

# Super G-Plus Line Eludes Collectors

By Rich McMahon

One of my most memorable slot car purchases was a Ligier Formula One slot car from Aurora's Super G-Plus line. I found it at a local hobby shop in 1982. Shortly afterward, Aurora vanished forever, and I realized I had unwittingly purchased one of the company's last products.

I was interested in the Super G-Plus line because these HO-scale slot cars were modeled after Formula One race cars. That was a fascinating time for Formula One racing, with its great cars and drivers. These small slot cars were adequate representations of the real cars, although like many HO slot cars, liberties were taken so that the bodies would fit a common chassis.

In reality, there was very little that was extraordinary about the actual Super G-Plus slot cars. The range utilized existing body molds, and most decorations had already been released as standard G-Plus cars. While there were some subtle changes inside, the most noticeable being orange gears and magnets, the performance was no better than the standard G-Plus cars.

What was special about the Super G-Plus cars was the packaging — it looked fantastic! The appearance of the black base with gold chrome lettering is very striking, suggesting that these cars were meant to be displayed in pack. The cars lived under a clear cover and sat on a tilted base, creating a good viewing angle.

Two weeks after that first purchase, I returned to the hobby shop to buy more. Unfortunately, the inventory had vanished. I was informed that no more were available since Aurora had gone out of business. I soon began a search to hunt down more Super G-Plus cars, but I was unsuccessful at local hobby shops.



2804 THUNDERBIRD



2805 DODGE MAGNUM

Aurora used these images of the Thunderbird (top) and Dodge Magnum (above) in its 1983 catalog. However, it wasn't until a few years ago that I was sure these cars had actually been produced. Both cars were produced in the unique Super G-Plus decorations.



2883 LOTUS F-1

Did this Lotus F-1 racer from Aurora's Super G-Plus line really exist?

**"Luckily, one store had an Aurora catalog. I paged through it, and my attention was caught by a car that had not been previously produced — the Mario Andretti 'Essex' Lotus Formula One car. This was one car I definitely had to have, but who knew if it even existed?"**

Luckily, one store had an Aurora catalog. I paged through it, and my attention was caught by a car that had not been previously produced — the Mario Andretti “Essex” Lotus Formula One car. This was one car I definitely had to have, but who knew if it even existed?

About three years later, I started to attend model car shows and look for slot cars — Super G-Plus cars in particular and specifically Andretti’s Essex car. The small number of slot car vendors knew nothing about Super G-Plus cars and told me none were ever produced. But I knew this wasn’t true because I still had the original packaging for my Ligier car.

One by one, I eventually obtained most of the Super G-Plus Formula One cars — even the Andretti Essex car, still new in its special case. I have shown my cars to many collectors who were unaware of the line. Over the years, collector knowledge of and

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### Super G-Plus Cars

Thunderbird Stocker .....	.2804
Dodge Magnum Stocker .....	.2805
Lola T330 F5000 .....	.2816 *
Indy Chrome .....	.28?? *
McLaren M23 Formula One .....	.2837 *
Ferrari T4 Formula One .....	.2840 *
Aurora AFX Formula One McLaren M23 ..	.2845
JPS Lotus 79 Formula One .....	.2883
Ligier Formula One .....	.2885 *
Saudi Williams FW07 Formula One .....	.2887
Renault-ELF Turbo Formula One .....	.2888
ELF Tyrell six-wheel Formula One .....	.2891 *
Essex Lotus Formula One .....	.2893
Candy Tyrell Formula One .....	.2894

\* = Uncataloged item



Here is my original Ligier Formula One car with its price tag still attached. Note the beautiful packaging — these cars look great displayed in the pack.

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e-mail: salesus@rickoltd.com

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interest in the Super G-Plus cars has grown.

It was interesting that some of the cars I obtained were not cataloged anywhere, and there is still some confusion over what Super G-Plus cars were produced. Luckily, Aurora did something unique with the packaging — the clear covers were glued in place, and the mounting screw was concealed by paper that must be torn away to remove the car. This is important as these two features assist in determining original Super G-Plus cars.

For years, I did not know if the Dodge Magnum and Ford Thunderbird shown in the 1983 catalog were actually produced. The body molds were previously used, but the Super G-Plus versions of these two cars have very distinctive color schemes.

The Super G-Plus Magnum and Thunderbird are very rare. No, I never did acquire these items for myself, but examples have recently exchanged hands for about \$1,000 each. ☹

*Rich McMahon is a freelance writer and designer for a major auto firm. He has been actively collecting and racing slot cars of all scales for the last 20 years. Comments on this article can be sent to P.O. Box 81314, Rochester, MI 48308; RMMseven@aol.com.*



2888 RENAULT F-1



2845 AURORA F-1

In 1983, Formula One race cars were prevalent in Aurora's line of Super G-Plus HO-scale slot cars. The Renault and Aurora racers shown here are just two examples from the line.



This is my collection of Aurora Super G-Plus slot cars. Some of these cars were never shown in the catalog, such as my original Ligier (in the upper right-hand corner).