BUILD THE

BACK TO THE FUTURE™ DELOREAN

ISSUE 53









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UNIVERSAL

BUILD THE

BACK TO THE FUTURE DELOREAN

ISSUE 53





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A look at the creation of one of the most iconic props from the world of *Back to the Future*, the fabulous flying hoverboards!

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Actor J.J. Cohen, who played Skinhead, the third member of Biff's gang with 3-D and Match.

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YOUR CAR PARTS

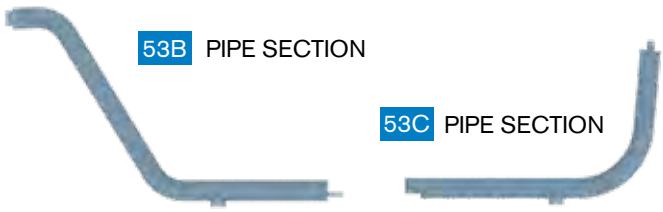
With this issue you receive cables and pipe sections, plus a second door sill, ties and fixing screws.

53A DOOR SILL PASSENGER SIDE



53B PIPE SECTION

53C PIPE SECTION

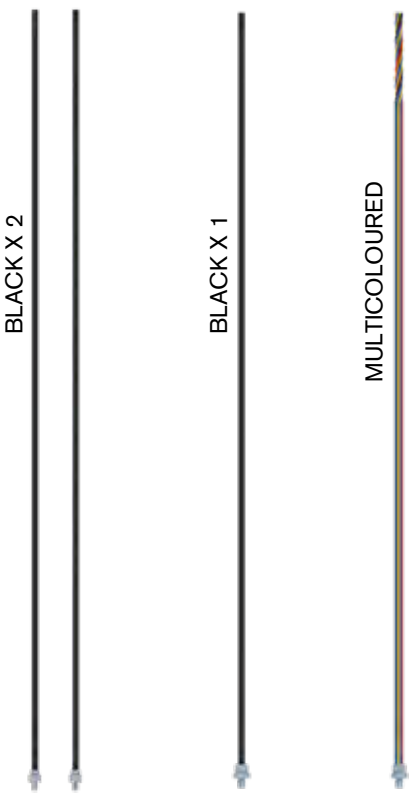


CABLES

53D

53E

53F



53G CABLE TIES





AP SCREW

FP SCREW X 5

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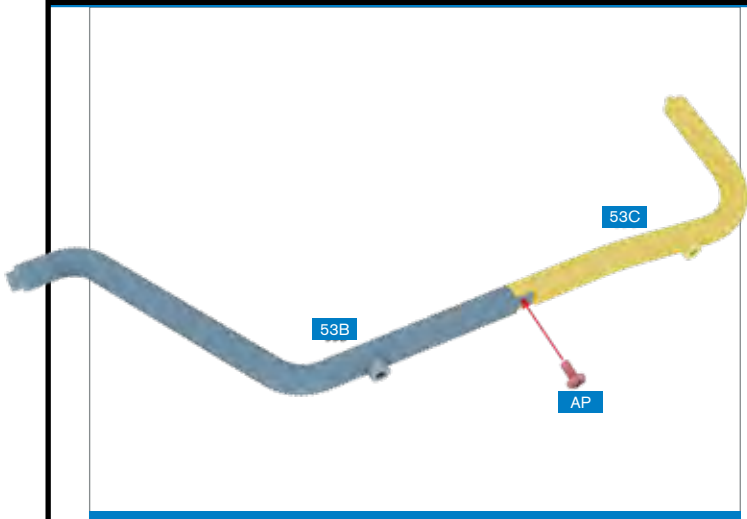
DRIVE TIME

Continuing the internal assembly of your DeLorean.

In this issue you will continue the assembly of the interior by following these step-by-step instructions.



THE INTERIOR



STEP 1 ›› Join pieces 53B and 53C together and secure with an AP screw.



