

### December 2011 by Matt Slayton

This month we continue our assault on the senses (and wallet) with a beautiful collection of Lotus F1 cars in glorious 1/43rd scale!

If you recall last month, we looked at the Minichamps Lotus 79 driven by Mario Andretti. Well, Minichamps has released another version of the Martini Lotus 79, this time driven by Nigel Mansell.

This version replicates the November 1979 first test at Paul Richard circuit by Nigel, and is limited to 2,664 pieces. It appears that the Mansell Lotus items seem to sell out rather quickly, and Jim at Diecasm (where I purchased mine), said that the importer stocks are sold out. If you have your eye on this model (or the [Andretti](#) one last newsletter), I would suggest giving Jim a call and snagging it while you can....or play eBay roulette!



Next up is this beautiful model from Reve (a division of Spark), in all its resin hand-built glory! This is the Lotus 78, as driven in the 1977 Japan Grand Prix by Mario Andretti. As you would come to expect from Spark (Reve), this model features flawless paint and decals, and a nice base with an acrylic cover. In addition, plus the John Player Special decals included too!

As if the JPS version wasn't enough for collectors, Reve also has just released this little gem:





This Lotus 78 was driven in the 1977 Japan Grand Prix as well, but sports a rather unique paint scheme. This particular car was sponsored by Imperial Tobacco (which was the parent company of John Player)...can you imagine this happening today in Formula One?? The driver on this car was the late Gunnar Nilsson.

This handbuilt beauty is painted with a nice two tone color scheme, and also includes the proper Imperial Tobacco decals to add...certainly another extra step that I like to see from Spark (or Reve)! Detail is very well done on this car, with little touches such as the rivets on the side pods accented...this beats trying to put together the white model kit of this vehicle that I have had sitting around for years!

I have said it before, and will reiterate it again, these are limited edition, handbuilt models...if there is an interest, you might want to pick them up, as they tend to sell out rather quickly! Be sure to look in the Lotus Notus newsletter for an exclusive [Lotus Corps](#) promotion from Diecasm as well.

Both of these would be a nice addition to your collection. These models that I photographed came from Jim at Diecasm ([www.diecasm.com](http://www.diecasm.com)).

Merry Christmas and Happy Hunting!!  
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