PRICE GUIDE: LATEST AUCTION RESULTS

THE UK'S ONLY DIECAST MAGAZINE

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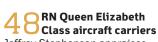
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BEAT THE PRICE RISE **AND SAVE UP TO 27%**

Turn to page 7 to find out more...

News&Events

Here's a round-up of the latest hobby news and events.

NEW TRUCKS FROM OXFORD DIECAST



AVAILABLE in the shops imminently is this pair of excellent, newlytooled AEC 690 trucks from Oxford Diecast. The AEC 690 Dumptruck (76ACD001) and Concrete Mixer (76ACM001) will first appear in the liveries shown here, but there are already other versions on the production line to follow on soon.

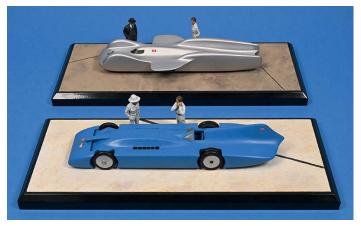
The AEC 690 cab and chassis were designed by Thornycroft, who had been purchased by AEC in the early 1960s. The AEC 690 was a real workhorse. An all-steel, full-width cab, resiliently mounted with easy access steps both sides, featured a lined interior and flat two-piece reverse sloping windscreen, counter-balanced drop-door windows, rear view quarter and centre windows and adjustable driver's seat. Cab equipment included twin windscreen wipers, two large rear view mirrors, and efficient heater/demister unit and a tool box. During its production run, it was rebadged often, with different engines and updated body variations:

- AEC 690 (1964-1969)
- Aveling Barford 690 (1969-1975)
- Leyland LD55 (1975-1980)
- Leyland Bush Tractor LD55 (1972-1980)
- Scammell LD55 (1975-1980)
- Scammell Bush Tractor LD55 (1972-1980)
- Thornycroft Bush Tractor (1970-1972)

The first four releases of the new tooling have been confirmed as follows:

- 76ACD001 AEC690 Dumper Truck Wimpey
- 76ACD002 AEC690 Dumper Truck NCB
- 76ACM001 AEC690 Concrete Mixer blue/white
- 76ACM002 AEC690 Concrete Mixer yellow/black
 For more information, see Oxford Diecast's website (www.

 $\textbf{oxforddiecast.co.uk}) \text{ or contact your preferred retailer.} \;\blacksquare$



STAPLES AND VINE'S RECORD BREAKERS

AT last, the much-anticipated new land speed cars from Staples and Vine are in production. These two all-new models mark the company's first foray into the world of 1/43 scale cars. Sculpted by hand, and cast entirely in pewter, they are in the same 'house style' as the aircraft and tank ranges, but are designed to be removable from their bases. They are available with or without figures and mark the beginning of a new 'Land Speed Car Range', so you can expect to see many more of these incredible vehicles in the future.

Sir Malcolm Campbell's 'Blue Bird' continually evolved, setting record after record. On the 3rd of September 1935, in the final incarnation of Blue Bird, at the Bonneville salt flats, Campbell set a new record of 301.129 mph, becoming the first man to break the 300 mph barrier. Today, Blue Bird is preserved at the Daytona Speedway Circuit Museum.

The Mercedes-Benz T80 was built in the late 1930s for Germany's attempt on the outright land speed record. Designed by Ferdinand Porsche, and powered by a 44.5 litre Daimler-Benz aero engine, it was christened the 'Schwarzer Vogel' ('Black Bird') by Hitler. The outbreak of World War II prevented a record attempt from being made. Today the T80 resides in the Mercedes Museum, Stuttgart.

Both cars are limited to just 100 of each and come mounted on a 11.2" x 4.5" (285 x 115 mm) base. Blue Bird is 200mm in length and the T80 is 190mm. Each Blue Bird model is priced at £125 (£155 with figures) and the T80 is £110 (£140). Each handmade limited edition model comes with a history of the car, and a numbered certificate signed by the sculptor.

For more information, pictures and details of how to order, visit www. staplesandvine.com, or call Sera Staples on +44 (0)1237 459102. ■

MORE NEW TOOLING COMING FROM OXFORD

THE new tooling keeps coming from Oxford Diecast! The company has released images of three pre-production samples of upcoming new releases – all sure to prove popular with 1/76 scale collectors and railway modellers.

The Duple Britannia single-decker (76DB001) will appear first in Wallace and Arnold colours, but will, of course, be followed by many more versions. Volkswagen's attractive Karmann Ghia (76KG001, in Henna Red and Pearl White) and the Austin Maestro (76MST001, in red), from two very different eras, will certainly add some colour and variety to collections and layouts too.

The Duple Britannia is priced at £23.95 and the two cars are £7.25 each. To find out more and to order, see Oxford Diecast's website (www.oxforddiecast.co.uk) or contact your preferred retailer. ■



Thank you Mis



LATEST TRUCKS FROM SEARCH IMPEX

DERBYSHIRE based promotional model vehicle specialist, Search Impex, has announced the release of two new 1/50 scale truck models. Both have been produced exclusively for Search Impex by WSI Collectibles as a certificated, limited edition (both at 155 pieces each).

Huntapac's Mercedes Actros Bigspace MP5 (6x2), with 3-axle, refrigerated trailer, features the company's regular livery, but the trailer also carries a simple, but heartfelt "Thank You" message to the NHS. In dedicating the trailer livery to the NHS, Huntapac put out a statement saying: "To all of the NHS and front line healthcare workers, we at Huntapac say thank you. We are so proud of the work you are selflessly doing each and every day putting your own lives at risk, so that each and every one of us has access to lifesaving care when we need it. Thank you for taking care of us, our friends, our family and our work colleagues. Your continued display of bravery throughout this crisis is what makes Britain Great. Thank you!"

Established in 1942, and situated on the fertile Lancashire plains between Preston and Southport, Huntapac Produce is a third generation family owned and managed business. Models, available from Search Impex, are priced at £153 each (including UK delivery & VAT).

The William Walker Transport DAF XF 530 Super Space MY2017 (6x2) tractor unit comes with a 3-axle, skirted, curtain trailer. Founded in 1949, William Walker Transport is one of the oldest established transport companies in Aberdeen and has its origins in the logging industry. The Company actually ceased its operations in the logging industry quite some years ago and made the strategic decision to refocus on general haulage - primarily serving the seafreight, container and airfreight sectors, as well as supporting Aberdeen's oil and gas industries. The truck and trailer livery was recently revamped and modernised. The new image is simple, clean and reminiscent in style to an iconic logistics brand and serves nicely as something of a hallmark to the change in ownership. The model is available from Search Impex, priced at £155 each (including UK delivery & VAT).

For details of availability of these and other models, collectors can visit the Search Impex website at www.search-impex.co.uk or call on 01332 873555.

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www.youtube.com/CollectorsClubofGB

Welcome

It's time to wheel out the old "never enough hours in the day" excuse I'm afraid, as time has beaten me this month and the promised concluding part of my 1/64 scale feature has been bumped to the next issue. It features some interesting display options that all came in kit form and the old "best laid plans" simply ran out of time.

I could blame it on losing about 10 days to the dreaded lurgy, which finally got me in France, albeit contracted from one of my local travelling companions - typical! But, to be fair, it wasn't that bad to stop me working, to be honest. Although it has served as a reminder to not let my guard down when it comes to this monster.

We still have plenty to keep you entertained this month, of course. From a new buses range by EFE Road to sailing the high seas on behalf of HM The Queen, via some classic British cars and evocative French commercials - it's a varied bunch awaiting you in the following pages.

But whilst we're sort of still talking about the following issue, we've touched on this before and, for those of you with a keen numerically-inspired eye, it's the big one next time. *Diecast Collector* celebrates its 25th birthday, having first appeared as the October 1997 issue for No 1, all those years ago. This makes the next one issue 300 - quite a milestone!

If you have any requests or suggestions for celebratory content, you've still got time to drop me a line. But be quick! It might be simply a letter for *Dear Editor*, about when you started with us, or maybe there are some specific memories that you'd like to see again - nothing's off the table.

Does anyone's stack of magazines go all the way back to No 1? Now that is some dedicated collecting, right there, if you have. Presumably you have some sturdy shelves in your home too!



A Rick Wilson Edito

WRITE TO THE EDITOR...

If you want to write a letter for publication in *Diecast Collector*, you can contact Rick on rick.wilson@ warnersgroup.co.uk





Diecast Collector is part of www.ccofgb.co.uk

THE PAST & PRESENT OF **AUSSIE MOTORING**

WITH the Australian winter making its presence felt, the latest new releases from Trax could bring our Antipodean readers a much-needed warm feeling inside. Shown here is the 1/43 scale resincast 1977 LX Torana John Bowe, which will be available in October/ November, but models just arrived and already available include a 1/18 resincast 1972 AMC Pacer in either Ivory Green

or red and a 1/43 resincast 1956 Dodge Sierra Station Wagon in red/charcoal/white, Jade over green, or white over black.

For more information, and to see the full range, visit www.topgear.com.au.



NEXT UP FROM THE CORGI MODEL CLUB

THE next reproduction from the Corgi Model Club (that should be about to begin to arrive with early subscribers by the time that you read this) is No 437 Superior Ambulance on Cadillac Chassis. When this ambulance was introduced by Corgi Toys, in 1962, it was revolutionary. Featuring a battery-operated emergency light, UK buyers had never seen anything like it before. What's more, the illumination was additionally transferred to the model's front and rear roof lights via Corgi's innovative 'Trans-O-Lite' system. To British children in the early 1960s, who would have been used to ambulances from more traditional margues such as Bedford and Austin, this streamlined Superior-bodied design would have seemed like something from the future. A red liveried version was produced until 1966, after which the model was repainted in this new, much rarer pale blue and white variant.

Even if you're not a subscriber, you can buy any of the releases so far (subject to stock) as a standalone purchase. This model will be available to buy on its own for £35.99, plus postage. But this would cost much less if you subscribe.

To find out more, visit the club's website at www.corgimodelclub.com.