STEP 2 ›› Place the pipe along the floor next to the passenger seat. Align the posts in the base of the pipe with the holes in the floor.



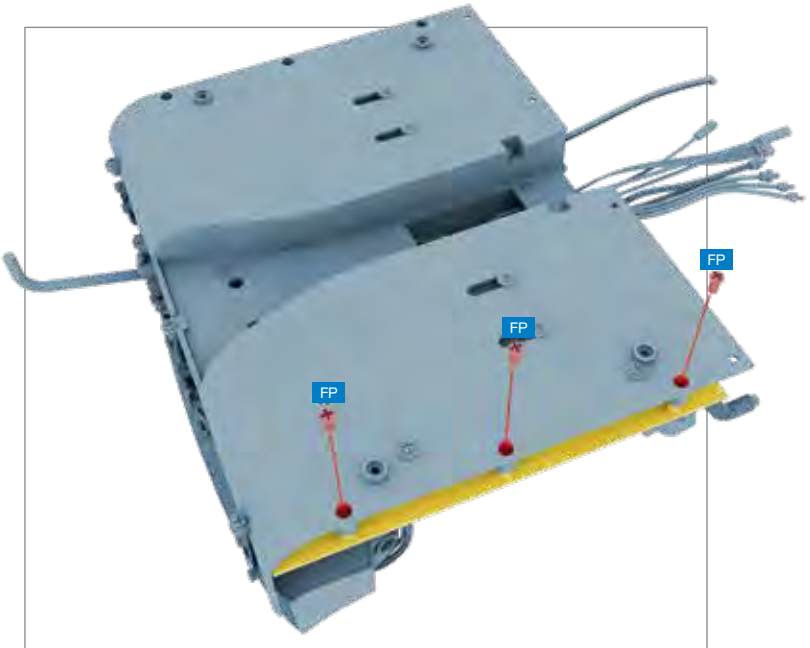
STEP 3 ›› Push the lug at the end of the pipe into the hole below the dashboard.



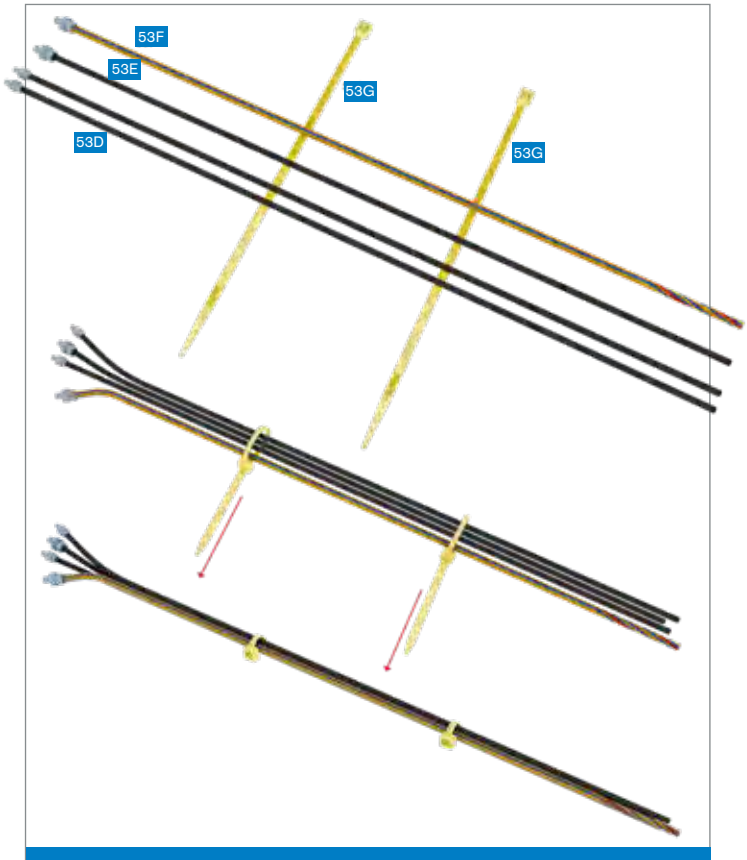
STEP 4 ›› Turn the assembly over and secure the pipe from the underside with two FP screws in the holes indicated.



