FAST & FURIOUS™

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Build the Legendary

DODGE CHARGER R/T



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FAST & FURIOUS SHORTS

As well as the feature films in the *Fast & Furious* franchise, there are two shorts that serve to connect some of the main stories. These films also allow us to take an in-depth look at the personality and motives of the main characters.

The end of *The Fast and the Furious* left audiences wanting to know more about their heroes. It was obvious that Dominic Toretto had no option but to leave Los Angeles and escape across the border to Mexico. But what about Brian? As he was a police officer, would he have to admit his responsibility for allowing Dom to get away? Would he see Mia again? Would he remain connected in some way to the world of racing?

2 Fast 2 Furious showed us Brain settled in the city of Miami and living a new lifestyle far removed from police business. But, to make sure that the fans of the franchise would not despair, it was planned to make a short to

In the short film *Los Bandoleros*, viewers discover that the friendship between Han and Dom Toretto had a long history.

MINKA KELLY

The actress Minka Kelly had the chance to make her debut in the short *Turbo-Charged Prelude*, playing the young woman who gives Brian O'Conner a lift after the police have found his car. It was not a very big part, but it was useful for her as a letter of introduction. Minka, the only daughter of Rick Dufay, the guitarist in the popular band Aerosmith, was born on June 24, 1980, in Los Angeles. After being given the chance to appear in the *Fast & Furious* franchise, she became famous when she played Lyla Garrity in the well-known TV series *Friday Night Lights*. Later on, she had more main roles in other popular series, like *Charlie's Angels*, *Almost Human* and *Titans*. Although TV has unquestionably been the medium that has brought her most popularity, Minka has also appeared in several videos and many feature films, like *The Kingdom* (2007), *The Roommate* (2011), and *The Butler* 2013), in which she plays none other than Jackie Kennedy.



Tego Calderón became one of the unexpected stars of the short film *Los Bandoleros*. It included his own musical theme that he interpreted together with fellow musician, Don Omar.

explain clearly what had happened to Brian between the end of the first film and the start of the second one. And so *Turbo-Charged* Prelude was born.

ON THE ROAD

Directed by Philip Atwell in 2003 and starring Paul Walker, this short film, just six minutes long, introduces new developments right from the start, as it shows us Brian O'Conner at home, something we never had the chance to see in *The Fast and the Furious*. As he looks at himself in his bathroom mirror, he can still hear the last words he exchanged with Dominic Toretto ringing in his ears. He feels confused by how quickly everything has happened and he is not sure of what to do, although he clearly knows that he broke the law by letting Dom escape.

While photos of Brian are handed out in the Los Angeles Police Department to aide in tracking him down, he decides to pack a travel bag with the bare essentials and get away. When police officers break into his apartment not long afterwards, the only thing they find is Brian's badge, which he has left hanging on the bathroom mirror.

Brian hits the road at the wheel of a red 1991 Dodge Stealth, ready to experience adventure. First he heads for Phoenix, Arizona. There he has the opportunity to challenge the owner of a blue sports car to a race that he wins easily. This allows him to make some travel money. He continues on his way to Albuquerque, New Mexico, and races again. The experience he gained driving with Toretto enables him to defeat his rivals and continue on his way.

MUSIC AND RACES

Something that surprises viewers of *Turbo-Charged Prelude* is that the short has no dialogue: it only has music and the background noise of the cars that take part in the races. Also noticeable is the use of graphics in between the images to show the audience, on maps, Brian's journey along different American interstate highways.

En route, Brian stops to eat in typical roadside diners and he stays in motels like the Town House. However, the media begin reporting his escape and he starts finding it more and more complicated to shake off his pursuers. In fact, when he comes out of one of the motels where he has stayed the night, he sees that a couple of police officers are investigating his car. Brian has no option but to continue his journey on foot. Luckily for him, a woman – played by Minka Kelly – stops in her Mitsubishi Eclipse Spyder and takes him to a second-hand car showroom in San Antonio. There, Brian buys a 1999 Nissan Skyline GT-R R34 in which he drives to Texarkana, where he goes to a garage and tunes the car himself. Ignoring the provocations of some bikers and winning races once again, he sets off for Miami. In no time he is driving around, enjoying the views in his new destination, when suddenly a 1993 Toyota Supra Turbo MK IV and a 1994 Mazda RX-7 cross his path. This tells him that it will soon be race time. The short ends when "2 be continued" appears on screen.

