GENERAL

bigfoot the original monster truck

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Introduction

When most people think of monster trucks, the image that pops into mind is a colossal, paint splattered beast tearing through a crowd of cheering fans, its massive tires crushing cars and its engine roaring like a freight train. Among the countless names that have dominated the arena, one stands out as the original icon of the sport: **Bigfoot the Original Monster Truck**. Born in the early 1980s, Bigfoot carved a path that would shape the very definition of monster truck entertainment, setting standards for design, performance, and showmanship that are still felt today. In this article we'll dive deep into the history, engineering, cultural impact, and lasting legacy of Bigfoot, giving you a comprehensive view of why this legend remains a cornerstone of monster truck lore.

What Makes Bigfoot the Original Monster Truck?

Origins and Early Days

The story of Bigfoot begins in 1983, when **Jim Lampley** and his partner **Joe Bouchard**decided to transform a 1970 Ford F 250 into a touring monster truck. Their vision was simple yet bold: create a vehicle that could dominate the newly forming monster truck circuit while captivating audiences with spectacular stunts. The result was a 12 tonne beast that could flip cars, perform wheelies, and set the stage for a new form of motorsport entertainment.

Design Innovations

- Exaggerated Proportions: Bigfoot's body was designed to look larger than life, with a wide stance, a towering hood, and a massive, custom made body that could be painted in vivid, eye catching graphics.
- Suspension Breakthrough: The truck incorporated a double wishbone suspension system, giving it the flexibility to jump higher and absorb massive impacts.
- Custom Body Shell: Unlike later trucks that used stock bodies, Bigfoot's shell was hand crafted from fiberglass, allowing for unique shapes that emphasized its monstrous presence.

Performance on the Track

Bigfoot's performance was nothing short of revolutionary. With a 7.3 liter V8 engine producing over 650 horsepower, the truck could accelerate from 0 to 60 mph in less than six seconds—an astonishing feat for a vehicle of its weight. Its 8 wheel drive system and oversized tires allowed it to navigate uneven terrain with ease, making it a natural fit for the chaotic, high energy environments of monster truck shows.

The Legacy of Bigfoot in Monster Truck Culture

Influence on Modern Monster Trucks

Bigfoot set a precedent that modern monster trucks continue to follow. Its combination of powerful performance, aggressive styling, and crowd pleasing stunts became the blueprint for all future entrants. Many contemporary trucks —such as *Max D*, *Monster*, and *Bigfoot*(the brand's own current model)—have drawn inspiration from the original design language and engineering principles pioneered by the 1980s icon.

Bigfoot's Iconic Rides and Events

Over the decades, Bigfoot has headlined some of the most memorable monster truck events:

1. World Championship Series (WCS) Finals: The truck's appearances at WCS finals in the late 1980s and early 1990s drew record crowds, cementing its status as a fan favorite.
2. Stunt Milestones: From the first car flipping routine to the first back flip, Bigfoot was the vehicle that pushed the envelope for what a monster truck could accomplish.
3. Cross Media Appearances: Bigfoot's presence in video games, movies, and television shows helped spread monster truck culture worldwide.

Fan Community and Merchandise

Bigfoot's influence extends beyond the track. Dedicated fan clubs, forums, and social media groups keep the spirit alive. Official merchandise—from apparel and action figures to replica trucks—has become a staple for collectors and enthusiasts alike. The brand's continued sponsorships and collaborations with automotive companies further embed Bigfoot into the broader automotive and motorsport communities.

Inside the Bigfoot Monster Truck: Technical Breakdown

Engine and Powertrain

The heart of Bigfoot is a 7.3 liter V8 engine, originally sourced from a Ford F 250. This engine was modified extensively: the camshaft was re profiled, the intake manifold was upgraded, and the exhaust system was tuned for maximum airflow. The result was a power output that exceeded 650 horsepower, coupled with a torque curve that delivered instant grunt from low RPMs—essential for the truck's explosive jumps and quick turns.

Suspension and Tires

Bigfoot's suspension was a marvel of engineering. The double wishbone setup allowed the truck to maintain traction even when the front or rear wheels were airborne. The suspension travel was extended to over 30 inches, enabling the vehicle to absorb impacts from car flips and jumps without compromising structural integrity. The tires—often 48 inches in diameter—were custom made from high tread rubber, providing both grip and durability on the rough, uneven surfaces of monster truck arenas.

Body and Paint Schemes

Beyond performance, Bigfoot's visual impact is undeniable. The body was constructed from lightweight fiberglass, allowing for dramatic shapes that could be molded into the iconic "Bigfoot" logo and other eye catching designs. Over the years, the truck has sported multiple paint schemes, ranging from the original "Whiteout" to the later "Blackout" and the highly detailed "Bigfoot 3 D" graphics. Each design was carefully chosen to resonate with fans and enhance the truck's presence on stage.

How to Experience Bigfoot Today

Attend a Monster Truck Show

While the original Bigfoot may no longer be touring, its legacy lives on in contemporary monster truck shows. Many events feature tribute teams that replicate Bigfoot's classic design and stunts. Attending these shows allows fans to witness the raw power and showmanship that defined the original truck.

Visit the Bigfoot Museum

In 2015, the Bigfoot Museum opened its doors in **Texas**, showcasing a collection of original parts, photographs, and memorabilia from the truck's storied past. Visitors can see the original chassis, the custom body panels, and even a full scale replica of the 1983 truck. The museum also offers interactive exhibits where fans can learn about the engineering behind monster trucks.

Buy Official Merchandise

For those who want to bring a piece of Bigfoot's history into their own homes, the official merchandise line offers a wide range of products. From high quality t shirts and hoodies to detailed scale models, fans can celebrate the original monster truck in style. Limited edition items, such as signed posters or exclusive vinyl records, add a collectible dimension to the experience.

Conclusion

Bigfoot the Original Monster Truck is more than just a vehicle—it is a cultural icon that reshaped motorsport entertainment. From its groundbreaking design and powerful performance to its enduring influence on modern monster trucks, Bigfoot's legacy continues to inspire both fans and engineers. Whether you're watching a tribute show, exploring the Bigfoot Museum, or simply admiring a replica on display, the spirit of the original monster truck remains alive, roaring through the annals of automotive history.

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