STEP 5 ›› Put the door sill in place on the passenger side by aligning the posts with the holes as shown.



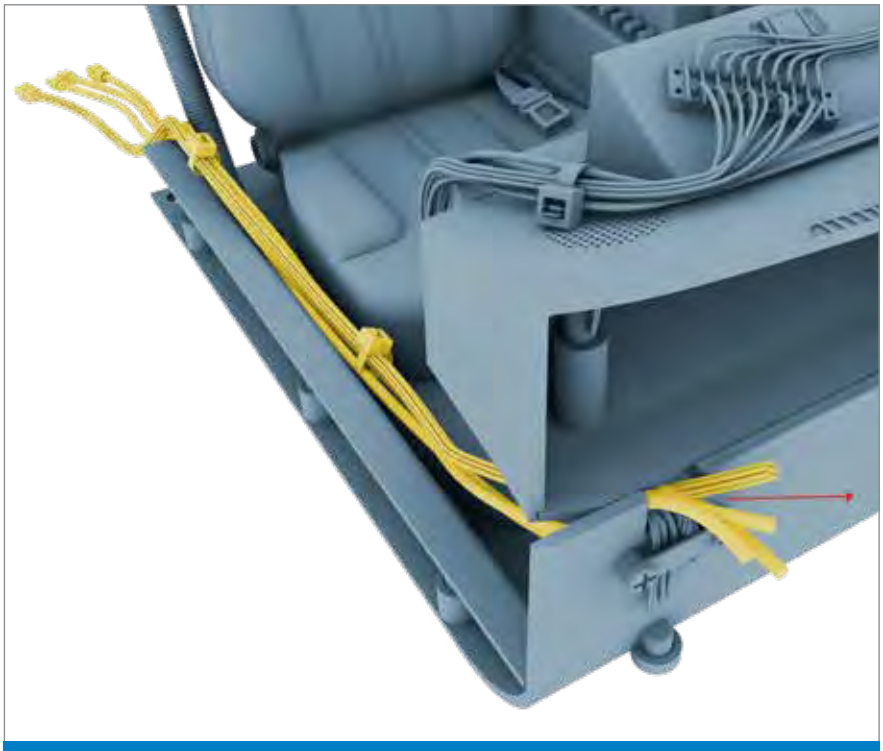
STEP 6 ›› Turn the assembly over and secure the door sill from the underside with three FP screws.



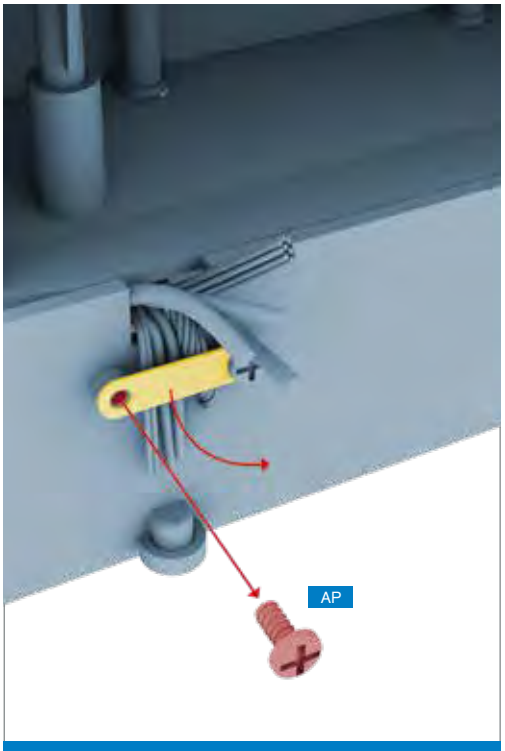
STEP 7 ›› Take cables 53D, 53E and 53F, tie them together with two cable ties 53G as shown and trim off the excess.