FROM MIAMI TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Brian's fans could thus rest easy, having seen their hero drive from Los Angeles to Miami. But what about Dom? Toretto's millions of fans had to be even more patient to find out what kind of life he had been living since *The Fast and the Furious*. If *Turbo-Charged Prelude* served as an introduction to the second film in the series, the short *Los Bandoleros* did the same for the fourth. On this occasion, it was *Vin Diesel* himself who in 2009 wrote, directed and starred in this 20-minute short.

Unlike the previous short, *Los Bandoleros* has a large cast, featuring among others Michelle Rodriguez, Sung Kang, Tego Calderón and Don Omar. This film does have dialogue, mixing English with Spanish, as it is set completely in an unnamed village in the Dominican Republic. It also prominently features latin music. During it we hear numbers like the popular *Bandoleros*, by Don Omar and Tego Calderón, *Con sabor*, by Sonny Ovalle, *Viente años*, by María Teresa Vera, and *Un beso* by Aventura.

Los Bandoleros does not have the usual frantic pace of the series. In actual fact it could be described as a romantic account of Dominic Toretto's new life, away from the USA. In the Dominican Republic he has been affectionately made welcome by a group of friends, including Rico Santos and Tego Leo. After a day spent working repairing cars, Dom loves to sit down at the table with a large group of people, "my people", to share what food they have. There, the children call Toretto "el padrino", and everyone has deep respect for him.

A LONGED-FOR REUNION

Well aware that many people are struggling to access gasoline as its price increases, Dom begins to devise a plan to bring fuel to the people. But he needs to put a team together. Of course, Leo and Santos will be his main collaborators. But he could also use the help of an experienced driver. And that's why his old friend Han lands at Santo Domingo airport and joins them.

That same night, after talking to a local politician named Elvis, who suggests how they might get hold of the fuel, Toretto and his friends enjoy the music and the Caribbean dancing in a small club. When he least expects it, Letty Ortiz, who has taken months to find him, walks in the door.



Actress Mirtha Michelle played the part of Han Lue's ex-girlfriend in the movie *Fast & Furious*. She is seen here on July 16th, 2009, arriving at AMC Cinemas in Universal City, California for the première of *Los Bandoleros*.

To celebrate the reunion, the lovers drive along the roads of the Dominican Republic in a 1966 Pontiac Bonneville Convertible. Letty is surprised to see Dom so well integrated, warmly greeting the humble workers who get about on their motorcycles. But he has learned a lot from the community; he appreciates the little things in life, and enjoys the beautiful places, like the small beach he takes Letty to. There they swim, have fun in a canoe and pass the time until the sun goes down.

The same protagonists of *Los Bandoleros* appear at the start of *Fast & Furious*, ready to take part in that incredible fuel truck heist. This time the pace is far more frantic. In fact, the short could be seen as the odd one out in the world of *Fast & Furious*, inasmuch as it is the only time the audience can see Dominic Toretto enjoying a relaxed contemplative life.



DODGE NITRO

Manufactured from 2007 to 2012, the Dodge Nitro was the American brand's first compact SUV and one of the first Dodge models to be launched in Europe after the brand was reintroduced to the old continent.

The Dodge Nitro was a car with a muscular look that was sold on both sides of the Atlantic. In Europe, the biggest-selling version had a diesel engine.

The boom in compact SUVs led the Dodge brand to launch the Nitro in 2007. Developed in the USA to be sold on both sides of the Atlantic, it used the platform of the Liberty Jeep (called the Cherokee in Europe) and it was initially equipped with a 3.7-litre – and later a 4-litre – V6 gasoline engine. For the European market, a version was designed equipped with a 2.8-litre 4-cylinder diesel engine manufactured by VM Motori in Italy, which was also used for other Chrysler models in Europe such as the Voyager minivan and the Wrangler Jeep. The car was sold in rear-wheel and all-wheel drive versions.

