

1929 Bentley 4.5-litre “Blower”

For those die cast car collectors who are James Bond buffs, the 1929 Bentley 4.5 litre “Blower” is a “must have” item. Why? Many James Bond fans would probably be surprised to know that James Bond’s *personal* car was a 1931 4.5 litre supercharged Bentley. In fact, Ian Fleming lovingly describes the Amherst Villers Roots type supercharger that powers the hefty four-cylinder engine in a number of his books. Design-wise, the ‘31 Bentley Fleming described was little changed from the 1929 version of the mighty “Blowers.” The Franklin Mint’s die cast model celebrates what was one of Britain’s seminal racing cars—a vehicle capable of speeds over 150 mph—in 1929!



The level of finish and detail on this model is one of the Franklin Mint’s better efforts. Starting in the engine compartment, it is chock full of exquisite detail—right down to the wiring on each of the two magnetos. Look anywhere under the bonnet and you’ll spot one nifty little feature after another. The valve cover even sports a perfectly rendered “Bentley” on each side. The passenger and driver compartments are carpeted and the seats are nicely molded to give a real fabric look. The outside of the car, which is presented in British Racing Green, is replete with fine detail as well. There are wire covers on the headlights. The brawny Amherst Villers “blower” is beautifully rendered—right down to the screen-guard covering the smaller, more vulnerable outer parts. The externally mounted gas tank is a marvel of exactitude, with fine points galore. The main windscreen folds down to reveal the twin racing windscreens. The instrument panel gauges are unbelievably detailed, with readable markings and “glass” bezels! The body is even covered with fabric, as was the real car! The undercarriage does not disappoint either, with plenty of detail. The exhaust pipe has a hollow end—a nice touch of realism. There’s also a full, four-wheel suspension system. The wire wheels, which are wonderfully rendered, are another example of the attention to detail lavished on this model. The car is presented in the “top down” mode only, but this is okay, since it was a rare event indeed to have the top up on this speedster. My only quibble is that the seats could have been done in leather, and the bonnet straps could have also been done in leather with buckles, as on some other models.

Taken as a whole, this neat little model is one of FM’s best. It ranks as one of the favorites in my collection. I had the opportunity to see an actual 4.5 litre Bentley up close and personal and was amazed at how accurately FM recreated the car in miniature. I give it a 9 out of 10. If you’re any kind of vintage car admirer, the \$135.00 you plop down on this beauty will be worth it.

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