HORNBY ON THE RIGHT TRACK



HORNBY Hobbies is set to build on its recent success, having secured a £12m combined facility from Secure Trust Bank Commercial Finance. Made up from a £6m accounts facility and £6m inventory facility, funding is set to support the household brand's working capital needs over the coming years.

The news arrives following a resurgence for the business in recent years. Since welcoming a new management team in 2017, the hobby specialist has seen a substantial turnaround, with a growth in sales, and return to profit. Lyndon Davies, Chief Executive at Hornby, said "The past few years have been transformational for Hornby. It's been our priority to keep the business on track and thriving for the millions of collectors and hobbyists across the globe. Since welcoming our new management team, we have expanded our workforce, enhanced our market knowledge, and established partnerships with the best manufacturers."

This is, of course, excellent news for Corgi collectors. We look forward to the brand continuing to bring us its excellent and well-researched replicas. lacktriangle

TWO NEW LARGE-SCALE CORGIS ARE TAKING TO THE SKIES

CORGI'S excellent, large scale 1/48 range of aircraft will soon see a pair of

aviation favourites amongst its ranks. The Eurofighter Typhoon will first see the light of day wearing the much-loved retro GN-A livery from 2015. 'GINA' was an airshow favourite throughout that season and is very close to the final product for release. Still at the CAD rendering stage, though, is another fan favourite – the Harrier/AV-8B II. With plenty of scope for liveries, it will be interesting to see the livery that the first release replicates. Find out more at www. corgi.co.uk by visiting the Diecast Diaries blog page.

BRACE YOURSELF FOR A PAIR OF NEW VOLVOS FROM DNA

THOSE passionate collectors at DNA Collectibles have confirmed the opening of pre-orders for two more vivacious, 1/18 scale resincast Volvos. The V60 Polestar will be available in black, bright blue, silver or white (limited to 499 of each) at just £150.99, and the 960 Estate will come in Aubergine, dark blue, gren or silver at £159.99 (again, 499 of each) Find out more and pre-order at www.dnacollectibles.

THE GOLDVARG COLLECTION AT **BRITISH HERITAGE MODELS**

GOLDVARG Collection retailer, British Heritage Models, has just told us of the imminent arrival of some exciting new Goldvarg models. These are the 1964 Mercury Breezeway, in Peacock blue or Bittersweet (pink), the 1962 Chevrolet Impala (in Twilight Blue, or gold), the Buick Riviera (in Rose Mist, or Marlin blue), the 1960 Pontiac Catalina station wagon (in Skymist Blue, or Stardust Yellow), and the 1974 Buick Century NYPD police car. Pre-orders can be placed at BHM by calling **01244 320761** or via email at bhm-uk@talktalk.net.

NEW PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN SCHUCO AND SPARK

SCHUCO'S parent company, The Simba Dickie Group, has acquired a stake in model car manufacturer Minimax. Founded by French car enthusiast Hugues Ripert in 2000, the successful model car manufacturer has been present in all major global collecting markets for years. Its models are mainly produced under the Spark brand and focus on the racing sector. The Schuco brand will be integrated into the Minimax model car group to benefit from important synergies in the future. The management will be taken over by Hugues Ripert, who also holds a majority stake in the joint venture.

BEAT THE PRICE RISE

Regrettably, to offset the increases in costs of energy and raw materials the cover price of *Diecast Collector* has increased to £5.49; but you don't have to pay that!

We've frozen our subscription prices meaning you can save even more than before when subscribing to Diecast Collector!



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Our team of experts take a look at this month's model releases, including fine handbuilt replicas, scale construction and the latest in farm models.

BUMPER PAGES!

TAKE TO THE SKIES WITH THIS SQUADRON OF CHIPMUNK TRAINERS BY AVIATION 72

1/72 scale

AVIATION 72

de Havilland Canada DHC-1 Chipmunk

PRICE: £34.99 each REF NO: AV7226016 (Army), AV7226018/19/20 (College of Air Training)

www.clevelandsdiecast.co.uk

DESIGNED and developed immediately after World War II by de Havilland Canada, as a trainer replacement for the de Havilland Tiger Moth biplane, the DHC-1 Chipmunk first took to the skies at DHC's Downsview base, near Toronto, on 22nd May 1946. Into service within months, the Chipmunk was procured in large numbers by the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) and Royal Air Force (RAF). Now, more than seventy-five years after the type first entered service, hundreds of Chipmunks remain airworthy and are in operation around the world.

A total of 1,283 Chipmunks were built – 217 by de Havilland Canada, until production ended in 1956, and 1,000 were built under licence by de Havilland itself – initially at Hatfield Aerodrome before production was transferred to Broughton, near Chester. A further 66 were manufactured by OGMA (Oficinas Gerais de Material Aeronáutico), at Alverca in Portugal from 1955

to 1961, for the Portuguese Air Force. Amazingly, six are still in service with the Força Aérea Portuguesa today!

The prototype was fitted with the air-cooled Gipsy Major 1C, but production aircraft in Canada (designated T.1 and T.2) were fitted with the Gipsy Major 8. Those produced in the UK (T.10) also had the Gipsy Major 8. The RAF took 735 T.10s, seeing action with the Royal Navy and Army too, and 217 were exported and redesignated as Mk 20s. The Mk 21 was the civilian production version – 28 were built.

Many Chipmunks that had been in military use were sold to civilians when they were struck off charge, either to private owners or to companies. These were then used for a variety of purposes, often involving the type's excellent flying characteristics and its capability for aerobatic manoeuvres. The Chipmunk still serves as a useful trainer today, also seeing use as a glider tug, and some have even been specially converted to crop sprayers. A very versatile aircraft indeed.

The options in 1/72 scale diecast are currently limited to just one manufacturer - Aviation 72 - but it has already built up quite a catalogue of these magnificent aircraft. Here we have the four very latest releases. They have been a long time coming, with pre-production samples having first been seen at Nuremberg in 2019, but it has definitely been worth the wait as our Editor just can't get enough of these beauties!

▼ Four fabulous new releases of Aviation 72's magnificent Chipmunk trainer. From the left: AV7226020 College of Air Training G-AMMA, AV7226018 College of Air Training G-ARMG, AV7226019 College of Air Training G-AMUC, and AV7226016 Army Air Corps WP964.



THIS MONTH'S INDEPTH REVIEWS:

8 de Havilland Canada DHC-1 Chipmunk Four examples of this incredibly popular aircraft design, modelled by Aviation 72

16 EDITOR'S CHOICE

Ferrari 333SP 'Momo'

The 1998 Daytona 24 Hours winner, by Top Marques

With these four all landing together, it's like a mini squadron has just arrived. The Aviation 72 casting is excellent and this batch brings the total number of variants to 22.

So onto the first three reviewed here - all are variants of aircraft used by the College of Air Training. Formed in 1960 to train pilots for the national airlines, BOAC and BEA (later to become British Airways), it started with an intake of 21 students and was officially opened by the Duke of Edinburgh in 1961.

To gain their commercial pilot's licence, the student pilots first trained and the course they took was equivalent to degree standard today. Successful candidates first undertook ground school training, progressing on to flying training with an instructor in a single engine Chipmunk, these were replaced in 1967 by Piper Cherokees. We have three registration variants of these

here - G-ARMG (still flying today wearing its original WK558 markings), G-AMUC (de-registered in 1976 and shipped to the USA) and G-AMMA (de-registered and now flying in Denmark as OY-DHI).

The Army Air Corps was formed in 1942 and certainly operated Chipmunks at one point (it even still has one in storage for a future rebuild), but the aircraft modelled here, for our fourth Chippie, is actually G-HDAE repainted as WP964 - the real WP964 is based in South Africa these days.

All four models carry on the excellent work of Aviation 72 and are superb additions to its squadron of Chipmunks. The casting is wonderful and the paintwork is flawless, with the simple liveries expertly applied. And you don't even need a licence to 'fly' one of these magnificent models, so what's stopping you? **DC**



CORGI

Triumph Topless Collection SCALE: 1/43 PRICE: £108.99

REF: TC00005

ww.corgi.co.uk

Stunning trio of Triumphs, beautifully presented and complete with removable roofs on the Spitfire and TR6. The TR6 also comes with a 'top down' display option.



REF: UKBUS 0066

Superb, with excellent interior detailing.



CORGI

Thunderbird 2 and 4 SCALE: FTB PRICE: £27.99 REF: CCno8o3

www.corai.co.uk

Repackaged release of Corgi's wonderful Thunderbirds 2 and 4 combo. Attractive new box displays these great models really well - definitely worth the money!





SCALE: 1/18 PRICE: £72.99

REF: MCG 18307

Cosworth 4-door. Wonderful finish all over with some really nice detailing.

New Models



TOP MARQUES

Pininfarina Modulo - white SCALE: 1/43 PRICE: £105.99 **REF:** TOP 4318A

Pininfarina's incredible Modulo concept is exquisitely replicated by Top Marques. The finish is sublime and the model has real finesse. Limited edition of 500.

ww.ayrey.co.ul



RJN CLASSIC TRACTORS

Ford 2000 Dexta Tractor SCALE: 1/16 PRICE: £300.00 **REF:** 52v1

model provided with engine detail, accurately laid out driver's platform, clevis drawbar and fixed lower link arms

w.rjnclassictractors.co.uk



KOBELCO

Kobelco SK210LC-11 Two-Piece Boom Tracked Excavator

SCALE: 1/50 PRICE: £100.00 REF: 2226/01

Fitted with a two-piece hydraulically adjustable boom, it shares the same tooling for the undercarriage, body and cabin as the Monoboom version.



UNIVERSAL HOBBIES

Fordson Super Dexta Tractor and Ransomes Two-Furrow Plough Set SCALE: 1/32 PRICE: £85.00 REF: 6377

Supplied in a smart presentation box. Universal Hobbies' new good-looking set includes its Dexta tractor and a newly-tooled plough.



MINI GT

Mercedes-Benz 190E 2.5-16 Evolution II #7 AMG-Mercedes 1990 DTM

perfectly applied and a superb finish SCALE: 1/64 PRICE: £14.00 REF: MGT00312-L throughout. And look at those wheels!