Based on the Liberty Jeep platform, the Dodge Nitro was bigger and it had a squarer and more muscular look. It was 4.54 meters long, but more than anything it was very tall (1.77 meters) and had a very cubic look. Its design, with very pronounced wheel arches and an imposing radiator grille, also made it look very similar to a hot rod. The Nitro could therefore offer a spacious cargo area with a sliding floor to make it easier to load. The vehicle was manufactured until 2012 and was not replaced.



The Load 'N Go system, with a sliding floor, made loading and unloading the spacious cargo area easier.

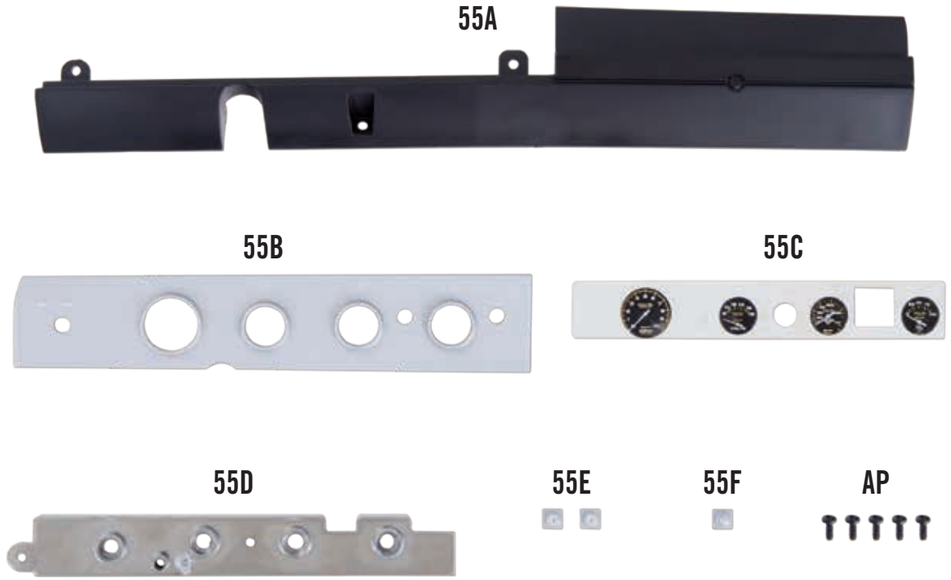


ASSEMBLING THE DASHBOARD (I)

In this assembly session you will assemble the dashboard of your model car. Follow our instructions carefully, using the illustrations to help you.

Editor's note: The parts shown here may differ slightly from the parts supplied with this issue. This does not affect the quality or the assembly instructions in any way.

PIECES FOR THIS STAGE



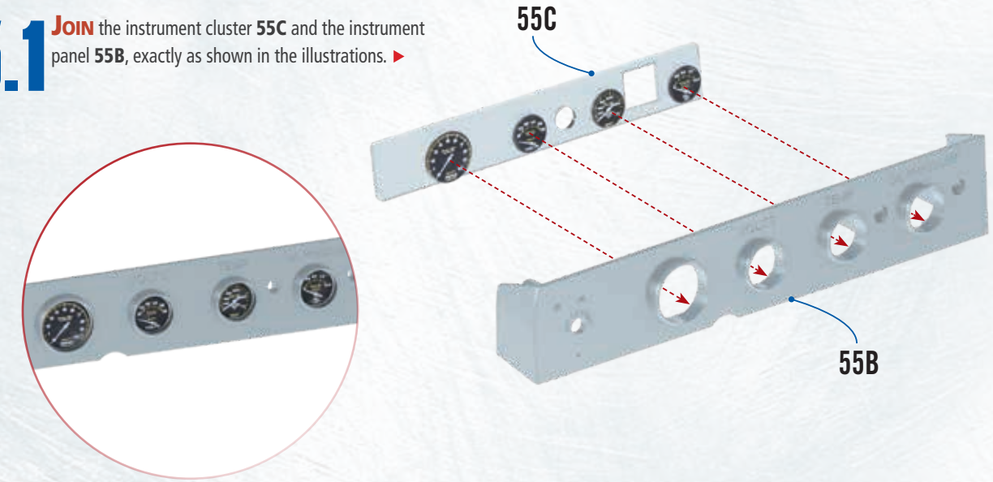
55A Dashboard
55B Instrument panel
55C Instrument cluster
55D Panel for instrument lights
55E Switches (x 2)
55F Ignition switch
AP Screws 1,7 × 4 mm, (x 5)*

