

THE BLUE CAR

Interview Transcript, 2013

I started building model cars when I was probably 13 or 14.

I'd been building model planes before that, not very successfully. The move to cars resulted from the fact that people started to import American car kits. The American car kits were significantly better than the ones that I'd been looking at from England. They looked much more realistic and realism was what was very important to me.

Most modellers think of themselves as kids who have never grown up. When you're a child you can't aspire to a full size car. I quite enjoy cars but I don't think I'd ever get around to actually buying a historic car or buying a car for anything other than practical purposes.

When I was young I used to build mostly war planes but, as I've aged and discovered what war was really about, I've lost interest completely. But the vast bulk of people who build models are military model builders, either aircraft or tanks or similar sorts of things.

You would normally build a kit over somewhere like 2-3 weeks. The most recent ones I've built have taken longer than that because of the limitations of time. When I was a kid, I used to build them in about a week because of the enthusiasm to get them finished.

My wife and I have always liked Citroën DSs and that particular kit is just about the only kit available.

It really is finished and was built about 25 years ago, shortly after I was married, when I found the kit in a hobby shop. I built it fairly quickly but it's suffered several moves since then and various components have been broken. It's a bit hard doing the

repairs now so it looks sadly as though it's unfinished. But I've got a brand new, unstarted kit which I will get around to building because I really enjoyed building the kit originally.

As you might have noticed I've got a large number of unbuilt kits. I'm looking forward to retirement so I can actually spend some time doing it.

I find the psychology quite interesting of why you purchase lots of kits when you're going to build them and you do the calculation that you could probably never build what you've got. I think it's that sense of deprivation when you were a kid. If you read historic car magazines you find that many people that buy old cars or historic cars often buy cars that they really wanted when they were young. Now when they're older and they could have even more exotic things they return to what they wanted when they were a kid. I think there's something to do with that desire as a child to have certain things. Things that meant something to you.

I think my aim would be to have a display cabinet because that's part of the process, putting together themes and things that belong together and things that contrast. I like making a story out of what I'm doing and I really enjoy the business of researching what I'm going to build so that they look as authentic as possible.

I'd certainly give them if people thought they were interesting. Once you've built them and displayed them a couple of times then that's the satisfaction. If you want them again then build them again. You can build them in a different way.



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