CONRAD

Goldhofer AST-2E Phoenix Airport Tractor

SCALE: 1/50 PRICE: £80.00 REF: 5517/02

All-electric aircraft tow tractor with height-adjustable cabin, rotating driver seat, functional steering and adjustable aircraft nosewheel lifting system.

MINI GT's latest version of its 190E

racer is stunning, with the complex livery



MATRIX SCALE MODELS 1969 Jaguar 420G Convertible

SCALE: 1/43 PRICE: £100.00 REF: MX 41001-192

www.matrixscalemodels.com

original 'Big Cat', by Classic Cars of Coventry. Very well-modelled and detailed, with an especially good interior in cream.



WSI MODELS

Liebherr G-LTM1090-4.2 Military Mobile Crane

SCALE: 1/50 **PRICE:** 200.00 € **REF:** 12268895

ww.liebherr.com/liebherrshop

Really captures the features of the original, from the armoured front and crane cabins to the authentic telescopic boom and ballast options, and olive-green finish.



August 2022 Auction Dates

Tuesday 9th August - Diecast & James Bond Sale
Tuesday 16th August - Diecast & Tinplate Sale
Wednesday 17th August - Dolls & Teddy Bear Sale
Thursday 18th August - Specialist Diecast Sale
Friday 19th August - Model Train Sale



Auctions commence at 10.00am unless otherwise stated - Dates are correct at time of print but are subject to change

Catalogues & online bidding at vectis.co.uk & invaluable.com

Vectis Auctions Head Office Fleck Way, Thornaby Stockton-on-Tees, TS17 9JZ

Tel: 01642 750616 admin@vectis.co.uk

Vectis Oxford Office Unit 3, Hobley Court North Leigh Business Park Nursery Road, Witney Oxfordshire, OX29 6AN

Tel: 01993 709424

New Models



MINI GT

LB Works Nissan GT-R R35 Type 2 Rear Wing Ver 3 - red SCALE: 1/64 PRICE: £12.59 REF: MGT00345-L A stunning release by MINI GT of its GT-R R35 casting, wearing this beautiful metallic red LB Works Livery 2.0. Also available in RHD as MGT00345-R.

ww.clevelandsdiecast.co.uk



Kuhn Stronger HD 4000 Self-Propelled Sprayer

SCALE: 1/32 PRICE: £123.5 REF: 9401130

Beautifully-engineered detailed sprayer with steerable wheels, hinged steps and opening cab door. Boom unfolds smoothly into its working position.



IMC MODELS

Doosan DX165WR-7 Mobile Excavator **SCALE:** 1/50

PRICE: 90.75 €

The undercarriage can be configured with either blade, outriggers or both. The upper panel opens to reveal the internal engine bay. Authentic cabin. Impressive.

www.doosan-store.com



MATRIX SCALE MODELS

1951 Ferrari 342 America Vignale SCALE: 1/43 PRICE: £100.00 **REF:** MX 50604-162

Great model of this early Ferrari cabriolet in Silver with light greyish-blue interior and black folded roof. Very well-detailed, the interior especially so.



CORGI

Ford Escort Mk2 RS2000 Custom Signal Yellow

SCALE: 1/43 PRICE: £35.99 REF: VA14900

www.corgi.co.uk

Corgi's stunning new Escort Mk2 RS2000 tooling gets off to a flying start in Signal Yellow. An absolute beauty with a wonderful finish throughout.



WSI MODELS

Volvo FH16 Globetrotter XXL 8x4 "Mammoet"

SCALE: 1/50 **PRICE:** 119.00 € **REF:** 410281_000

WSI's Volvo FH16 Globetrotter XXL 8x4, with add-on tag axle, has authentically captured the rugged looks of the original, with a high-quality paint finish.



GOLDVARG COLLECTION 1961 Mercury Comet - Sheffield Grey SCALE: 1/43 PRICE: £110.00

REF: GC 025B

interior, in 2-tone red/white. There is another version, 025A, in Light Turquoise with white roof. Lovely. www.goldvargcollection.com



FIRST GEAR

JCB 555-210R Telescopic Handler SCALE: 1/34 PRICE: £60.00 **REF:** 3182

www.jcbshop.com

With telescopically-extending and height-adjustable boom, fitted with pallet forks. Upper body rotates 360°, working outriggers and steering on both axles.



CORGI

Ford Escort Mk2 RS2000 Series X (X-Pack) - Venetian Red SCALE: 1/43 PRICE: £35.99 REF: VA14902 And here is Corgi's new Mk2 RS2000 fitted with the X-Pack body kit. How evocative is this? Wonderful replication with some really good detailing. Great value.

www.corgi.co.ul



ROS

Krone BiG Pack 1290 HDP VC Baler SCALE: 1/32 PRICE: £100.00 REF: 003088601741

ROS's well-built, detailed baler has a folding stand, floating pickup and hinged tailgate. Both side panels and the three top covers also open.

kroneukltd-merchandise.myshopify.com



CONRAD

Kobelco SK210LC-11 Tracked Excavator (US Version) SCALE: 1/50 PRICE: £100.00 The latest release from Conrad is the SK210LC-11 in Monoboom configuration, which has been released in this yellow decoration for the USA.

www.kobelcofanshop.com



MATRIX SCALE MODELS

1969 Pontiac Cirrus Concept Car SCALE: 1/43 PRICE: £100.00 REF: MX 51606-022

www.matrixscalemodels.com

Great model of this dramatic, streamlined, albeit wholly impractical, concept. Superb finish, with a black 'Vee' on the bonnet. There is also a version in Silver. Wonderful.



TOP MARQUES

Lancia Stratos Zero Concept - bronze SCALE: 1/43 PRICE: £105.99 REF: TOP 4309A

www.ayrey.co.uk

The incredibly stunning Stratos Zero looks amazing in bronze or, as it is described on the plinth, 'reddish brown'. Absolutely astonishing replica. Limited to 500 pieces.



WSI MODELS

Scania R Highline 8x4 with Hooklift & Container

SCALE: 1/50 **PRICE:** £166.00 **REF:** 01-3633

www.wsi-models.com

In 8x4 configuration with rear tag axle, looking very impressive in the Norsk Sanerings Service livery, with hooklift loading system and detachable skip.



MATRIX SCALE MODELS
1960 Ferrari 250 GT Speciale
Berlinetta Competizione by Bertone
SCALE: 1/43 PRICE: £100.00 REF: MX 40604-102

A lovely clean-looking GT in red with stainless-steel effect roof and contrasting interior. All the detail can be seen through the large windows.

www.matrixscalemodels.com



WSI MODELS

Scania S Highline with Nooteboom Euro 2-axle low loader SCALE: 1/50 PRICE: £37.99 REF: 01-3621

6x2 tractor with tag axle, finished in the white and blue livery of Sabesa SA.

www.wsi-models.com

The Nooteboom Euro-PX 2-axle low loader

trailer is paired with a Scania S Highline



Fine Toys for the Collector 20 September 2022



Our next fine auction includes more than 800 lots, with the majority comprising Dinky Toys, French Toys and Corgi Toys and the first part of a very large Matchbox collection. The sale also includes a superlative collection of plastic Timpo figures, including many fine boxed sets with intact cellophane as well numerous rare figures, with Britains Zoo and figures by other makers.

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New Models



CORGI

Ford Sierra RS500 Cosworth - white SCALE: 1/43 PRICE: £35.99 REF: VA11707

The plain white paint job really accentuates the look of the mighty RS500 Cosworth version of Ford's Sierra. Perfect finish and some really lovely detailing.

www.corgi.co.uk



Kane Triple-Axle Silage Trailer SCALE: 1/32 PRICE: £29.99 REF: 43284

tipping body and opening tailgate, Britains' new, well-built trailer offers good display opportunities.

vw.britainsfarmtoys.co.uk



CONRAD

Reform Metrac H75 Pro Tool Carrier SCALE: 1/32 PRICE: 52.00 € **REF:** 5020/0

With working steering of both axles, allowing all steering modes to be demonstrated. Adjustable front and rear linkage and detailed cabin interior.

www.reform.at/fanshop/en



MATRIX SCALE MODELS

1966 Jaguar FT Bertone – dark blue SCALE: 1/43 PRICE: £100.00 REF: MX 41001-161

ww.matrixscalemodels.com

Fine model of this special-bodied Jaguar commissioned by the marque's importer for Northern Italy, Ferrucio Tarchini. The model has a light tan interior.



MINI GT

Bentley Flying Spur - Verdant SCALE: 1/64 PRICE: £12.59 REF: MGT00286-L

www.clevelandsdiecast.co.uk

Another great new model by MINI GT. Beautifully-finished in Verdant Green, with nice detail and stunning wheels. Also available in RHD as MGT00286-R.



WSI MODELS

Scania 3-Series Torpedo Rigid with Trailer

SCALE: 1/50 PRICE: £208.00 REF: 01-3583

ww.wsi-models.com

The VSB Groep release of a Scania 3-series Torpedo Streamline comes with a three-axle towed trailer and a pair of fifteen cubic metre detachable skips.



MATRIX SCALE MODELS

1975 Citroën DS20 Visser Ambulance

SCALE: 1/43 PRICE: £100.00 REF: MX 40304-092

Well-detailed, with a made-up bed inside. In the livery of Den Helder, there is also a 'jam-sandwich' side-stripe version in the livery of De Grooth Winschoten.



WSI MODELS

Volvo EC950E 'White Edition' Tracked SCALE: 1/50 PRICE: 142.00 € REF: 64-2006

EC950E tracked excavator, finished in a white decoration with grey undercarriage. Certainly one for the Volvo fans.

www.wsi-models.com

New Models



packaging - very stylish!