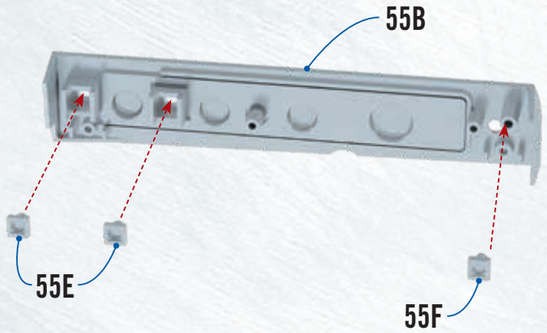
* Some of the parts are spares.

ASSEMBLY AREA

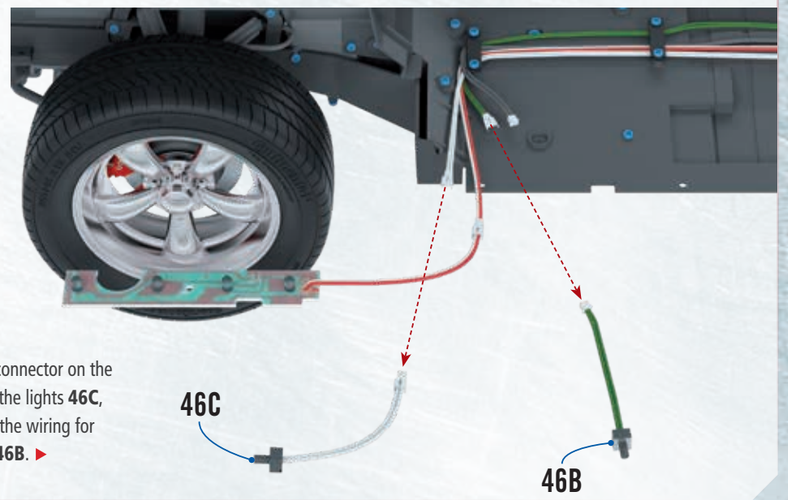


55.1 **JOIN** the instrument cluster **55C** and the instrument panel **55B**, exactly as shown in the illustrations. ▶



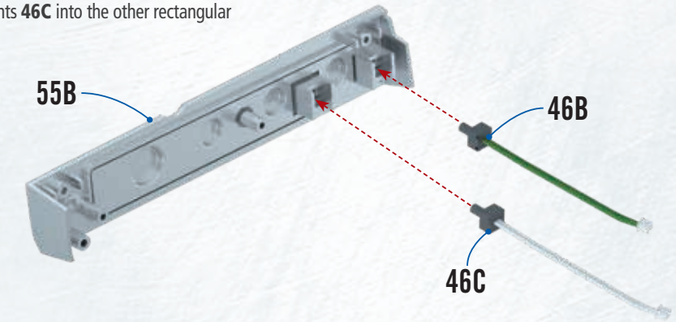


55.2 **FROM THE BACK** of the instrument panel **55B**, insert the two switches **55E**, facing the same way as those in the illustration, into the holes on the left, and the ignition switch **55F** into the hole on the right. ◀

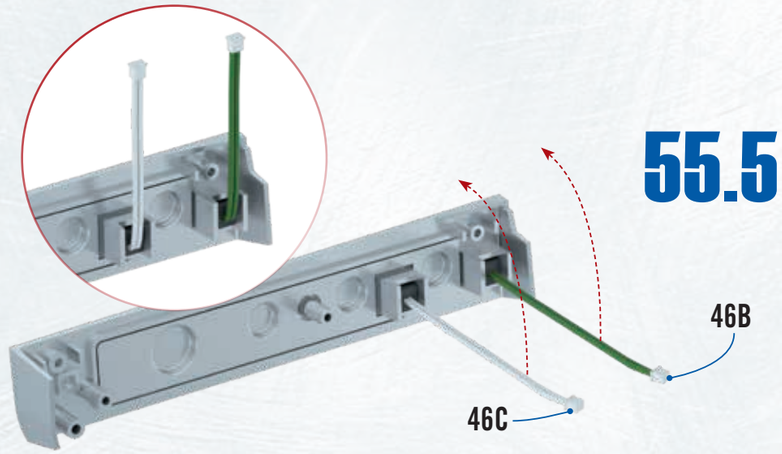


55.3 **DISCONNECT** the connector on the wiring and switch for the lights **46C**, and the connector on the wiring for the sound effects of the horn and engine **46B**. ▶

