

## SHOP NOTES King Midget Maintenance and Restoration

### A-18 *Advisory Panel: M2 Hood Ornaments*

In restoring his very early Model 2, Gary Wood asked the Advisory Panel about the proper hood ornament for that car.

Something I am finding interesting is that using the original hood hole for the Series I rocket, that it sticks over and indents the aluminum nose. In studying early factory pictures I think this is correct, but don't know. Bob, do you know where the picture at right was taken? It just seems that there are some clues as to early cars based on the hood ornament...that is if I am correct that V5010 didn't have the S-1 emblem. I do have an original and plan to measure how much curvature was left on the bottom face. However if you study a high res picture of the Model I fitted with front skis the hood ornament extends over the aluminum grill by a bit. I had noticed this also on V5004 as the mounting hole places the rocket front out over the grill. I think the result is a gap anyway under the rocket at the step up to the added grill thickness. That is unless you tighten it so much that it deforms all adjoining metal. **Gary Wood**



I'm not sure if MM put hood ornaments on all M2 cars. My M2s had no holes in the hoods for a hood ornament. Maybe it was an option? V5010 seems to be closer to regular production M2 cars, other than still no louvers in the quarters. I think Bob showed in his book how many of those photos were staged? **John White**

I think John is right. I've not had time to look in detail, but I did blow up the photo on page 164 of *Dream Car* and I don't believe any of that row had hood ornaments. It's possible they'd not yet been installed. I think it more likely they ran out of the early ornaments (which by the way, Gary Guy had a few a couple or three years ago) and had not yet gotten their supply of the "new" rocket ornament. And yes, those early photos were staged in Athens. **Bob V.**

OK everyone so far we have confirmed that the hood ornament in question is the correct one used on the Model 1 and some early Model 2's. We also confirmed that the ornament is from a 1935 Chevrolet, and modified by cutting the 2 rear tabs away. Also the bottom has to be sanded to get a more flat surface to mount on the KM hoods. The ones used by MM were aftermarket and could be bought from JC Whitney. And they cut the tabs from the ornament and cut the front section too. Seems a lot of work. I guess that's why we haven't seen many 'cause they didn't use many. **Lee Seats**



Look closely at these photos. Darned if I can see how the eBay Chev ornament (by Lee's note) could be fit to either an M1 or M2 hood. And the cost of buying those ornaments from GM would not work for

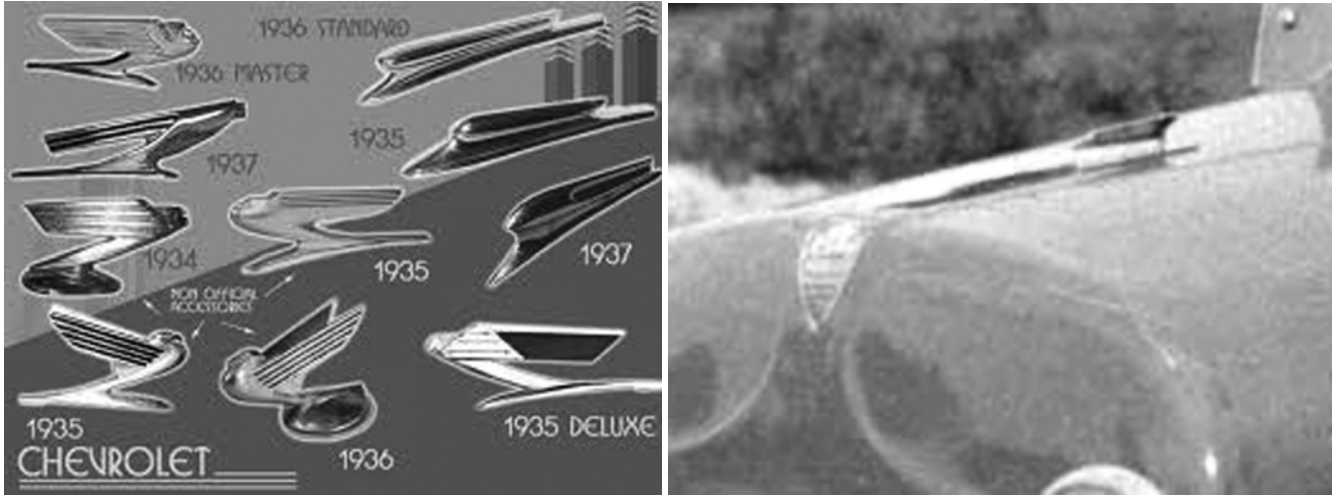
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MM, unless they were some sort of distressed leftover. Anyway, it makes me think the one MM used might have been a knockoff sold by Pep Boys or J.C. Whitney, as Lee suggests. **Bob V.**

Bob, that eBay hood ornament looks very close but not exact. The one Midget Motors used was from a 1939 Chevy. **Gary Guy**

Yes, Gary's are different (see center photo above installed on his M1). It looks right compared to the one on the M1 that McCahill test drove (beside it) except MM installed it further forward. And both appear to match the fuzzy photos Gary sent and the one left above, which also overlap the grille.

I believe the ornament used by MM was probably a knockoff of the 1935 Chevy Standard's hood ornament shown below.



But Gary, check those holes in the V5004 hood and see if the Rocket ornament used on later M2s might fit. The photo above right is a detail from the M2 on the cover of the famous *Popular Science* magazine introducing the Model 2. It's the same Rocket that was part of the Deluxe package in 1955 and 1956. So perhaps they planned to use the new ornament, but when M1 sales slumped, decided to first use up the inventory of M1 ornaments. Then went without until the Deluxe package was offered? **Bob V.**