FERRARI'S DAYTONA-WINNING PROTOTYPE GETS TOP MARKS

1/43 scale

Ferrari 333SP 'Momo' - Daytona 24 Hours 1998 PRICE: £105.99 REF NO: TOP 4324D

www.ayrey.co.uk

THERE will always be a special place in my heart (and my model collection) for examples of Ferrari's 1990s prototype. First raced in 1994, the 333SP was originally built by Dallara (later by Michelotto) and used Ferrari's then current V12 F1 engine, slightly detuned for endurance racing. Usually described as the marque's most recent sports car racing protoype, this phrase is now redundant with the recent sighting at Fiorana of the new Le Mans

Hypercar during its first test for the 2023 season.

So, now onto Ferrari's last top-flight win - the 1998 Daytona 24 Hours, in the hands of the late Gianpiero Moretti's famous Momo-sponsored team. The unmistakable red and yellow livery has been muchadmired at all the big endurance races over many years, but this was its finest hour.

Having come heartbreakingly close in 1996 (less than a minute behind the winning Riley & Scott prototype), the team of four drivers, including Moretti himself, finally took the flag in first place two years later, chased home by four Porsche 911s (a mix of GT1s and GT2s), albeit all several laps behind. The form couldn't be repeated at Le Mans a few months later, but the 333SP's place in sports car racing history was assured with the performances in Florida.

Top Marques resincast replica is a true masterpiece and compares very favourably against the cheaper diecast in

my collection (see the March

Limited to just 500 pieces worldwide, this is really a truly gorgeous replica and certainly deserves a place in your collection. DC

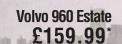
2021 issue, pages 38 and 39). The detailing is excellent with a beautiful finish, to that glorious, red paintwork, and the decal replication is fabulous, with the team's famous yellow flashes superbly applied, as well as the myriad of sponsor logos.



We really want your feedback! Do you agree with the Editor's Choice? Let us know your thoughts about this and the other releases at deareditor@warnersgroup.co.uk

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We've been expecting you

Stephen Paul Hardy unboxes some of Solido's latest offerings and finds himself behaving like the proverbial child in a toy shop.

here are certain cars that every mainstream diecast manufacturer appears to deem essential for inclusion in its catalogue at some time or other - 'that' 1963 DB5 undoubtably tops the list. It is a compelling thought, though, that if the original narratives had been faithfully adhered to, the most popular scale model car ever made would probably have been a dowdy Bentley of one Mk or another. And by the same token if the principal character's automotive image in the 1964 motion picture (yes the quaint seems more appropriate than the colloquial of 'film') Goldfinger had not been fashionably upgraded to the latest contemporary Aston Martin launched in 1963, conceivably the alternative would have been the also new, but rather more conservatively styled, Bristol 408.

As it is, a considerable number of us instantly recognise and automatically associate with a DB5 in Birch Silver to the point of subconsciously hearing a certain theme tune in our heads. So much so that, particularly thanks to the series starring Daniel Craig, it wouldn't be the same without at least a few seconds of 'that' car and several minutes of 'that' soundtrack. Yes, there have already been a considerable number of models, in most scales, already made of it. Some languish in standard showroom appearance, some dubiously masquerading and some getting the full blown accessory gadget treatment. Yes I am deliberately trying not to mention his name or number, nor the registration numbers variously assigned to 'that' DB5. And this is one of the up-front reasons that I really like Solido's new model.

ASTON MARTIN DB5 - 1964

One of the first things I noticed about Solido's 1/18 scale diecast DB5 in Silver Birch (S1807101) is that it doesn't carry, nor come with optional number plates alluding to the cinematic stars. It is unpretentious and so with no allusion to, or basking in the reflected glory of, cinematic charisma, the pressure is, therefore, off. So we can see and appreciate it for what it is – a very pleasing, good value, 1/18 diecast of the cutting edge of the British



▲ A six month wait that was worth it - Solido's very pleasing Aston Martin DB5 in Birch Silver.

▼ Even if this month's first choice is predictable, the competition is very close behind in both wing mirrors.



▲ Solido opens the door on cutting edge design of the British motoring industry, from 1963...



... with a well-proportioned, nicely-finished 1/18 diecast, enhanced by some good detailing.







▲ Exuding a distinctly nineties feel, the Supra Mk4 was one of a group of cleanly-styled Japanese sports coupés of the era.



▲ Being diecasts, both Supras have opening doors and, on the Targa, a removable roof centre panel.



▲ The street standard coupé in Renaissance Red...



... and Targa in Super White make a refreshing change from some of the models of wilder, tuned Japanese cars we have seen of late.

motor industry from 1963.

I have (of course) still got my treasured boyhood first release, all action, gold-painted 1/43 version, but for many years have also desired a collector's quality version in charismatic silver. Until now, the choice has been too great and the variation in cost tempered with wildly differing modelling quality too varied for me to pursue my wish. At last I have to hand what is for me the ideal solution to my quest. A well-proportioned, nicely-finished 1/18 diecast enhanced by some good detailing sat within an affordable budget band. Maybe the wait was worth it because the modelling quality of those wire wheels, radiator grille and light lenses front and back is now way above the quality we used to see on models in the sector of the market Solido is vigorously active in. Announced right at the outset of Solido's new models for 2022 (and indeed installed as its catalogue cover star) I have been expecting its arrival for six months. A wait that was worth it.

And now for something totally unrelated and totally different...

TOYOTA SUPRA MK.4 (A80) COUPÉ AND TARGA - 1993

Another pair from Solido's new tooling investment for 2022 are the Supra Mk.4 (A80) Coupé and Targa in Renaissance Red (S1807601) and Super White (S1807602) respectively. Like the DB5, this pair are 1/18 diecasts having opening doors and removable roof centre panel on the Targa.

This generation of Supra engenders for me similar feelings of attraction to the body line styling that the earlier series Mazda MXs had combined with a front nose image that certainly screams evocation of earlier Toyota sports cars. Displaying many of the assembly qualities that I have mentioned in recent reviews of Solido new models, this pair of emotionally robust models are really nice additions to the fast growing ranks of Solido models showcasing Japanese cars. Their finish in street standard, not metallic, primary colours makes a refreshing change (and contrast with) some of the wilder, tuned releases we have seen of late.



NEW MODEL SPOTLIGHT



SOLIDO'S NEW 1/43 RANGE

To which "We've been expecting you" equally applies! So the first eight models in Solido's newlytooled venture back into 1/43 are now to hand and sending my mind into that 'child in a toy shop' mode. Where do I start, which shall I open first? Breathing deeply and just taking stock (in all senses of the phrase), there are four pairs of models:

- Renault Megane R26R: White (S4310201) Blue (S4310202),
- Dodge Challenger: Demon Red (S4310301) Plum Crazy (S4310302),
- Citroën BX Sport: Gris Renard Metallic (S4311001) Rouge Feu (S4311002)
- BMW M5 E39: Blue (\$4310501) Silver (\$4310502)

Which, consistent with Solido's current catalogue strategy, starts to mark out a good international spread of subjects. Let's start, at an overview level, with the packaging which is a good, robust, quality take on the contemporary style of a clear box top to a black display base. The models are secured to that base with a single screw passing through a separate locating bridge piece. As is fairly usual at the moment, the whole display box is then housed in a card sleeve outer carton, which I have to say is a far better, more robust, thickness than from several other manufacturers.

After focusing so often on the highly-detailed end of the market from the likes of Matrix, AutoCult, etc., we have to remember that the target customer base for this new range is very broad and extends well beyond the connoisseur collector remit. Indeed, they carry the now ubiquitous mandatory warning about not being suitable for children under 14 years of age. A cautioning that often makes me wonder what of our childhood toys would be left for us to play with if by some Tardis-driven intervention travelling back in time our toy boxes were subjected to an audit and removal process that



▲ Solido's robust take on the contemporary style of packaging engenders a very positive first impression...



... that continues by unboxing the models, as the Challenger's tail end detail shows.



▲ The Meganes are the wildest of the bunch, but don't let their loud exteriors distract you from the equally funky interiors, complete with roll cages and harness sets.

▲ The first two release batches of Solido's new 1/43 series - clockwise, from back left: Citroën BX Sport, BMW M5 E39, Dodge Challenger and Renault Megane R26R.

applied today's suitability criteria to them. (Oh my goodness I could have swallowed that gun-toting man dressed in blue as he was ejected...) I have a sneaking feeling given that these new 1/43 series, like the larger 1/18 Solido models, are destined for supermarket and similar retail outlet shelves, in addition to shops specialising in scale models. Many of them will, in fact, quickly become treasured by younger collectors.

The diecast body shells, with inserted plastic light fittings, wipers etc and rivet-secured glazing, are assembled to the plastic baseplates with cross head screws. The mating of these two outer cases traps the detailed plastic interior assemblies in place. Wheels are diecast, well-detailed, and shod with separate soft tyres. The whole effect is enhanced by separate brake disc and calliper assemblies that remain fixed when the wheels are rotated (or the car runs along a surface) – a detail that I am certain will captivate and entertain the younger echelons of the collecting fraternity, in particular. With its wide-spoked alloy rims, the Dodge Challenger is best of the four at displaying this feature and, in doing so, raises another observation.

This new series is far from being just of well-appointed, toy-level models. With an interesting and fast-growing catalogue range of vehicles, these incorporate some fab detailing in terms of badging, trim, etc., over nicely-finished paintwork. For me, of the eight models released so far, the BMW M5 E39 'youngtimer' stands out as the sort of model that is going to appeal not only to collectors young and old, but as a whimsical purchase by owners, or aspiring owners, of the real thing. Indeed it is the sort of model that frequently also turns up packaged as a manufacturer's promotional in dealerships.

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New buses from EFE Road

EFE Road is the new name for Exclusive First Editions diecast model vehicles. A new look with new models and new packaging, complementing the railway rolling stock available in the EFE Rail range.

his year marks the 50th anniversary of the Leyland National single-deck bus, which first entered service in March 1972. Leyland National was a joint venture by British Leyland

Motor Holdings and the National Bus Company (NBC), with the objective of supplying bus operators nationwide under the NBC umbrella with a standard single-deck vehicle. A dedicated factory for Leyland National production was built at Lillyhall near Workington in Cumberland (now Cumbria), and some 7,000 Nationals were built there between 1972 and 1985.