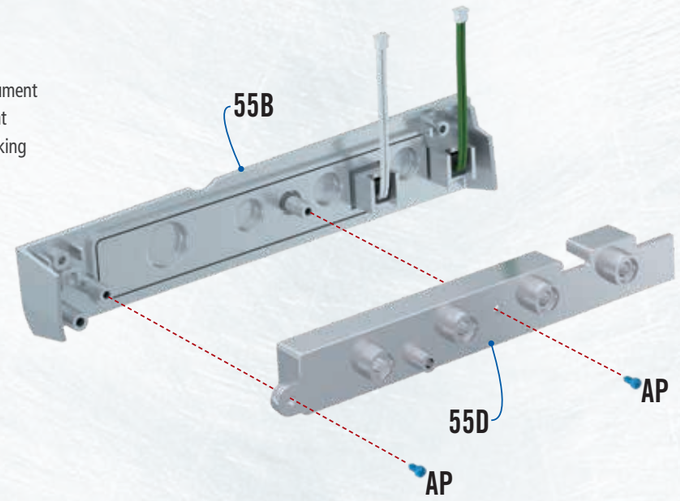
55.4 **INSERT** the switch for the sound wiring **46B** into the rectangular housing closest to the end of the instrument panel **55B**. Then insert the plug for the wiring of the lights **46C** into the other rectangular housing in the instrument panel. ▶



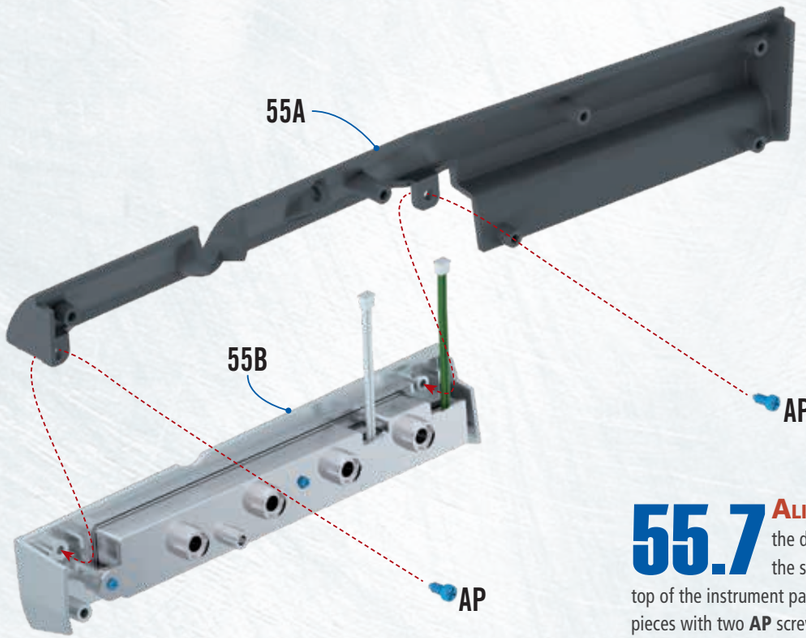
55.5 **CAREFULLY BEND** the two wires, as shown in the illustration. ◀



55.6 **JOIN** the panel for the instrument lights **55D** and the instrument panel **55B**, using the interlocking elements. Finally, secure with two **AP** screws. ▶



Assembling the dashboard (I)



55.7 **ALIGN** the holes on the dashboard **55A** with the small screw posts at the top of the instrument panel **55B**. Secure all the pieces with two **AP** screws. ◄

STAGE 55 FINAL RESULT

You have now completed the dashboard and instrument panel of your Dodge Charger model.



RACING SEATS: THE DRIVER'S THRONE



The seat of your power! If you are not happy with your car's standard seats, there are some exciting options: sports seats, racing seats, even carbon fibre seats. Let us look at how they are manufactured and how easy they are to install.