STEP 8 ›› Position the bundle of cables next to the door sill on the passenger side as shown.



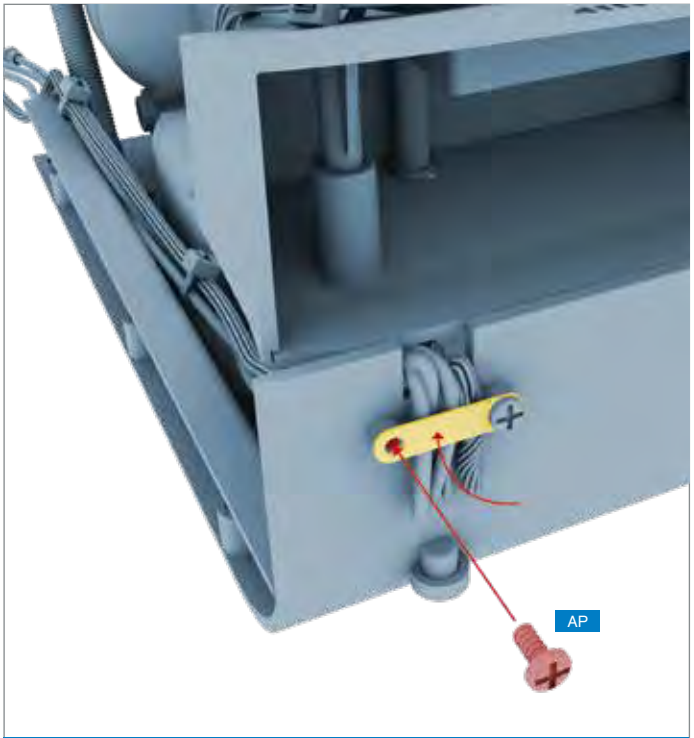
STEP 9 ›› Push the ends of the cables through the hole beneath the dashboard as shown.



STEP 10 ›› Unfasten the AP screw and swing the tab down.

