

# 2004 Lamborghini Murcielago R-GT

by Gregg Hutchings  
photos by David Thibodeau



David Thibodeau sent me in some great photos of one of his latest creations: the Lamborghini Murcielago R-GT. Dave built this car using the Scale Productions R-GT transkit and a donor Fujimi Street Murcielago kit.

The Scale Productions transkit allows the builder to create several versions of the car in ALMS or FIA-GT series race trim. Dave decided to go with the orange and black Scream sponsored livery built in FIA-GT series trim. The transkit is a multi-media kit that includes resin body panels, assorted photoetched detail pieces, full decals to make four different cars, and perfect wheels and tires including aluminum sleeves for the wheels. The kit provides great reference photos to use for detailing the car, however, the assembly instructions are fairly weak.

A notable first impression of the model is the paint job. Dave used a custom mix of Hugger Orange basecoat and Omni clearcoat automotive urethanes to achieve the finish on the car as well as match the orange Scream

decals. He hand polished the paint once it had cured.

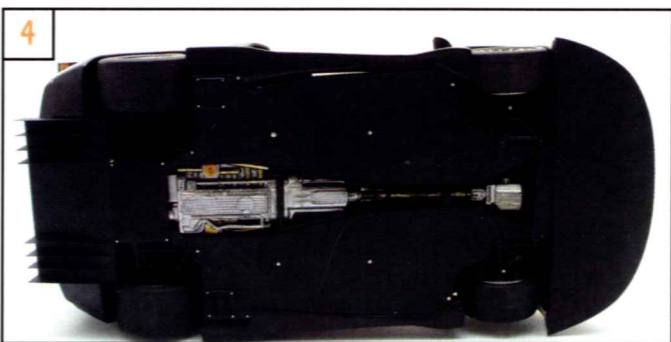
The interior received Scale Motorsport carbon fiber decals of various patterns followed by clearcoat based on reference pictures. The transkit supplies many of the details seen in the interior but Dave added all the wiring for the computers and radios.

The engine is a huge disappointment in the Fujimi kit to begin with. It is a semi-curbside with a lower engine pan and upper intake only, not a full engine. Dave added a lot of detail based on reference photos of the real power plant to spice up the engine bay. He scratchbuilt the intake box, coolant tank, and engine bars. He also added Scale Motorsport carbon fiber decals. The braided lines, fittings, and various Dzus fasteners are from Pro Tech.

Once the interior and engine were complete they were joined to the body and final details were added. The rear diffuser is a photoetch piece from the transkit. The rear wing is also from the transkit and is covered in Scale Motorsport high definition carbon fiber decals, as

is the engine cover. The side windows were made from thin clear plastic sheet in place of the kit windows. In viewing good reference photos Dave discovered, as with any racecar, to save on weight the teams used plexiglass side windows joined to the window openings with rivets or fasteners.

If Dave could have done anything different on the car he said he would have opened up one or both of the doors because all that detail work in the interior gets lost once the body is on. Even so, the shape of the Murielago combined with the low racecar stance makes this a very eye-catching model.



**1** Since the body covers up most of the fine detail in the interior, here it is prior to body installation. Dave states the Scale Production's transkit replicates the racing interior perfectly. Not to mention it is an easy conversion from street trim to race trim. The only tricky part is getting the height of the roll bars to clear the roof of the body. It is "trial and error" according to Dave.

**2** Close-up view of the wheels shows how close to the 1:1 car they really are. They were all painted with Alclad Steel lacquer paint shot through the airbrush. Dave detailed the tires with transit-supplied Michelin decals and some tire markings from a Just Want To Build A model tire goodie sheet.

**3** Dave did a lot of scratchbuilding to the already anemic looking engine compartment in the Fujimi kit. He studied numerous reference photos to get the engine to look like the Scream power plant.

**4** There is not a whole lot of detail on the underside of the car. Dave detailed the lower drivetrain using various washes from Long enterprises. Dave claims the rear diffuser supplied by the transkit is made up of eight photoetch metal parts.

**5** The rear engine cover along with the rear spoiler supplied in the transkit were covered in the latest high definition carbon fiber decals from Scale Motorsport. Rear taillights and cooling fan vents were also supplied from the transkit.

**6** Clean masking, painting, polishing, and decal techniques yield fantastic results. The transkit even provides the photoetch mesh material for the giant grilles in the front.