To celebrate this milestone, EFE Road is to release six 1/76 scale Mk 1 dual-door 11.3m Leyland Nationals in liveries that were mostly eradicated when NBC Poppy Red and Leaf Green swept across the country. The images shown here represent preproduction samples, so colours and details of the final models might differ slightly. Expected to arrive into stock during August, visit www.bachmann. co.uk and check out the EFE Road brand page to find out more.

Leyland National Mk.1 Long 2 Door demonstrator FRM499K (Aberdeen) -Service 5 to Woodend

REF: E15112 **SCALE**: 1/76 **PRICE**: £41.95 **DUE**: Q3 2022

Pre-production chassis 010 was new in July 1972 and displayed in the demonstration park at the Commercial Motor Show at London's Earls Court exhibition centre, in September 1972. After the motor show, FRM499K was trialled in service in Lancaster, Preston, Cardiff, Eastbourne, Aberdeen, and elsewhere.

The model depicts FRM499K on loan to Aberdeen Corporation operating on long-established service 5 between Woodend (Hazlehead Gardens), Castle Street and Beach Boulevard. FRM499K survives and is currently being restored to original condition.

Leyland National Mk.1 Long 2 Door Cumberland Motor Services ERM35K - CMS 350 on Whitehaven town service 05

REF: E15113 **SCALE**: 1/76 **PRICE**: £41.95 **DUE**: Q3 2022



- ▲ The new logo reflecting the rebranding of Exclusive First Editions under Bachmann.
- **1** E15112 Aberdeen Corporation demonstrator FRM499K.
- 2 E15115 Northern General Transport UUP831K.
- 3 E15117 Nottingham City Transport NPD110L.







Former Tilling Group-controlled Cumberland Motor Services, based in Whitehaven, operated bus services in the former county of Cumberland. Chassis no 005, numbered 350 in the Cumberland fleet, was the first Leyland National delivered to an operator and the first to enter service. On 16th March 1972, ERM35K commenced duties on Whitehaven town service 05, a 20-minute route operating daily between Bransty Crescent and West Cumberland Hospital.

In early 1976 ERM35K was converted to single door and upseated, operating with this layout until withdrawal in 1985 after a creditable 13 years in service. It was hoped ERM35K would be saved for preservation. It hung on for three more years, gradually being stripped of useful parts, but regrettably this important vehicle was scrapped in 1988.





- ▲ E15113 Cumberland Motor Services ERM35K.
- 4 E15114 London Country Superbus KPA101K.
- 5 E15118 Crosville Motor Services WFM801K.
- 6 The detailing to the National's attractive rear end has been very well replicated too.

Leyland National Mk.1 Long 2 Door London Country Superbus KPA101K - route SB1, Chells & Bus Station REF: E15114 SCALE: 1/76

PRICE: £41.95 DUE: Q3 2022

Pre-production chassis 003, new in April 1972 (registered KPA101K, fleet number LN1), was the first of no fewer than 543 Leyland Nationals delivered new to National Bus Company subsidiary, London Country Bus Services Ltd, from 1972 to December 1979.

Superbus began as an experiment in the Hertfordshire new town of Stevenage in July 1971. Superbus was a daily flat fare bus service connecting the suburb of Chells with the shopping centre and industrial area, marketed to entice motorists to leave their cars at home and take the Superbus instead.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to EFE Road, with assistance from Robbie Forster (Dorset Model Buses), Ron McCullock, and Mike Morton (Workington Transport Heritage Trust) for the background research, words and pictures.

KPA101K's service life was relatively short. Withdrawn in the early 1980s, it was converted to single-door and rebuilt as a mobile classroom, and is believed to have been scrapped by 1989.

Leyland National Mk.1 Long 2 Door Northern General Transport UUP831K - Northern 11K on service 55 to Sacriston, Co Durham

REF: E15115 **SCALE:** 1/76 **PRICE:** £41.95 **DUE:** Q3 2022

Production chassis 129, new in July 1972, was one of some 280 Leyland Nationals delivered to Northern General Transport Co Ltd from June 1972 to March 1983, including batches for Sunderland District and Tynemouth & District.

Leyland Nationals operated on services throughout the group territory – Newcastle upon Tyne, Gateshead and Sunderland, north to Blyth in Northumberland, south to Hartlepool and Bishop Auckland, Consett to the west and Sunderland to the east.

Leyland National Mk.1 Long 2 Door Nottingham City Transport NPD110L - Central Area free bus service 88

REF: E15117 **SCALE**: 1/76 **PRICE**: £41.95 **DUE**: Q3 2022

An interesting development took place, in October 1972, when four of London Country's new intake of Mk 1 dual-door Leyland Nationals (NPD108L to NPD111L) didn't enter service with LCBS, but were loaned to City of Nottingham Transport to inaugurate an experimental free bus service in Nottingham city centre, connecting the shopping areas with car parks and bus stations.

The four London Country Nationals were delivered in standard NBC Leaf Green. In an early exercise in route branding, orange paintwork was applied to the roof pod, around the edge of the roof and between the headlamps. White bands, Nottingham fleet numbers and City crests were also added. London Country legal lettering was retained as the buses were still owned by LCBS. The model depicts production chassis no 218, London Country's LN10, temporarily numbered 653 with Nottingham.

Leyland National Mk.1 Long 2 Door Crosville Motor Services WFM801K - Crosville SNL801 on Chester local service C40 to Upton

REF: E15118 **SCALE**: 1/76 **PRICE**: £41.95 **DUE**: Q3 2022

Chassis 102 was the second production Leyland National delivered in May 1972 in a variation of the outgoing Tilling Green livery. More than 360 Leyland Nationals were ordered by Crosville between 1972 and 1983. WFM801K was the first of twenty-four 2-door Nationals received in 1972.

After withdrawal by Crosville, WFM801K saw further service airside at Gatwick Airport as GH485. Acquired in 1994 by GM Buses South, numbered 265 and converted to single-door, subsequently passing to Stagecoach Manchester in 1997. WFM801K was restored to as-new condition around 2005, including reinstating the centre doors, and is privately preserved.



Sponsoring in the eighties

Back in the eighties, before the ban on tobacco advertising, motorsport around the world benefitted substantially. **Francisco Mota** finds another sponsor for a new instalment of Racing Colours.

Photos: João Carlos Oliveira

here's something fascinating about building a collection of 1/43 scale model cars painted in the colours of the same sponsor. Our *Racing Colours* series has showed this over the years, with the most famous sponsors known in motorsport adorning a variety of scale model cars – it seems there's always another one to find out about, and that's what has happened here.

In many of the episodes of *Racing Colours*, the sponsorship has been a tobacco company that used motorsport to publicise its products. This was very common in the era before most of the European countries declared a ban on tobacco advertising. Therefore, most of the articles we have published

feature racing and rally cars from the eighties. That's again mainly the case with this new story, featuring the Belgian tobacco company 'Belga'.

In terms of liveries, the usual trend was to replicate, on the bodywork of each car, the same graphics seen on tobacco packs. A quick search on the internet shows that's exactly what we have here too. So, not much imagination was asked of the designers to dress racing and rally cars with Belga colours. The truth is, there was no need for that, as the iconic white and red livery looks dramatic enough. Moreover, it fits almost every shape of car, from Le Mans prototypes to WRC machines or touring cars.

Scale model manufacturers have certainly paid great attention over the years, releasing a number



of different replicas dressed in Belga colours. Some are very recent releases, others are a little older, and those will demand a little more patience to uncover. However, as always in this hobby, the hunt is always one of the best parts of scale model collecting.

BELGA, FROM BELGIUM

Belga is far from being the most obvious collecting theme, the Belgian tobacco company was never as much involved in motorport as, for instance, Marlboro or Rothmans, of which there have been considerably more scale models released. However, Belga participated in a number of high profile events in the eighties, like the famous 24 hours races at Spa or Le Mans, and several rally events. Many first rate cars had this sponsor, which allows for several topnotch racing and rally cars to enter the collection. From Capris to Celicas, from 936s to 911s, we were able to find enough Belga sponsored cars to make this



▲ Le Mans prototypes in the eighties featured cars like this open top 1981 De Cadenet.

story a two-parter.

First, a bit of history, for those who have never heard about Belga. It was a cigarette manufacturer introduced onto the market in 1923. Its products were mainly sold in Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands and Spain. The story started when two Belgian tobacco vendors, Alphonse and François Vander Elst, decided to launch a national cigarette brand. The name was easy to find, as Belga was the name of the currency in the country, and 1 Belga was exactly the price of a pack at the time. Colours initially came from the national flag, to give it the patriotic image that was so common to many products, in this post World War I period. It did not take much time for Belga to become the best-selling cigarette company in the country. During German occupation during World War II, the brand was removed from the market, due to its patriotic image.

The design featured the image of a lady with a yellow scarf and a black hat, with a yellow feather. This was the work of designer Leo Marfurt, a Swiss-Belgian commercial artist, known for his work in several consumer products and posters, in the thirties. The woman's head would be removed from the brand logo in 1990, however it was back fifteen years later with a redesigned look. With globalisation, national brands started to weaken by the end of the 20th century. At first, Belga production moved from its original Merksem factory in Belgium to the Netherlands, in 2004. However, sales dropped even further and the new owner, British American Tobacco, dropped it in 2014 and replaced it with Lucky Strike.

In the late seventies and early eighties, Belga decided to get involved in motorsport, as many other tobacco companies were doing. As a company, it



▲ The cockpit is very straightforward in this 1981 De Cadenet LM Lola, by Bizarre.



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RACING COLOURS – BELGA (PART 1)



was not big enough to become a title sponsor for a works team in one of the major world championships. However, it did spend money in some particular races and teams that could bring a good return on investment.

