



1957 Corvette: Model Project or Math Equation

By George Bangs

In my stash of models to be built, to refurbish, or otherwise known as "in progress" I have a 1957 Corvette. The car was started by the late Frank Svatek and part of me felt the need to complete it for Frank. One has to understand that Frank had the habit of painting all the parts while on the sprues and then assembling the model. Problem was, Frank never scraped away the paint or chrome plating so the models tended to disassemble themselves in relatively short order. I have the habit of tossing any model I wish to reconstruct into a tub of Purple cleaning solvent so I can basically start with clean plastic. The Purple bath trick worked well on the chassis but the body was another story, the body was a mess. I tossed everything back in the box and moved on an to easier subject.

I enjoy watching auctions on TV and one day I was tuned in to the Barrett-Jackson Auction when along comes this 1957 Corvette with fuel injection. The commentators hyped it all up about how rare and valuable it was and both commentators felt it would be one of the higher priced cars in the auction. The car was a beautiful metallic silver with white coves, very well done but not my cup of tea. Somehow I guess a seed was planted on the vast manure pile of knowledge contained with-

Then the seed became a weed and thoughts started sprouting inside my head. On the shelf I had a can of 50's Aqua paint which I would never need for a semi truck or race car. I could paint this car gloss white, mask off the coves, and spray the rest aqua. Heck, the car had fuel injection and maybe I shouldn't hack it up and make a service vehicle out of it. I decided to go online and research the factory colors that were available in 1957 and it has led me to a math equation that proves what the Auction's commentators were stating.



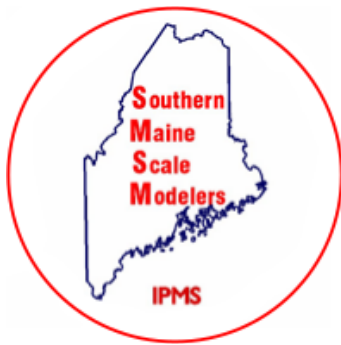
in the confines of my brain.

Moving ahead a year or so, the box with the Corvette ends up back on my desk. My initial thought was to make a fire vehicle for my race diorama, maybe cut out the trunk lid and stand 6 or 8 fire extinguishers in the trunk like milk bottles. I could picture it painted red with "Speedway Fire Dept" lettered along each side. The car would be able to race out of the infield and get to the crash ahead of the tow trucks and ambulance.

In 1957, Chevrolet produced 6339 Corvettes in 7 available colors. 2189 units (34%) came in onyx black. 1320 units (21%) were venetian red. 1273 units (20%) polo white. 550 units (8%) cascade green. 487 units (7%) arctic blue. 452 units (6%) aztec copper and 65 units (1%) inca silver. Just 1% were silver. Now those TV commentators were starting to get my attention!

As a point of interest, here's how things have changed over the last 70 years. The base cost of a 1957 Corvette was \$3176 and included the carbureted 283/V8 engine and a 3 speed tranny. Options included an AM radio for \$199; an automatic transmission or a 4 speed for \$188. Not a typo, the AM radio cost more than either optional tranny. A heater cost \$118, a windshield washer \$12. A 283/ V8 with fuel injection added \$484 and a posi traction rearend, \$48. The only options that cost more than the AM radio were the fuel injected V8 and the full racing suspension options!

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Madame Prez Says

By Grace Leavitt

Welcome to Summer!

NoreastCon is being held in Henrietta, NY on 6/13 - I plan to be in attendance, as does Norm. We are making a vacation of it.

We had a discussion about the use of the whole Sanford Gym building for our show in 2027, and we will look into it further. Also discussed was the floor cover and lack of handicap parking spaces. We also discussed wooden models as a category, as they are currently in Miscellaneous. We also discussed raising some of the fees for the contest; i.e. vendor tables, trophy packs, and/or GA. Contest committee will discuss these things further in August.

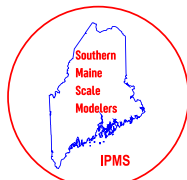
It was also decided that the winner of the 50/50 can decide where the other half of the money goes - to the club, or to the Museum.

I will contact the Run of the Mill restaurant in Saco regarding the options of our Christmas party there.

It's summer, but the fall contests are just around the corner.

Have a great month!

Grace



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A few more fun points to ponder include the fact that the interiors came in 3 colors. 5021 units (79.5%) came in red, 1315 units (20%) beige, and only 3 units came in black. Perhaps the engineers knew that a black interior would be too hot to be comfortable especially in any area where one did not need the optional heater. I warned you I had a manure pile of knowledge stored up inside my brain.



Soft top options were 2461 units (39%) white, 1820 units (28%) black, and 1127 (18%) beige.

