

Race Cars, Prototypes, and Muscle Cars of Ford's Special Vehicle Activity Program

The Ford Special Vehicle Activity Program (SVAP) was a legendary skunkworks operation within the Ford Motor Company that pushed the boundaries of automotive performance. From its inception in the early 1960s, SVAP played a pivotal role in developing some of the most iconic race cars, prototypes, and muscle cars in automotive history.



Kar-Kraft: Race Cars, Prototypes and Muscle Cars of Ford's Special Vehicle Activity Program: Race Cars, Prototypes and Muscle Cars of Ford's Specialty Vehicle Program

by Terry Shannon

4.8 out of 5

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Race Cars

SVAP's involvement in racing began with the Ford GT40, a mid-engined sports car designed to challenge Ferrari's dominance at Le Mans. The GT40, powered by a 427 cubic inch V8 engine, achieved an unprecedented four consecutive victories at Le Mans from 1966 to 1969.

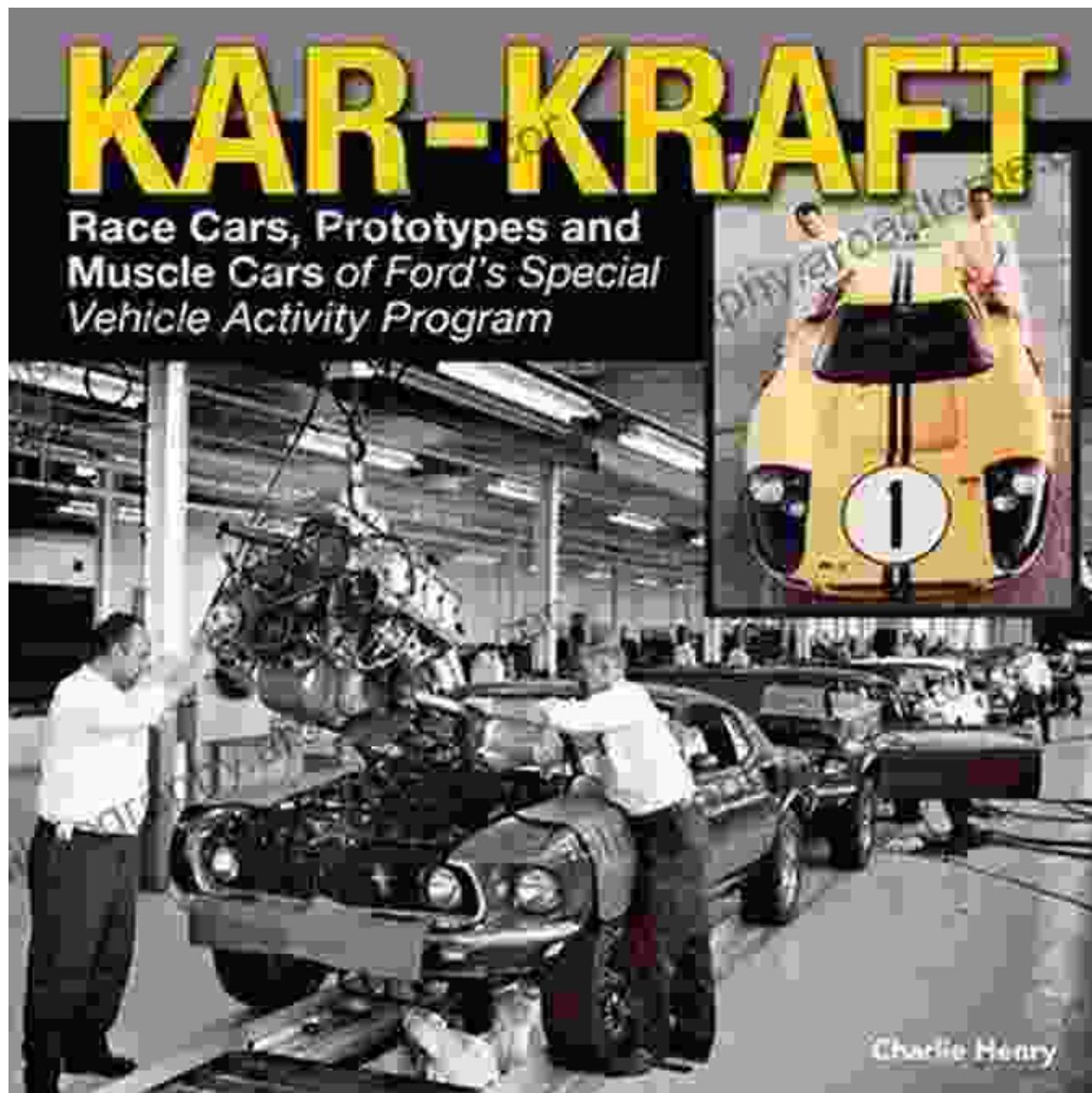
In addition to the GT40, SVAP also developed several other successful race cars, including the Mustang Boss 302, the Torino Talladega, and the Capri RS2600. These cars dominated their respective classes in NASCAR, the Trans-Am Series, and the European Touring Car Championship.



Prototypes

Beyond race cars, SVAP also created several groundbreaking prototypes that pushed the limits of automotive technology. The Ford Mach 1, unveiled in 1966, was a sleek and futuristic concept car that featured a jet turbine engine.

Another notable prototype was the Ford Probe I, a compact sports car that debuted in 1979. The Probe I's aerodynamic design and efficient engine foreshadowed the future direction of automotive design.



Ford Mach 1 prototype

Muscle Cars

In addition to race cars and prototypes, SVAP also had a hand in the development of some of Ford's most legendary muscle cars. The Mustang Boss 302, with its high-revving V8 engine and aggressive handling, was a true road warrior.

Another iconic muscle car from SVAP was the Torino Cobra, a fastback coupe that was available with a powerful 429 cubic inch V8 engine. The Cobra was a formidable competitor on the drag strip and in NASCAR.



Legacy

The Ford Special Vehicle Activity Program played a significant role in shaping the legacy of Ford performance. The cars developed by SVAP pushed the boundaries of technology and design, setting new standards for speed, handling, and innovation.

Today, the cars of SVAP continue to be celebrated by enthusiasts around the world. They represent a time when Ford was at the forefront of automotive innovation, producing some of the most iconic and exciting cars in history.

The Ford Special Vehicle Activity Program was a breeding ground for automotive excellence. The race cars, prototypes, and muscle cars developed by SVAP left an enduring legacy on the automotive world, inspiring generations of enthusiasts and pushing the limits of automotive technology.



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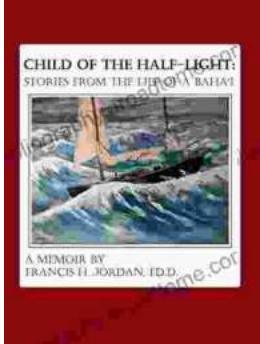
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