

1935 Duesenberg J Roadster

2008 Best of Show – American – Sam and Emily Mann

Deep in the heartland of Iowa, bicycle makers August and Fred Duesenberg began playing with gasoline engines in 1900. By 1906, they were manufacturing cars. Their company failed, but they developed an engine which did well in the Indianapolis 500. During World War I, they built aircraft engines for the military and then used this experience to design their famous straight-eight engine.

Their company became part of E.L. Cord's empire in 1926, who gave the Duesenberg brothers carte blanche to build the finest car in the world and the result was the Model J in 1928. It featured a 420 cubic inch straight 8-cylinder engine producing 265 HP, more than double that of any other contemporary car. The chassis sold for \$8,500 and then the buyer had to spend another \$2,500 to \$8,000 for a custom body.