

FORD MUSTANG

1962 MUSTANG I CONCEPT



The 1962 Ford Mustang I concept is recognized by Mustang enthusiasts as “the car that started it all.” Introduced at the 1964 World’s Fair in New York City, the production Mustang that arose from this concept captured the imagination of America.

The Mustang I concept was conceived as a car to compete against British and European sports cars that were attracting baby boomers. Initial sketches were penned by designers John Najjar and Jim Sipple. It was Najjar who suggested the Mustang name. Given the green light on May 8, 1962, the Mustang I was constructed in 22 weeks and debuted at the United States Grand Prix at Watkins Glen, New York, where Dan Gurney drove it on parade laps to the cheers of surprised spectators.

Featuring a compact 1.5-liter V-4 engine and an aluminum body, the car weighs less than 1,500 pounds. It features fixed seats, moveable pedals and steering wheel, built-in roll bar, retractable headlamps and four-wheel independent suspension. Many of its features carried into the Ford GT40 that would later dominate the 24 Hours of Le Mans for Ford with, appropriately, Dan Gurney among the winning drivers.

One of the most significant concept cars of all time, the Mustang I spawned the unmistakable design formula that has identified more than nine million Mustangs that have followed.

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