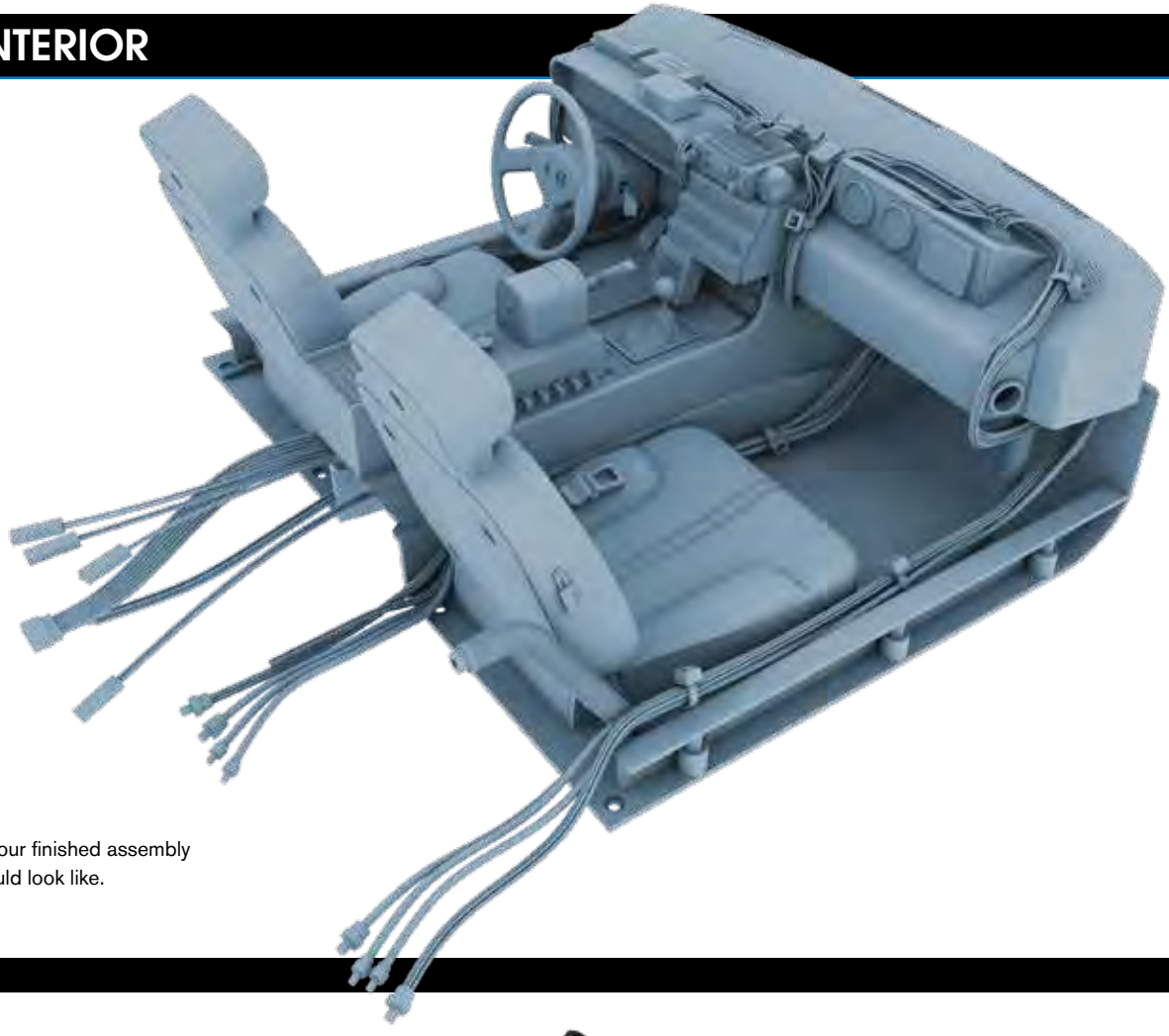


STEP 11 ›› Bend the cables downwards as shown.



STEP 12 ›› Swing the tab back in place to hold the cables, and refasten the screw.

THE INTERIOR



This is what your finished assembly should look like.



HOORAY FOR HOVERBOARDS

PRODUCTION DIARY

The making of an iconic prop from the Back to the Future *trilogy.*



FUN AND GAMES
Top, the hoverboard that Marty borrows, complete with its original handle, and below, Griff's fearsome 'Pit bull' board.

© History/REX/Shutterstock



© Lou Bustamante/REX/Shutterstock

One of the first ideas for the future sequence of *Back to the Future Part II* was to revisit the skateboard chase from the first film, but on *hoverboards*. In that one thought, Hill Valley 2015 began come to life – but the job of realising what hoverboards actually looked like fell to the film's team of illustrators, chiefly John Bell at Industrial Light and Magic.

ANIME INFLUENCE

"I ended up doing about thirty different drawings," said Bell. "I was a big fan of the Japanese comic book *Akira*, they had some great designs in there so I was riffing off things from there and applying a sense of that to the hoverboard designs."

In the early illustrations, the hoverboards were bigger and more like jet-propelled surfboards, with other devices sprouting from them. The boards for Griff's gang were going to be colour-coded, as Bell explained. "I was playing around with ideas that some of the gang members were totally into one colour, like the Power Rangers. One guy would be completely blue. He'd have a blue hat. Parts of his face would be blue. He'd have a blue hoverboard." This idea was dropped, although the gang's boards were still customised, particularly Griff's 'Pit bull' board, and Jason Scott Lee's character kept the nickname Whitey. "The first boards were much more elaborate," said Bell. "But they kept evolving and we kept whittling them back until they became the smaller boards you see on screen."



© AF Archive/Alamy Stock Photo

HAVE BOARD WILL FLY
On the run from Griff and his posse, Marty acquires a new mode of transport... (Michael J. Fox with Lindsey Whitney Barry and Theo Schwartz.)

