

(Front row left to right kneeling) Dodge Brand President and CEO Ralph Gilles and plant manager Shelly Brown Gordon pose with the production team and their last car build at the Conner Avenue Assembly Plant in Detroit.



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Last VIPER Down the Line

The last Dodge Viper came down the line at the Conner Avenue Assembly Plant (CAAP) at noon on July 1. It goes to Viper collector extraordinaire D'Ann Rauh, of Arp, Texas. D'Ann was covered in the Fall 2009 issue of *VIPER Magazine*. We reported that she and her husband, Wayne, owned 29 Vipers—with two more on the way. At that time she was asked when their collecting might end, and D'Ann said, "I don't know. When they stop building them."

She didn't know at that time, but the end was coming—and it's here now. D'Ann now owns the last current-generation Dodge Viper, a Gold and Copper SRT10[®] coupe that came down the line at Conner Avenue July 1, 2010.

This spectacular car has been covered in House of Kolor paint by Prefix, of Rochester Hills, Mich., and features Gleaming Gold with

Coppertone stripes bordered with Black Onyx metallic finish.

The stripes were designed by Mark Trostle of Chrysler Design. Trostle, with fellow Chrysler designers Jeff Aneiros and Scott Krugger laid out the stripes on the car. Bob Soroka, an SRT[®] designer, airbrushed the Coppertone stripes with a unique "snakeskin" detail laid out by Chrysler engineer Karl Schuneman on his home computer graphics equipment. This "snakeskin" detail is actually ten race track maps that figure in Viper history, including Daytona, Le Mans, Sebring, the Nurburgring, Laguna Seca, Nelson Ledges, Road America, Texas Motorsports Ranch, Gingerman and Blackhawk Farms. Readers are invited to study the airbrush work and identify the tracks.

Venzano Interiors of Waterford, Mich., draped the entire interior with ultra-quality tan and black hides—and a custom-stitched Viper logo on the rear bulkhead.

This car just might be the jewel in D'Ann and Wayne's fabulous collection!



Original Viper team leader Roy Sjöberg, right, and retired Chrysler Design VP Tom Gale, two of the original Viper's creators.

A few of the many dignitaries who spoke to the assembled multitude.



Shelly Brown Gordon, current Plant Manager.



Howard Lewis, the original Plant Manager.



Ralph Gilles, Dodge Brand President and CEO, and Senior VP Product Design.



Chris Marshall, National VCA President.



Tom Gale, VP Design during most of Viper's history.



The last of the current-generation Vipers posed at the Walter P. Chrysler Museum on the Chrysler Group LLC campus in Auburn Hills, Mich.



D'Ann Rauh with Dodge Brand President and CEO Ralph Gilles (center) and "Keeper of the Grail" Herb Helbig at the Connor Avenue Assembly Plant reception in Detroit.



Members of the original Viper team were in attendance at the Museum gathering to celebrate the last current-generation Viper.

Paint



The base paint for the last Gen IV Viper is "Gleaming Gold." All the finishes are from House of Kolor in Picayune, Miss.



Prefix technician lays down base coat for stripes.



Chrysler designers (from L) Mark Trostle, Jeff Aneiros and Scott Krugger laid out the stripes on the car.



Aneiros on the job, armed with masking tape.



Trostle and Krugger doing their creative magic.



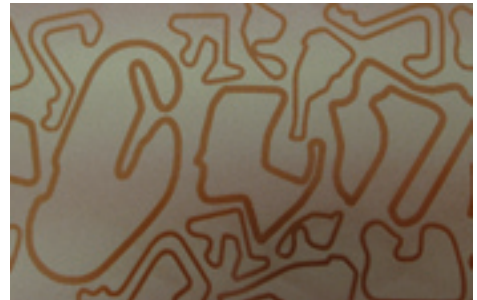
Tools of the trade—and Trostle's rendering of the car (Krugger (L) and Trostle in background).



Trostle eyeballs the roof layout.



Airbrush artist Bob Soroka, a designer at SRT.



Can you identify these patterns? They are significant in Viper history.



Karl Schuneman sets the fender stencils in place for painting.



Schuneman (L) and Soroka.



Airbrush art in progress.

Upholstery



Tony Spampinato of Venzano Upholstery sews the custom leather for the interior.



Tony with the custom leather-wrapped steering wheel.



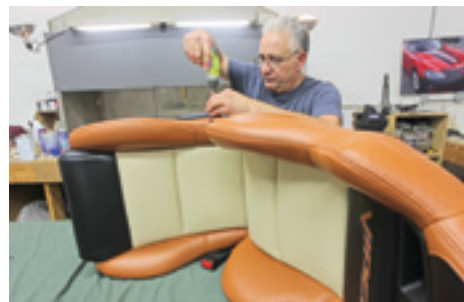
Burnishing the Viper logo on the Viper's bulkhead cover.



Tony assembles the driver-side door panel.



Assembling the custom leather seats.



Assembly



Tools of the trade.



Tony installs the driver-side door panel.



Tony places the rear bulkhead cover.



Door installation.



The "Gleaming Gold" brake calipers.



Ready for the gold brake calipers. 🇺🇸