



Lothar Schuettler's 1937 BMW 328 Roadster

The entire production of BMW 328s from 1936 through 1940 was only 464. They came in a surprising array of colors—even one in robin's egg blue—but nearly half (229) were white. Only 18 were produced in black, and of those only six were manufactured in 1937. This car—serial number 85014; the 14th one produced—was one of the six.

The car was first owned by the famous German race car driver Baron Fritz Huschke von Hanstein, who bought the car in 1937 from a dealer in Berlin for the equivalent of \$2972.

After leaving the factory in 1937, the car's motor was modified for racing by Schleicher & Co., Schleicher having been instrumental in the original design of the 328 before he opened his own tuning shop. The result of the modification was an increase from the stock 80 horse-power to 124 hp.

In 1938-39, with Huschke von Hanstein at the wheel, this 328 saw many victories at such famous places as the Nurburgring, Hockenheim, the 24 Hours of Le Mans, and the Grossglockner hill climb.

Hanstein, who was required to race the car under one of the branches of the military, in his case the SS, lost track of the car in the war years ("it was certainly stolen or confiscated"). It resurfaced in 1953, by then painted white, and was sold by a German national to an American soldier who brought it to the US and had it for nearly 40 years.

The third owner, an American living in South Carolina, bought it in 1990, started an ill-fated restoration, and subsequently sold it to Lothar in 2004, much of it in boxes. Lothar's ground-up restoration took five years, bringing it back to the condition it was when it left the BMW factory in 1937.