In the early sketches, Bell gave Marty's hoverboard a Swatch logo, choosing a popular, fashionable brand of the time. Swiss watch makers Swatch were initially keen for product placement, but in the end, US toy giant Mattel got the honour of their logo on the board.

FILMING THE BOARDS

The hoverboard chase was one of the most complex, demanding, meticulously storyboarded and exhaustively rehearsed sequences in the *Back to the Future* trilogy, though it lasts for just three minutes on screen. Robert Zemeckis approached the sequence as if hoverboards were real, so he concerned himself with the dynamics of the chase, leaving the practical realities of getting the shots to his effects crew. Production Designer Rick Carter described the demands of the hoverboard chase as 'insurmountable opportunities'.

MANY TRICKS

ILM's approach to the effects was never to use the same trick twice – sometimes the hoverboards and their riders would be suspended on wires, sometimes traditional travelling matte effects would be used, there was even a scene where the board floated using powerful magnets. The intention was that the audience wouldn't be able to work out how hoverboard effects were accomplished.

Visual effects supervisor Michael Lantieri explained how early attempts to put the riders on flying wires and attach the hoverboard to their feet just didn't work. "It didn't look like the board was lifting the person, it looked like the person was lifting the board," said Lantieri. When the boards were put on the flying wires as well as the riders, the effect worked. "You could see the pressure on their legs or their knees as it really would be. It was a matter of physics."

TO BE CONTINUED....

> **"They kept evolving and we kept whittling them back until they became smaller."**
>
> JOHN BELL ON THE HOVERBOARDS



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Left and above: J.J. Cohen as Skinhead in Back to the Future.

J.J. COHEN

SMIRKING STOOGE

The actor who played Biff's henchman Skinhead was a young star in the Eighties but later turned away from acting.

Actor Jeffrey Jay Cohen, as Skinhead, completes the line-up of Biff Tannen's three stooges in *Back to the Future,* alongside Billy Zane and Casey Siemaszko.

Early on, Cohen was a favourite to play Biff – the only problem was that Cohen, at six feet tall, was the same height as Eric Stoltz, then playing Marty, but Biff was supposed to tower over Marty. Screenwriter Bob Gale observed that, had Michael J. Fox (at 5' 4") been cast as Marty from the beginning as they wanted, Cohen would most likely have played Biff. Cohen graciously said that having seen Tom Wilson in the part, he couldn't imagine anyone else as Biff.

Cohen enjoyed a run of film success in the 1980s, and returned as Skinhead in *Back to the Future Part II* in 1989. He also had the honour of two different roles in the trilogy – he is seen briefly (with long hair) as a member of Needles' gang at the end of *Part III*.

The thrill of completing the trilogy was tempered with sadness for Cohen as his father died in 1990, and the actor admitted that he 'fell out of love with acting' at that time. He travelled around Europe, and worked behind the camera for the rest of the decade. His last film role was in 2000 as part of the ensemble cast in Cameron Crowe's acclaimed movie *Almost Famous*. ■

QUICK FACTS!

MANY TALENTS

- J.J. was born on 22nd June 1965. His father was in the music business and owned a restaurant in Santa Monica.
- After appearing in *Back to the Future*, Cohen had starring roles in the films *Fire with Fire* (1986) and *The Principal* (1987). He also had a memorable role in the horror film *976-EVIL* (1988).
- Cohen also appeared in many TV shows, including *V*, *Baywatch*, *Amazing Stories*, *3rd Rock from the Sun* and *Providence*. He was a regular on the series *Valley of the Dolls* in 1994 as record mogul Seth Stein.
- Since 1995, Cohen has worked as a producer and assistant director on films and music videos. He is also a professional poker player and writer.

NEXT ISSUE...

