kits that have great merit and potential. Frankly, there is no clinical criteria for choosing which cars to include in this exclusive group, nor is there any tangible award for being included other than bragging rights. We base our choices for these cars on what we have been able to see in person, on cars that pulled our collective chains, and on vehicles that we just thought were cool and worthy of some additional recognition. As you can see, last year was a banner year for our industry and a very interesting one in terms of design diversity and unique product offerings.

What we found among the crop of new kits runs the gamut from a cool little Honda rebody to a replica of 'ol Shel's winning Cobra coupe, and from a hot little motorcycle-powered single-seater to a very stylish Miata rebody. Also included in the group are a neat street rod with which we have considerable personal experience, an import Lotus 7-style sportster, a Rodster sedan delivery with which we also have a lot of build and seat time and is a novel design that sorta crosses a street rod with a sports racer, and even a pickup rebody for a Caprice sedan. See what we mean about diversity? There's something here for virtually anyone's taste.