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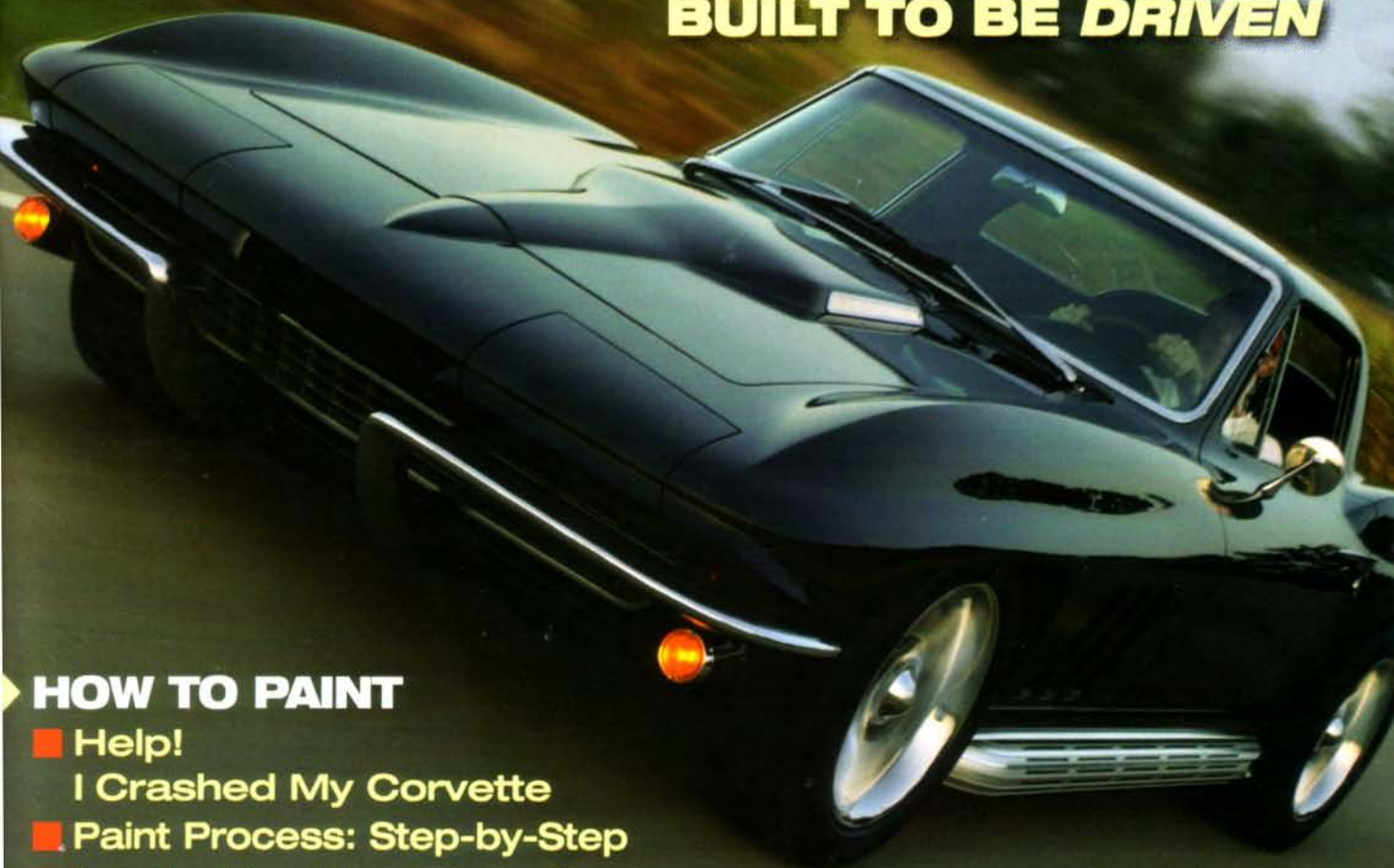
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# BLAST INTO THE PAST

Dave Sullivan's stunning  
Cascade Green '57 convertible



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PHOTOS BY JERRY HEASLEY







**M**ichigan car builders are just different. Huddled next to their heat lamps all winter, these true car enthusiasts seem to build the best cars. Maybe it's because they're part of a talented group in the city still considered the

home of American car building. Maybe it's the cold, sunless winters that keep them in their well-equipped garages for five months at a time. Who knows? But Dave Sullivan's beautiful and unique '57 twin-carbureted convertible is truly something special.

Dave, of Brighton, Michigan, has owned the '57 for 28 years, and it isn't his first Corvette. He's had a '65 fuel-injected coupe, and is the original

owner of a rare '68 aluminum-head L89 coupe, so he's appreciated Corvettes for many years.

A friend of Dave's purchased the '57 while in the Navy in San Diego. He drove it home and used it as daily transportation until 1972. Dave constantly prodded his friend to let him buy the car, a discussion that often took place while they were playing softball. The car became Dave's after his friend got married.

Not happy with the strange green coloring, Dave stripped off three layers of paint, applied gloss black, and changed the interior seating to red.



# BLAST INTO THE PAST



The car remained this way for the next 24 years.

Werner Meier is one of the kings of Corvette restorations. His shop, Masterworks in Madison Heights, Michigan, turns out some of the finest Corvettes in the world. Dave hired Meier to restore the '68 coupe he purchased new in 1967. Dave watched the Masterworks crew meticulously restore the '68, and it inspired him to give the '57 the attention it deserved. But instead of having Masterworks do the '57, Dave became involved and started to restore the '57 back to the original "gosh-awful" green paint he covered up 24 years earlier.

With the help of friend Dave Underhill, he stripped down the car to the basics and prepared the panels for restoration. Jerry Ransford, a plant

manager at Argus Corporation in Livonia, let them use his paint booth, and things really came together. For final assembly, Masterworks' top assembler, Shelby Jett, was hired for the task of putting the parts together. After one

full year, the car was reborn. As Dave says today, "I now have a brand new '57 Corvette."

It sports twin carburetion and a four-speed transmission, the original factory setup for the car, along with Cascade Green paint and beige interior. The entire car is original, restored right down to the screws that hold it together.

Dave drives and shows it in many competitions and events during the year, weather permitting. The Cascade '57 with beige interior is a rare combination (only 550 or so had this paint that year), but it's striking for Corvette fans used to the more "desirable" black-and-red combination. But Dave doesn't care. He had a black-and-red '57, and his green convertible suits him just fine. **CF**