We would all like to equip our car with a pair of super-snug sports seats. There are several reasons why it is a great idea: Firstly, there is the safety factor of a product that has been tested under the most severe conditions. Then there is the feeling of control that you can get from a correctly installed sports seat. Of course, some people like sports seats just because it makes their car look sporty, and that is understandable, too.

Whatever the reason, installing sports seats is probably one of the most popular car tuning options. Apart from making your car look great, they are very safe, efficient and comfortable. For sports driving, or in emergency situations,

Beautiful to look at and safe under extreme driving conditions, sports seats are a must for a tuned car.



Once the carbon fibre body has been shaped, the padding, accessories and upholstery are fitted.

they give the driver the ability to control the steering wheel and pedals more efficiently while being held firmly in place and without being thrown about in curves or under braking.

However, you must carefully choose the right model for you and your car. Perhaps it is an adjustable seat for greater comfort or a rigid monocoque racing seat for more extreme driving. Before we see how they are fitted, we will examine how a rigid carbon fibre seat shell is manufactured.

IN THE FACTORY

The whole production process starts inside a huge cold room. The various fibres are stored at -18°C (-0.4F); the low temperatures keep the carbon fibre soft and flexible. However, if the fibre is exposed to heat, or even simply to warm ambient air, after a few hours it becomes as hard as a rock and very resistant. That makes it impossible to shape and mould.

All the stored carbon fibre has its own "identity card" with details of the name of the supplier, the thickness, and the expiry date of the material. This information allows users to trace the production batch of the composite material, even months later and after it has been used to build a seat. First, the carbon fibre is shaped over special moulds. Then it is baked inside an autoclave. Once out of the oven, it is cleaned of imperfections and prepared for upholstering in leather or fabric, and the installation of accessories. Now the seat is finished and ready to be shipped to the distributors.

HOW TO INSTALL THE SEAT

Now is the time to get into action and fit the new sports seat into the car. Under normal circumstances, it is an operation that does not present any particular problems. It starts with uninstalling the original seat. For this, it is a good idea to get a socket wrench with an articulated end. The four bolts that fix the frame to the floor of the car are often located in a difficult position and can be hard to reach. Once the bolts have been removed, the original seat can be taken out, and the new seat can be installed. Make sure you have all the parts you need. In the package, in addition to the actual seat, there are usually additional components that need to be fitted. For example, the two sliders for the adjustments and the fixing supports.

Make sure you have the bolts, which are not always supplied in the kits. Then you can start to fix the two sliders to the base of the seat. It is always advisable to use a drop of thread lock on the bolts so that you do not find yourself with the seat rattling about after a few months. The actual supports are then fixed in place. The operation is straightforward and intuitive, especially if you follow the instructions that are usually included with the seat. Once everything is in place, you can proceed to the actual installation, positioning the seat inside the passenger compartment. After having aligned the holes (it is advisable to leave the bracket screws a little loose for easier adjustment), the bolts are inserted, and the whole thing is tightened. You are ready to go!

Seat assembly and installation

First, we take out the old seat. Once the bolts that hold the seat in place are located, they are loosened using an articulated socket wrench. They are not always easy to reach.



With the four bolts taken out, the seat is carefully removed. Be careful not to scratch or dent the inside of the car as you do it. It is easy to damage the facia or the door trim. However, the seats generally do not weigh much.



Take care of the original seat. One day you might want to sell the car and put your sports seats into another vehicle. Wrap them in thick plastic and tape the package well.



This is how your new seat might look when you take it out of the packaging. On the floor beside the seat, you can see the top and bottom parts of the sliders, the seat attachments and the curved rod that must be inserted in the sliders for back and forth adjustment.



Sit the seat on a table or workbench and install the sliders. It is not difficult. Just four small bolts and the correct Allen key. Securing the components to the seat base is very easy.



With the sliders installed, the fixing brackets are prepared. Do not tighten everything yet. Take care with the height adjustment holes. These are how you set the vertical seat position that best suits your needs. It is not always easy to find the right height on the first attempt.



