

KEVIN FLETCHER'S

MAGNOLIA *chrome*



SHELBY MKII COBRA

What year and make is your car, and what attracted you to it?

It's a 1965 Roadster Mk III Cobra from FactoryFive.com. I always loved muscle cars and owned a few, including a 1969 GTO and a 1977 Z-28 when I was young. Always loved this model and style of car but was never in the position to acquire one.



Can you tell us the history and original use of your car?

After doing my homework (reading the assembly manual and talking to others that had gone through this



process), I bought a donor car and my Cobra Kit. It took me eight steady months to complete from



disassembly of the donor through assembly.

How did you acquire it and how long have you owned it?

I purchased the Cobra Kit and donor car in 2005, so it's been 18 years. It has a little over 20k miles.

Have you restored or customized the car, and if so, can you tell us about the process.

I built it using the Roadster Kit I purchased, items I disassembled from the 1990 GT Mustang donor, and many parts I bought new instead of reusing from the donor car. I used the donor engine, transmission, rear end, wiring, etc., performing some mods and upgrades. I sent the body to the painter as that is an art and above my ability. I then proceeded with the assembly.

How often do you drive this classic, and where do you go with it?

I drive it a few times a week, weather dependent, mostly to the gym and back in the morning. Of course, this is a roadster with no top, so the afternoon rains and heat

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limit some use. I drive to the beach and other places also from time to time. My longest drive was from St. Louis to here in 2007.

What do you do to maintain it and keep it running well?

Normal maintenance as you would on a 1990 Mustang GT and as the builder, just going through it every

so often ensuring everything is tight.

Are you a member of any classic car clubs or organizations, and have you participated in any events or shows?

I was in the Gateway Cobra Club in St Louis years ago, but only for a year or two. I haven't really participated in events and shows, still have a list of items I was going to do to the engine compartment to bring it up to show quality but, I'm now in the mode of "if it ain't broke, don't mess with it."

Are there any unique features or quirks about the car that you enjoy? And ones you don't?

Against the painter's advice, I had it painted black, which is hard to keep clean and shows any imperfections. A friend made a mahogany dash instead of the normal black dash material provided in the kit. The disassembly of the donor car for items I needed was one thing in this project that was frustrating at times for sure.

What is your favorite memory or experience with your car, and what do you love most about owning it?

The fact that I built it myself, taking friends and family for rides. The Grands love it!



Photos: Editor