SCALE MODELS

The first scale model we have here is probably the best-looking in this collection. A classic open top Le Mans prototype that entered the race in 1981, the De Cadenet LM. Very low and long, it features the rear wing in a lowered position, to reduce drag down the long Mulsanne straight. The model was released some time ago by Bizarre, as a resincast, and reproduces the real car very well. Proportions are spot-on and there are details like the periscope rear view mirror, the add-on front splitter and the intricate rear wing metal supports. The cockpit features a complete instrument panel, plus racing seat with harness and a perfectly positioned steering wheel, and even a fire extinguisher. The car had a Ford Cosworth 3.0-litre V8 engine. It was driven by its creator, Alain De Cadenet, and the brothers Jean-Michel and Philippe Martin. Unfortunately, the car did not finish, due to an engine problem after 18 hours.

The most obvious event for Belga to invest in was the popular Spa 24 Hours, held each year at the famous Spa-Francorchamps circuit. In the seventies and eighties, the race was ran with touring cars — modified road cars that strongly resembled the same cars spectators could buy. Its a very different event today, where only specially built GT3-class racing cars are allowed to enter. That was probably one of the reasons why the Spa 24 Hours was so popular.

We go back to 1978 to find our oldest Belgasponsored car, a magnificent Ford Capri Mk3 that

▲ From the left: 1983 Porsche 936 J (Spark) and 1980 Rondeau M379B (Altaya by Ixo) - two Belga-sponsored prototypes that raced at Le Mans.



▲ The unique 936 J was an independent Joest Racing project.



▲ The Rondeau M379B featured a V8 Cosworth engine.

▼ Premium X reproduced this pair of Ford Capri MK3s that won the Spa 24 Hours touring car race, in 1978 and 1980.



▲ Gordon Spice Racing took a pair of wins in the Spa 24 hours race with the Ford Capri MK3 (Premium X).



▲ The side-exit exhaust of the GSR Ford Capri was noted and replicated by Premium X.

won the Spa 24 Hours that year. This is a diecast released by Premium X not so long ago and, because the Capri won again in 1980, the model maker released both versions. The shape of the Capri Mk3 is very well rendered and Premium X reproduced the differences between both versions well. For instance, car number 27, the 1978 winner, features the logo with the lady on the bonnet, while car number 3, the 1980 winner, replaces that for the Belga word in big format. There are also other small technical sponsors' stickers on the front wings of the 1978 version. From the first win to the second, the team changed from GoodYear to Dunlop tyres. Details in both cars remain identical, with the same pair of spotlights screwed to the front bumper and those side exhaust pipes that look really too big. Wheels are Minilite,







▲ Brutish looks of the Celica TCT accentuated by Belga's traditional livery.



▲ The big radiator under the rear wing was a feature of 1985 Audi's quattro A2.

with marked tyres in the case of the GoodYear-shod car. Gordon Spice Racing entered both cars, driven by Gordon himself and Teddy Pilette, in 1978. The brothers Jean-Michel and Philippe Martin drove the Capri in 1980.

We go back to Le Mans for the next subject, a diecast sourced from one of many Altaya collections and built by Ixo. Gordon Spice, alongside Jean-Michel and Philippe Martin, who had a strong relationship with the Belga sponsor, drove the 1980 Rondeau M379B LM. The car was entered by Jean Rondeau's works team and finished third overall, the same year the sister car won the race. It is another typical Le Mans prototype, this time a closed coupe with a very wide glass area. It has a wide and low stance that Altaya/Ixo captured perfectly. It features details like



▲ Belga colours fit perfectly on any shape of racing car, as we can see in those as distinct as the Audi quattro and the Toyota Celica TCT.

The eighties was a

was a
period when
there was no
shortage of
rally events and
impressive
rally cars. Those
were the days of
Group B rules.

the black and aluminium rims, semi-enclosed rear wheels and double rear wings. You can even see the Ford Cosworth 3.0-litre V8's top and exhausts, as well as a detailed cockpit. Of course, Belga lettering is missing from this one, due to anti-tobacco laws, however it is not extremely difficult to source the missing decals from aftermarket sellers.

We've photographed the 1980 Rondeau next to another Le Mans prototype, in this case the 1983 Porsche 936 J. This was a project led by the well-known Joest Racing team. It was based on the 936 open top prototype that Porsche raced with great success a few years before. While Porsche and most of the other private teams were already entering the 956, Joest kept going with its own Group C prototype. The car, driven by Marc Duez and the Martin brothers, did not last much more than one hour, when the 2.7-litre turbo flat-six engine went up in smoke.

Spark, in its long-term mission to reproduce every car that has entered Le Mans, also reproduced this one as a resincast. Compare it with period pictures and you'll conclude there is not much to point out. The scale model features the same unique shapes and proportions of the real car, adding crucial details like the 956-style wheel rims, all the air scoops needed for the engine compartment, plus a nice view of the exhaust system and twin turbos under the rear wing. Headlamps are covered with plastic and tape, to protect them during daytime, but they never end up being used due to the early retirement. Belga logos are missing from this one too. However, Spark provides all that is needed for a complete livery.

RALLY TIME

Belga was not only interested in sponsoring circuitracing activities. If there was a chance to go rallying, it would also be there. The eighties was a period when there was no shortage of rally events and impressive rally cars. Those were the days of Group B rules.

Two of those Group B machines were the Toyota Celica Twin Cam Turbo and the other, the Audi quattro A2, both raced in 1985 under Belga colours. The Group B Toyota, also known internally under the code TA64, was not the quickest or the most versatile Group B rally car. It only had rear-wheel drive, not four-wheel drive like the fastest of that era. And its

RACING COLOURS – BELGA (PART 1)



strong point was always reliability, allowing the car to win multiple African rallies in that period. It was not the best car for a Belgian tarmac event like the 1985 Haspengouw Rally. However, when driven by one of the Toyota works teams, there was always something to expect. Especially if the pair inside the cockpit was Juha Kankkunen and Fred Gallagher. Featuring the number 1 on the doors and opening the early stages, this was return on investment enough for Belga to become interested. Kankkunen managed to win a few stages, but had no chance against cars like the Porsche 911 SC RS or the Lancia Rally 037. In the end, the Toyota was disqualified after post-event scrutineering. The brakes fitted to the Celica were ruled oversized, after Toyota Team Europe failed to show the homologation documents.

Ixo was not very much worried about the final result and got on with the job of reproducing the Belga Toyota TCT as a very nice diecast. The Celica Group B brutish three-box shape is perfectly reproduced by Ixo. The rear wing features a big air cooler, just after the metallic fuel filler cap. Those four, Cibié-branded, long distance spotlights, dominate the front view. The car sits relatively high on its multispoke wheels (much wider at the rear) and there are numerous other details, like the whisper-thin roof aerial, mud flaps for each wheel, sump guard and sliding windows. Inside the cockpit there's everything one might expect from an eighties rally car — racing seats with yellow harnesses, full roll-cage, extinguisher, complete instrument panel and much more.

The second Group B rally car is the 1985 Audi Quattro A4. This time, Belga decided to sponsor another high profile WRC driver to enter another Belgian event. Behind the wheel was Björn Waldegaard, co-driven by Hans Thorzelius and the event was the Boucles of Spa Rally. Driving one of most efficient cars of the time, Waldegaard was able to win the event overall, giving Belga one of its rare event wins as a sponsor. Scale model manufacturer Troféu, specialises in the rally scene, and only recently released this car, one of many derivatives of the same



▲ The 911 SC RS had a different style of rear wheel to that of the front.



▲ The traditional rally-spec 911's spotlight pod was not missed by Spark in this replica.

set of parts they have been used for some time. The basic shape is very good, with properly thin roof pillars and those trademark wide wheel arches, plus the rear wing over the radiator. Wheels are the iconic quattro five wide spoke items, probably the ones that look the best on a quattro. The front end features a bank of six spotlights, arranged in two groups of three. And then you start looking for smaller details, like the fasteners for the front bonnet, made with a pair of photoetched parts. The aerial looks about the perfect size and there are mud flaps behind each wheel. The early long-wheelbase quattros had big windows, so there's no difficulty to peek inside and see all that Troféu has arranged - racing seats, harnesses, instruments, extinguisher - nothing is missing from this one. The paint job also looks excellent.

For the last scale model in this first instalment, we go back to the 1985 Haspengouw Rally, to look at another contender – one that finished in second place. We're talking about Belgian ace Robert Droogmans, co-driven by Ronny Joosten, at the wheel of a magnificent Porsche 911 SC RS. This was also a rear-wheel drive Group B rally car, but one made for tarmac events, so there was no wonder it did well in this rally. Is was beaten only by rival Belgian driver Patrick Snijers at the wheel of a Lancia Rally 037, a true prototype.

Spark used its set of parts for the 911 SC RS and delivered another great looking version, this time complete with Belga sponsoring. Its slightly enlarged wheel arches, wide front spoiler and the iconic tea tray rear wing identify the shape of the 1985 SC RS. Spark did not miss a single one of those, of course. As it didn't miss the fact the car raced with different-styled wheels, front to rear, plus the traditional four spotlight pod over the front bonnet. The sheer precision of every detail is always what makes us admire Spark's work, so it feels a little frustrating that, because it used a low-height plastic box to package its models, sometimes the roof aerials tend to be cut much shorter than they were on the real car. A real shame.

There is plenty more to come in part 2... DC



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CIJ's fastest

Brian Salter matches a model to another vintage publication cover page.

t had to be blue, French racing blue, because it's French. Just perhaps there was a nod in the direction of our Bluebirds and, let's face it, the bodywork was hardly designed for a trip to the shops.

This, Renault's Étoile Filante (Shooting Star), was France's second gas turbine car. The first was the SOCEMA-Gregoire, developed by the renowned engineer who studied the original large French unit of some 3,000 hp. From this he deduced that 100 hp would suffice for a car. The results were shown at the 39th Paris Salon in October 1952.

The second, the Shooting Star, was the result of the 1954 partnership between Renault and the Turbomeca Co. It was made purely as an experiment rather than a prototype. After two years of development, it was demonstrated to the press at the Montlhéry track in 1956, by driver Jean Hebert, at speeds of up to 125 mph.

After further trials at Monza, the car was shipped to Salt Lake City and the Bonneville Flats, where it took three distance records for turbine cars at 308.9 kph. Two Renault engineers accompanied Hebert on this little jolly, which made quite a few sit up and take notice, maybe even those at Rover.

