

# Blend Special

## Cleans up at Detroit Autorama

The Corvette Center in Newington, Conn., and the owner of this Corvette, Richard Lagasse, have something they don't want to share. It's the custom formula created for this 1963 Z06 Corvette Pro Classic project car. Of course, BASF was in the mix, and the results speak for themselves. At Detroit Autorama this year the 1963 Corvette made its presence felt in the Ridler competition and received a First-in-Class award in addition to winning separate awards for Outstanding Paint and The Outstanding Sports Car. The car also won the Championship Auto Show Best of Show Cup, and since then it has appeared in Corvette Fever Magazine.

### Attention to Detail

The car required four years to complete, and was finished in March of 2008. "It's a big feather in my cap," says Frenchy Bernier, manager of The Corvette Center and father of Jason Bernier, the car's painter. "I'm very proud of the job we did." To achieve the excruciating level of detail this task required the shop began by building a customized jig with a dolly attached to it. Extensions were added to the jig and the car was rolled up on its side so the undercarriage could be finished as nicely as the body. The chassis, wheel wells, floor and firewall were all perfectly smoothed to ensure the best finish when they started spraying.

For this project the Corvette Center used an R-M® Diamont™ basecoat followed by a shimmering BASF clear to achieve a look that would really stand out. This is a mix created by the Corvette Center working with Lagasse in 1998 for his 1967 and 1962 Corvettes. "We just started combining different colors and then shooting various mixes on test panels," says Lagasse, "Then we let them dry and observed the colors in the sun." The name of the color, Rich's Red Custom Mix,

is described as a deep red, with much less orange than you would regularly find in a typical Corvette paint mix for this model.

### Still a Secret

Ever since the color's debut, Lagasse has been bombarded with requests from hundreds of other Corvette enthusiasts who want the same color for their cars, but he's not sharing the secret formula with anyone. "It's part of what makes the car so unique, I saw the color in my mind, and no other paint company can match BASF when it comes to quality," Lagasse says. "If it looked like anything else, the car wouldn't be as special." Lagasse and his wife have been passionately involved in the Corvette hobby since 1989. They've been participating in NCRS events for several years and have received multiple Top Flight Awards. "I can't describe the level of satisfaction that is felt," Lagasse describes, "when you see something you've envisioned come to life."



Only Richard Lagasse and The Corvette Center crew know the secret behind this custom paint job.



It took four years to achieve the incredible detail on this award-winning Corvette.