The two tone paint option cost only \$19. Only 2794 units (44%) came with this option. Now I can not imagine how you could mask and paint both coves on a car for just \$19, but that was 70 years ago. Perhaps humans worked cheaper than robots do now?

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Hear Ye! Here Ye!

By Norm Jordan

SMSM Meeting Minutes

SMSM Meeting Minutes---- 2 June, 2026

Meeting Location: Maine Military Museum

Meeting Begins at 7:00pm

BUSINESS MEETING

DOWNEASTCON 2026: The date for the 2027 event has been set for 4/11/2027; as the 4/4 date had already been taken by two other groups. Ron Garland reports that the price for the venue will be increased for the next year. A motion was made by Ed Dyson to increase the vendor table price for next year; seconded by Ron Garland. Motion passed.

There was discussion of linking up the Maine Military Museum website to ours. Ron also motioned that the club half of the 50/50 Raffle proceeds go to the Museum every other month.

The Wings and Wheels Event at the Owls Head Transportation Museum will be the weekend of 8/1-8/2.

Club Break from 7:50pm-8:10 pm

The Show and Tell for the month featured 4 models from 3 modelers. Larry Gaudet won the Model of the Month

The winner of the 50/50 Raffle was Tony Bonti

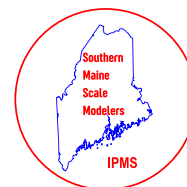
Meeting ended at 8:35pm

Members Attending: T. Bonti, R. Garland, E. Dyson, M. Westcott, R. Pierce, D. Osborne, K. Keniston, L. Gaudet, K. Waterson, J. Medolo, G. Leavitt, N. Jordan, R. Jordan, C. Loranger, J. Loranger, S. Laing, P. Paradis, G. Bangs, D. Beaulieu

Respectfully Submitted,

Norm Jordan

SMSM Secretary/ Scribe



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Now comes the fuel injection option where 1040 units (16%) of the total production run came equipped this way. I found 667 units came with the 4 speed but no numbers for the automatic trannys.

So let's get back to my model now. What GM called Cascade Green is a very close match to my 50's Aqua paint so that color would be correct for 550 units in the production run. As my car has the white coves like 44% of the production run, it would replicate one of 242 units. Since 16% of all units were fuel injected, equally distributed across all the colors the car would now become one of 38 units. If 20% of those cars had beige interiors it would be one of seven units produced. We don't have all the numbers relating to the transmissions but IF a couple didn't have the standard 3 speed you'd get down to less than a one in 5 production units. I guess those two commentators knew their stuff when they said how rare that inca silver/white 1957 fuel injected Vette actually is/was.

Now my vision for this '57 Vette kit was not the same as Frank's. Frank painted the Vette purple then spent a great amount of time masking and applying a silver flame paint job. My purple chemical bath softened the purple paint but didn't remove all the silver paint residue. The body was covered with a chalk like film. Dawn dish liquid did nothing to release it. I felt the need to scrub and scrub with 2000 grit steel wool until

it all came off before I dared to apply my new paint. Perhaps I should have left the interior black as Frank had painted it but I preferred the beige. Had I left the interior black, without a