Just how the necessary mechanical components were packed under such a slender shape is amazing. Up front were the batteries and a supplementary fuel tank, the twin main tanks being either side of the driver. The turbine block was central just aft of midships, with the reduction gears to its rear. This

▲ Just how the necessary mechanical components were packed under such a slender shape is amazing.

CIJ No 3/2, released in 1957.





▲ Cover of the *Eagle* for 20th October 1962.

had to bring the shaft operating speed down from 28,000 rpm to a usable 2,500 rpm.

Also quick to respond were CIJ, its No 3/2 miniature becoming available in 1957. By this time, CIJ's cars were almost entirely to 1/43 scale, but this one works out at about 1/45.

The body shape has allowed a very clean casting, with no mould join lines to be seen on the upper surfaces. Also, all the panel lines are recessed – nice work indeed. The separate driver fits neatly in the small cockpit, with a tiny Perspex screen in front. A large horizontal grille on each side supplies air to the centrifugal compressor, whilst two small vertical ones assist in exhaust dispersal.

Our cover this time comes from the *Eagle* for the 30th October 1962, a period when various performance cars were similarly featured. These were from various periods and many, probably all, were painted by the well known artist Roy Cross, forever associated with many an Airfix kit box-top.



Two new lensens

he last year of the Jensen C-V8 Mk
III was 1966 and, in many ways, the
end of an era of shapely handbuilt
Grand Tourers, equipped with a
separate chassis. At the Earls Court
Motor Show, Jensen displayed the C-V8 FF, the
prototype for the car that astounded the world
with its innovative anti-lock braking and Ferguson
four-wheel drive, but also an all new sporting GT,
designed to enter the American market.

THE P66

This was the P66, intended to replace the production of the Austin Healey, with equally conservative styling, and apart from some differences at the rear end, under the skin it was powered by the C-V8's 383ci Chrysler engine, mated to the Torquelite auto transmission. Just two prototypes were built – a convertible and a coupé – both to be known as Interceptor. Despite being popular at the motor show, it was not to be, and the Jensen board rejected any further production, looking forward to the use of Italian designers to create the Interceptor we know today. While the convertible was scrapped, the coupé lives on, and after an extensive rebuild to concours standards, has now found a new home in the Netherlands.

- ▲ The Jensen P66, seen here as the final colour sample of the model in white.
- The sole prototype P66 in wonderful restored condition.

David Wright details two shortlived classics in the Jensen dynasty and his involvement in the models by Matrix.



THE GT

Known simply as GT, this stylish car from Jensen owes its origins to the Jensen Healey, but after Donald had left the board. It was born in an era when estates created from sporting cars were popular, the Scimitar GTE being one. Its cousin, the Lotus Elite, with which it shares a common engine, was similarly derived from the Esprit. The car became known as the popular stylish sporting estate for the United States, and thus for saving







- 2 The P66 solid resin prototype.
- 3 The GT solid resin prototype.
- 4 First shot of the P66.



▲ The Thoroughbred Models Healey, in RHD, crafted in white metal.



Neo Healey, crafted in resin.



▲ Final colour sample of the P66 in California Sage, as restored.



First shot of the GT.

the ailing Jensen company. Released in June 1975, it had been intended to take a Lotus-boosted Vauxhall engine, but instead was powered by the Lotus 1973 4-cylinder low emission power plant. It received high praise in the States on its launch, and so the RHD version for the UK came along, with luxury fittings, but priced at £1,000 more than an MGB GT. Manufacture finally ceased in 1976, after just over 500 had been built.

MODELS TO DATE

While the Jensen Healey has been modelled by both Thoroughbred Models and Neo Scale Models, no models have vet been made of either the P66 Prototype or the GT. The Thoroughbred Models Healey is a lovely and crisply-cast model of the 1973 Mk I Jensen Healey, as TM 1 in its series. In bright red, with matt black interior, plated parts including accurate wheels, which run freely, detailed number plate, all adding up to a superbly finished rendition, and for some years the only model of this sports car, until Neo Scale Models introduced their version. Equipped with photo-etched windscreen and quarter-lights, and very neat and accurate badges, this was the Mk II, and available first in silver, then red and more recently green.

Readers may know of the willingness of model makers such as Silas Models and Matrix Scale Models to respond to collector suggestions. Well, and after a successful project to bring a model C-V8 into being with both these makers, asking Jaap van Dijk and Mark Asbreuk, founders

of Matrix Scale Models to consider both the P66 and the GT was like pushing at an open door. Potential outlets with the Jensen Owners Clubs worldwide, together with the mystique surrounding the P66 in particular feed the motivation to create something new.

It was in a Christmas 2017 exchange of emails with Mark that I first learnt that Matrix Scale Models would indeed begin the 2 Jensen projects of the P66 and the GT. This would take some time to reach fruition, as the makers had many other models in the pipeline before these two.

Sure enough, by February 2018, I received an email from Mark advising that they had started both projects as from December 2017, but there was nothing to show just yet. He expected to see the first raw hard patterns when he returned to China in April. In mid February, the factory was closed for the Chinese New Year Celebration, and would reopen early March. I was asked if I could source photos of the chassis/underside for both cars, from members of the Jensen Owners Club. This would make the models much more accurate. The engineers working on the project would start with the body, so this was not urgent.

By early May 2018, a hard pattern had been produced to ensure all lines and proportions were correct. I was lucky enough to be shown this, as at this stage the work was particularly commercially sensitive. Progress came in large chunks in November 2018, when the first images, of what in the motor trade would be called the clay model, arrived for both cars. These are solid, and made of

CLASSIC ROAD CARS



▲ Deco sample of the GT in metallic blue.



▲ Deco sample of the GT in Saturn Gold.



▲ Front-on view of the GT in metallic blue.

a soft resin, and wow, the models were at last real! Comments were needed from owners to ensure small details, as well as proportions were accurate, in scale, and in the right place!

I had already been in touch with the previous owner of the P66, who had systematically taken the car apart and fully restored it to safe roadworthy condition, and he was keen to help. For the GT, I had a good friend who often brings his car to classic car shows to broaden the understanding of the range of models that Jensen made. Following consultation with both, I had a list to send to Mark. Fortunately, the resin used in producing this first prototype can easily be altered in response to comments, which the makers out in China can, of course, receive only from Mark.

After approval of this 'hard pattern', there will be a mould and casting made, from which the real prototype will be shaped. Just the body will be made as a shell, and remaining parts such as interior, wheels and bumpers will be created separately from styrene, ABS and PVC.

By January 2019, Mark broke the news that Matrix had many models in the pipeline, more than 180 at that time, so the production of these 2 models would be delayed until 2020. I needed to hold my breath then for quite a while. We kept in touch, and sure enough in November 2019, came the prototype deco-samples of the P66, followed a month later by the GT. As you can see, in comparing these early samples with the real cars, the overall lines are well replicated, but sure enough our intrepid owners/experts found a few minor alterations still needed, which showed up only too well in the colour sample. These additional comments all came back to me, then to Mark in the Netherlands and then on to China, where we very much hoped that they would all be incorporated.

A series of still very current delays then occurred. First came Chinese New Year, the

celebrations for which can hold up production almost everywhere in China. Overlaid with that was the tragic and international repercussions of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Matrix models are made in the province of Guangdong, south of Wuhei where the outbreak started. Not surprisingly, the infection rates initially in Guangdong were the second highest in China, and industry there was seriously affected. Production was slowed to a standstill, but early testing and other steps brought the epidemic under control. However, this effect was felt throughout the collecting worlds, when supplies of new releases from companies making models in China seemed to cease. It has only been in the early weeks of June that we have begun to see movement.

Sure enough, in mid-June 2020, I received an email from Mark, with images of the latest colour sample of the P66 to view, and the promise that a GT colour sample will be with us soon. As this article was being considered by our editor, amazingly, images of the deco samples of the GT also arrived, and so I am pleased to be able to feature these here. The proportions, stance and external detail look really good, and the internal detail shows an excellent dashboard. The front view is almost perfect!

The production run of the P66 arrived during July 2020, and were soon on eBay, and both colours look great. Released in California Sage metallic green (No MX41002-131) and white (MX41002-132), Jensen Owners Club members were able to obtain these direct from their Regalia officer. The GT followed soon after, available in metallic Saturn Gold (MX41002-141) and metallic blue (MX41002-142).

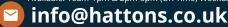
And so another two rare Jensens get immortalised in fine collectors' models, ensuring that this great British Marque is remembered for many years to come.



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1:72 Scale

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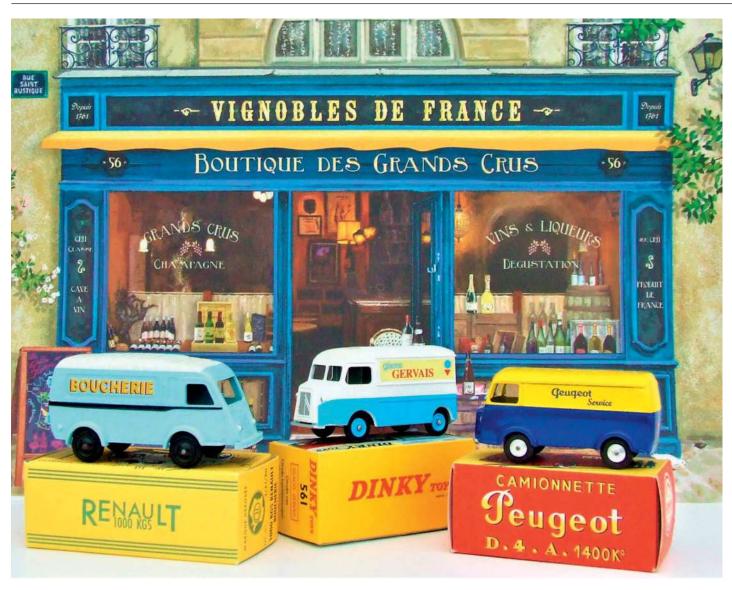


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Other Scale Corgi - Cars



CLASSIC PEUGEOT COMMERCIAL VEHICLES



Peugeot D3/ D4 van

The popularity of Peugeot's 1950s delivery van with toymakers is second only to its rival from Citroën, the H van, as **Andrew Ralston** finds out.

he Citroën H van, with its boxy proportions and corrugated metal panels, is the most recognisable of French delivery vans of the 1950s, but it had competition in the form of the Renault 1000kg and Peugeot D3A. In their day, all three of these were frequently to be found in model form and, after a gap of several decades, vast numbers of new variants started to reappear in the various partwork series that are so popular in France. Back in February and March 2007, Diecast Collector

▲ The Renault 1000kg, Citroën H and Peugeot D3/4 vans were the three workhorses that kept French businesses moving in the fifties and sixties. All have proved popular in model form. The three pictured here are modern replicas by (left to right) CIJ, Atlas Dinky and Quiralu.

covered models of the Citroën H Van in depth – this time, we take a look at the Peugeot.