Once the mounting brackets have been fitted, you can check that the seat position is perfect for your height and your driving style. If not, take it apart again and move to a lower or higher hole on the bracket. It is worth trying various positions - you will be sitting in the seat for a long time!

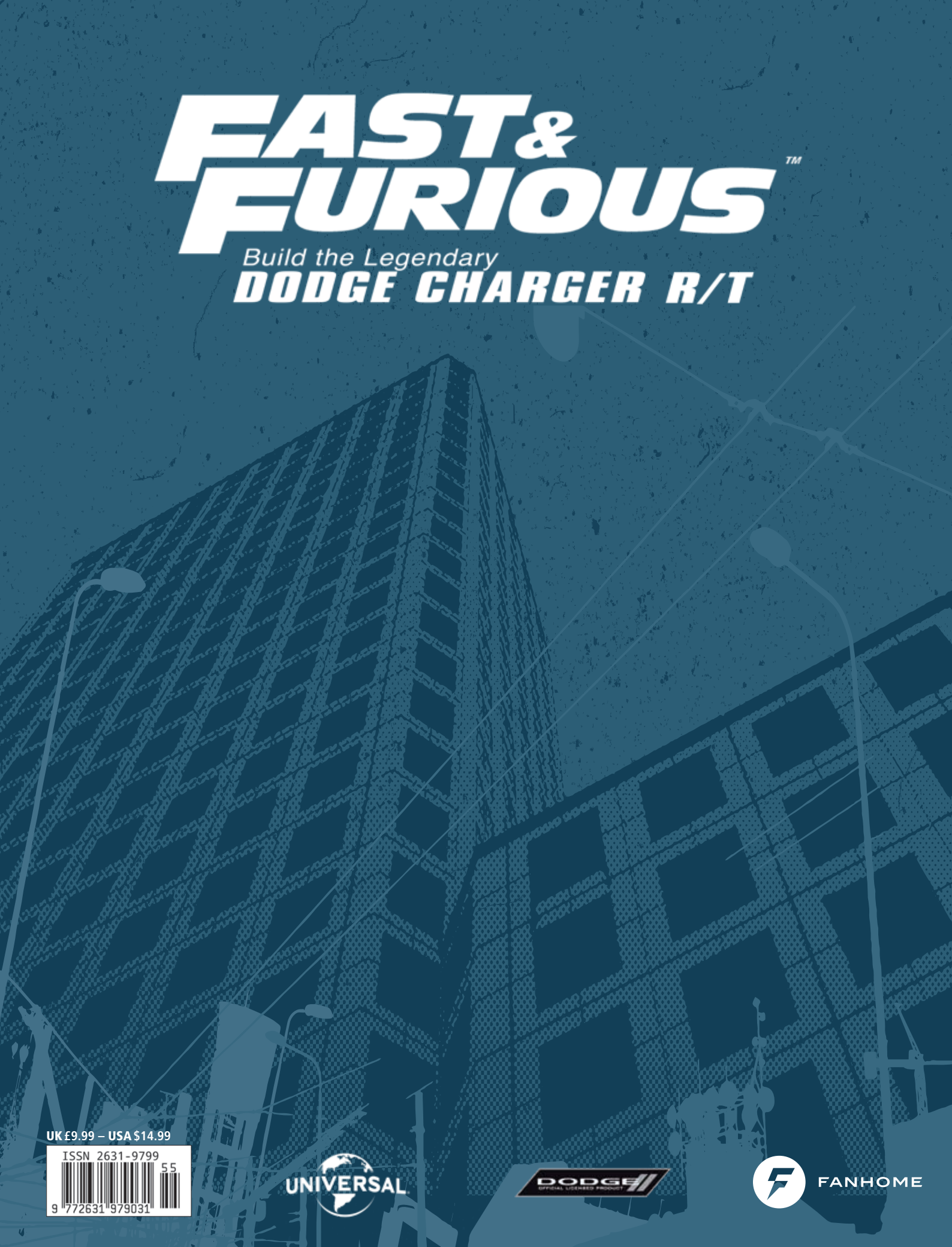


After finalising the ideal position, you can begin to tighten all the bolts. Do not fully tighten any single bolt. Ensure that they are all correctly positioned, and then progressively tighten them to make sure everything stays centred. The seat is ready.



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