



DESIGNING THE SHELBY GT500 CS

Clinton White drove the GT500 CS prototype 7,000 miles and says 90 percent of the people thought the car was a real '69 GT500.

"They never stopped to think it's a brand new car that looks like a '69."

How did Retrobuilt make a Gen 5 look like a '69 Shelby? Retrobuilt was up to this difficult task because of their years of experience building the RSC/GT and the 1968½ GT500 KR Tribute.

Clinton explained, "When it comes down to it, not a piece on the GT500 CS will interchange with a real Shelby in '69. The fenders are different sizes and the quarter panels are different heights and different lengths. There's just not anything that will interchange."

A company without this experience might have started as Retrobuilt initially did. In Clinton's words, "It took us two years to refine and build the car simply because when you first start on these things you think, okay, I've got to add four inches to the quarter panel and I got to add eight inches in height. Well, when you add that four inches and eight inches, it makes the curve on the quarter panel and on that lip the wrong dimension. It flattens it out, so you've got to go in there and re-curve it so it fools the eye to look like what it's supposed to look like."

Retrohit did not use computers. They hand-fabricated the sheet metal the old fashioned way. The end result is the CS—a Gen 5 Mustang modified to look like a 1969/70 Shelby GT500.

had two custom cars to sell. They could re-sell their Shelby GT500 as a customized Shelby GT500, but not as a KR. They could not go into production with a Shelby without a licensing agreement. Shelby owns the name GT500KR.

Clinton said, "At the end of 2007 we closed down the company, Retrobuilt, got rid of three owners and came back and re-established the company with just me and my son."

In January of 2008, the new Retrobuilt started their project to build the '69 GT500. They still had no deal with Shelby Automobiles.

The Whites began their build with a 2007 Shelby GT supercharged 4.6L. The

final product looked like a 1969 GT500, but without Shelby letters across the deck lid, without the chromed grille and without emblems in the grille. They added a GT500 decal and put the car up for sale on eBay about October 1, 2009 as a GT500.

Amy Boylan, president of Shelby Automobiles saw the car for sale on eBay and called Clinton White II.

Amy explained to us, "I liked the car and thought it was a great idea. Until a license was done, they could sell the car as a custom Shelby GT because it was a Shelby GT, but not as a GT500 because this name is owned by Shelby and the car was not a real GT500."

Clinton White II agreed but went further.