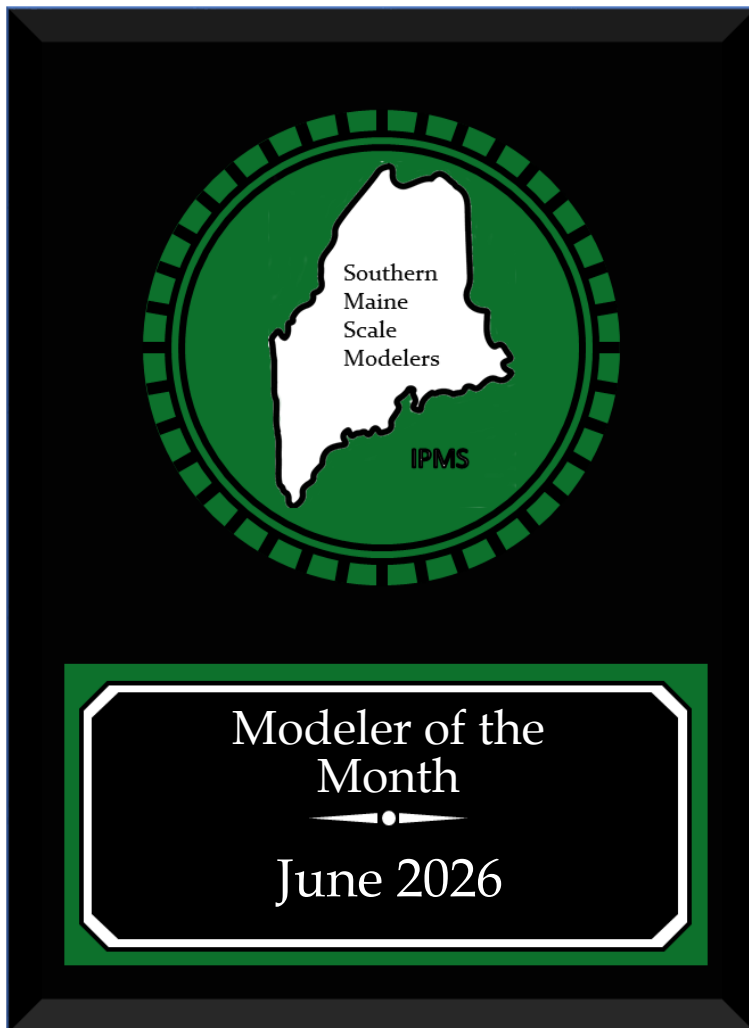
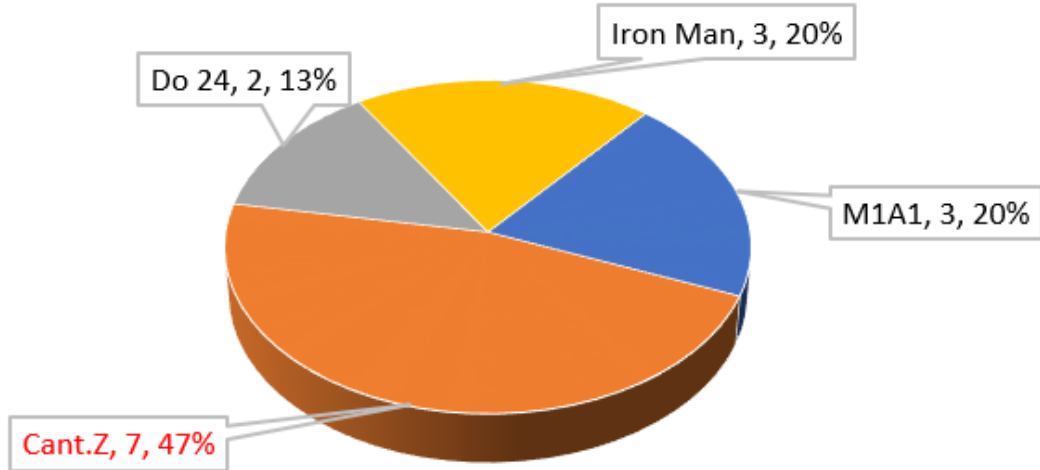
doubt the car would be a one of one just like Frank Svatek. I hope you approve of my version of your car Frank, may you rest in peace. The '57 Vette rides again!

Footnote: This model was built from Monogram's '57 Street Vette kit. Therefore I did not have the stock tires/wheels/ hubcaps that a truly original 1957 Vette would have had.



Modeler of the Month

June Model-of-the-Month Voting



Cant.Z 506B

By Larry Gaudet





**1/72 Cant.Z 506B
(Supermodel)**

By Larry Gaudet

Finished with Tamiya
paints

Pros: Parts were clean
with no flash

Comments: Very good in-
structions for building.
Easy layout





1/35 M1A1 Ukrainian (Tamiya)

By Kevin Keniston

Finished with Vallejo Russian Green, Cheescloth camo net, Dark & Light Green colors, Russian Earth pigment

Pros: Detail is good, track easy to put together.





1/72 Dornier Do24 (Testors)

By Larry Gaudet

Finished with Tamiya paints

Pros: Parts were clean with no flash

Comments: Very good instructions for building. Easy layout





1/10 Iron Man 2 Mark LXXXV (Wicked 3D)

By Bob Pierce

Finished with Dupont primer, Metal cast Red Iodized (lacquer). Various Army Painter colors.

Pros: Easy assembly

Cons: Took more than a month to ship. 1st piece to lost, had to wait for 2nd figure!

Comments: Used Gold Bare Metal foil for suit. Used tone paints for washes.



OUR NEXT MEETING
WILL BE ON TUES-
DAY, JULY 7, 2026
AT THE MAINE MILI-
TARY MUSEUM,
SOUTH PORTLAND,
ME AND WILL START
AT 7:00 PM

Calendar

July 7—SMSM Meeting—Club Project: Water Planes

August 1 & 2 Wings & Wheels

August 4—SMSM Meeting

August 5-8 IPMS Nationals (Ft. Wayne)

September 27—Patcon

October Club Project: Figures

October 18—Granitecon 33

October 24—Hudson Valley Model Show

November 1—Baycon