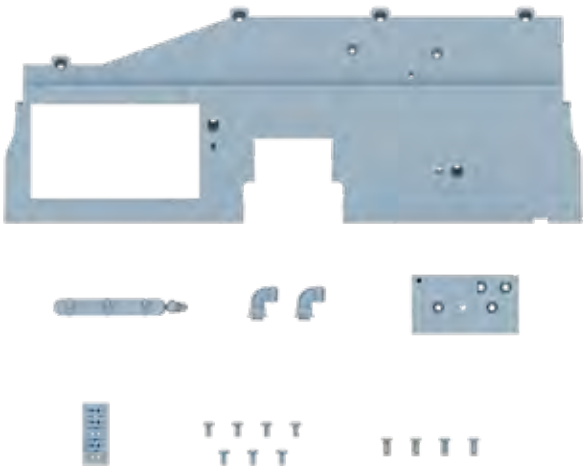
REAR BULKHEAD

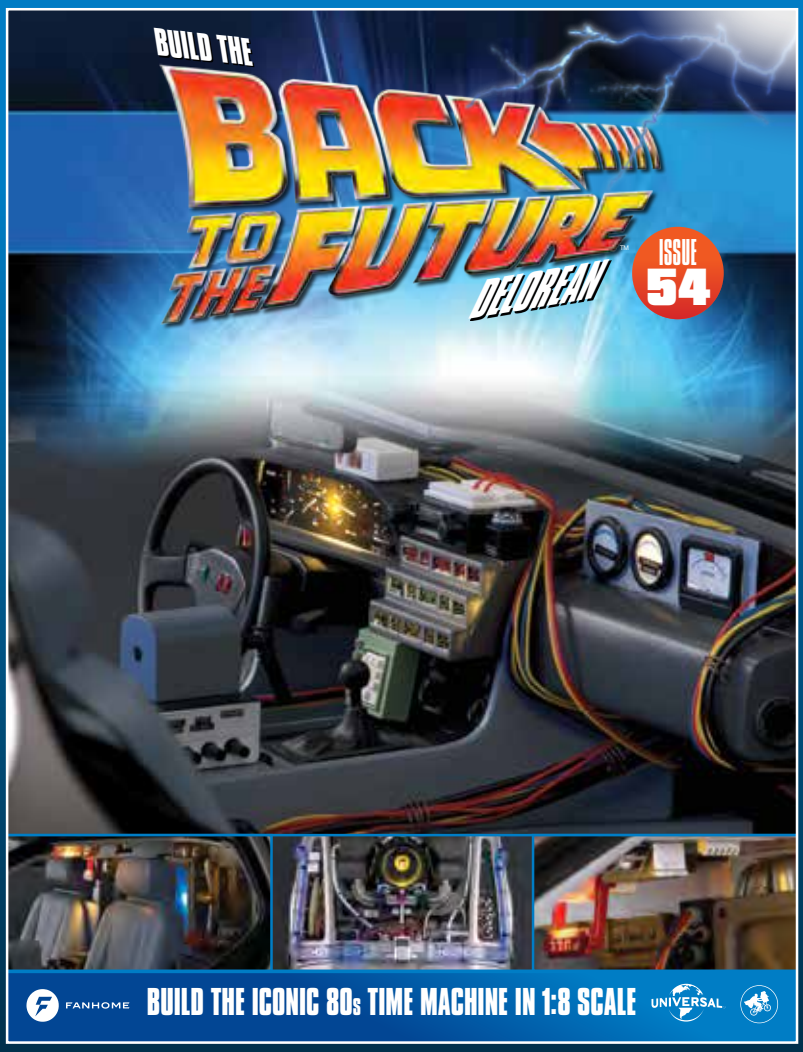
Add more parts to your DeLorean model.

In the next issue you'll receive the rear bulkhead plus other details, and step-by-step instructions telling you how to add them to your model.

YOUR CAR PARTS...

REAR BULKHEAD





HOVERBOARD CHASE

How one of the most memorable scenes in the *Back to the Future* trilogy was brought to the screen.

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