If the lines of the Citroën were angular, those of the Peugeot were more rounded, though rather spoilt by the way the radiator stuck out at the front, hence the unflattering nickname of 'nez de cochon' (literally "pig's nose"). It didn't start off looking that way, though. In fact, it wasn't even a Peugeot design. The van was developed by another firm, called Chenard & Walcker, during World War II, with an eye on meeting France's commercial transport



▲ The van was fitted with various different engines over the years, but by the time of this 1960 sales brochure was little changed externally.



requirements in the post-war era. Unlike the mechanically conventional Renault, the Chenard & Walcker (launched in 1946) and the Citroën H van (unveiled the following year) both had a front wheel-drive layout. However, the Chenard & Walcker suffered from an inadequate two-cylinder engine, which was soon replaced by a Peugeot fourcylinder unit. Aesthetically, the price to be paid was that the van lost its smoothly-rounded aspect as the front had to be extended to accommodate the bigger engine. Chenard & Walcker was struggling financially and was absorbed by Peugeot in 1950. The van was thereafter badged as a Peugeot, gaining the designation D3A when the engine size was again extended with the fitting of the power plant from the 203 saloon. The pattern was repeated in 1955 when the 1,468 cc engine from the new 403 saloon was slotted into the van, now known as the D4A, though in external appearance very little changed. A diesel unit was offered from 1959 onwards and the van gave way to the much more modern looking J7 in 1965.

The D3/D4 vans, along with the Renault 1000kg and Citroën H, were faithful workhorses for French tradesmen and shopkeepers well into the 1980s. With an ubiquitous presence, in town and country alike, these vans were not surprisingly

- ▲ Classic Dinky Peugeot van in 'Lampe Mazda' livery dates from 1953. Photo: Vectis
- 1 Quiralu's interpretation of the Peugeot in the livery of 'Ducretet Thomson', a radio and television supplier. *Photo:* Vectis



▲ This van by Salza is in a chunky style and represents one of the vehicles that accompanied the Tour de France cycle race. *Photo: Vectis*



▲ Dark green 'Postes' livery is the easiest version of the Dinky to find. *Photo: Vectis*



plentiful in model form. CIJ's long historical connection with Renault resulted in numerous miniatures of the 1000kg, either in public service guise (ambulance, gendarmerie, SNCF railways, post and telephones) or liveries such as 'Primistères' (a chain of grocery shops) or 'Shell' (petrol pump maintenance), as well as some elusive promotionals. Another firm, JRD, had an analogous relationship with Citroën, leading to both diecast and tinplate replicas of the HVan that was, of course, also modelled by Dinky, Norev and Minialuxe, among others. As far as the Peugeot was concerned, the greatest number of diecast variants came from two firms — Dinky and Quiralu — but there are a few other lesser-known replicas too.

DINKY TOYS

September 1953 saw the announcement of French Dinky No 25B, a Peugeot D3A in green and yellow 'Lampe Mazda' livery, a model that is also notable for being one of the very first to come individually boxed in the classic yellow carton design, which would thereafter become so recognisable. This livery is rare as it was only produced for a matter of months. More common is the dark green 'Postes' version, numbered 25BV, and later 560, which was listed until 1961. The word 'Postes' was initially

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applied by tampo-printing and later by decals, on which some very minor variations in the shape and size of the letters have been noted.

'Lampe Mazda' and 'Postes' are the only two liveries you're likely to come across on the Dinky, but the French auction house Collectoys is famed for offering unrecorded variants and factory colour trials, and several of these have emerged in recent years. Plain vans without advertising, finished in dark blue or various tones of grey, may not sound very exciting, but these are believed to belong to small batches made to order for Peugeot dealerships, and have achieved record prices at Collectoys, ranging between 2,800 and 4,800 €. Even that is eclipsed by an example in turquoise with 'Cibié' decals borrowed from the standard issue Dinky Citroën H van, which went for 7.500 €, helped no doubt by the impeccable provenance of having belonged to the collection of Jean-Michel Roulet, author of the history of French Dinky. Collectoys has also sold a rather battered colour trial in blue with 'Kodak' lettering, salvaged from the French Meccano factory in Bobigny, and the existence of 'Esso' (red) and 'Peugeot Service' (grey or yellow/ blue) versions has also been authenticated by toy expert Vincent Espinasse, who runs the Paris model shop, L'Auto Jaune.

QUIRALU

Quiralu was a company founded during the 1930s, in Luxeuil-les-Bains, in the French Haute-Saône region. The trademark is a combination of the name of the founder, Monsieur Quirin, and the

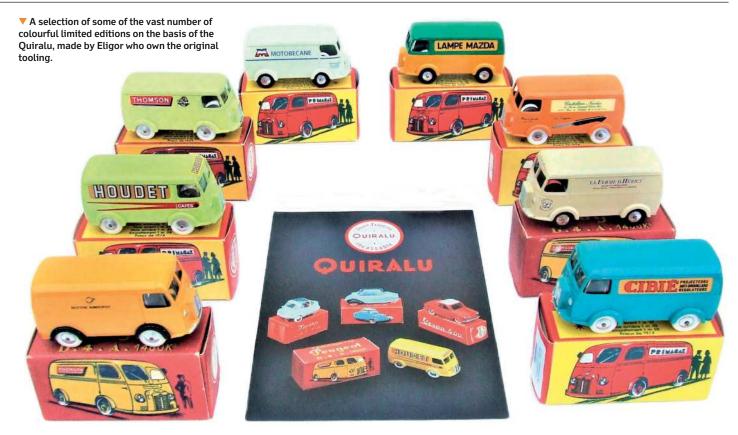
- 1 Norey's grey version, also in 1/18 scale, may not be so colourful, but in real life many small businesses would have used such plain yans.
- 2 The Norev also appears as a Chenard & Walcker.
- 3 The striking livery of 'La Vache Qui Rit' (cheese) looks good on Norev's 1/18 van.
- 4 This 1/43 scale Norev model represents the original Chenard & Walcker design of 1946, the main difference being the lack of a protruding radiator.



▲ As this 1948 advertisement indicates, the Chenard & Walcker acquired the larger grille when fitted with a Peugeot engine, before the production of the van was eventually taken over by Peugeot.

word aluminium, the material from which he made saucepans before branching into toy farm animals and soldiers. By the 1950s, these were looking a bit old-fashioned and, as model cars were becoming increasingly popular, the company decided to enter this market. In France alone, Dinky, CIJ and Solido already offered extensive ranges of diecast cars, but Quiralu evidently felt there was room for one more. Unfortunately, there wasn't and, excluding colour and livery variations, only thirteen different models were issued in the period between 1956 and 1960. One of these was a Peugeot D4A van, which is very close to the Dinky in size, both models working out at approximately 1/50 scale.

Several variations of the Quiralu were introduced in 1957 and 1958. It came in the livery of 'Ducretet Thomson', a supplier of televisions and household appliances, usually in a creamy-yellow shade, and in red with 'Primagaz' (bottled gas) decals on the lower half of the body. It is likely there was some liaison between Quiralu, Ducretet Thomson and Primagaz that led to the choice of their logos. That was certainly the case with two rare promotionals, one advertising 'Cafés Houdet' and the other 'Sept Prix Tananarive', which was apparently a furniture shop in Madagascar. Tananarive was the French name of the capital city, now known as Antananarivo. Madagascar was a French colony until 1960, which explains the presence of Quiralu toys in that part of the world. The Quiralu was also issued as a khaki-coloured military ambulance and, after the tooling had passed to another firm called Eria, the model appeared in plain dark red and grey



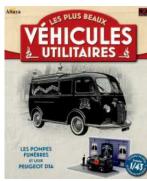
colours, packed in a box marked with the name Punch, a French toy distributor.

SALZA

A lesser-known French toy company was founded in 1960, by Victor Salza, and is particularly associated with replicas of bicycles and vehicles associated with the Tour de France cycle race. For a long time these were looked down upon - they would originally have been sold in markets and general stores rather than toy and model outlets - and often came simply packaged in transparent plastic covers rather than boxes. Needless to say, times have changed and these are now highly sought-after. In the fifties, a 'caravan' of advertising vehicles with extravagant coachwork and paint finishes used to follow the cycle race. Other vehicles were necessary to service the needs of the competitors, and in this category Salza produced a Peugeot van in grey, dark green or yellow, covered with copious decals with 'L'Equipe Parisien' in the side panels. Some, like the real vehicles, have roof-mounted loudspeakers and roof signs reading 'Voiture Balai' - literally 'brush' or 'broom' - their function being to sweep the track. A mint example might even have a miniature broom attached at the back!

BOURBON

At this point, you might think we would turn to plastic offerings from Norev or Minialuxe, but the D3A van was not modelled by either of these firms. However, a friction-powered plastic Peugeot in approximately 1/42 scale can be found from a smaller manufacturer, Vape-Bourbon. This was a combination of two different businesses, Vapé (short for Vanotti and Perinetti), who moulded the models, and Bourbon, who applied the liveries for



▲ Many different Peugeot vans have appeared in the various French partwork series in which the model is accompanied by a magazine providing historical background. This is from Altaya's "Les Plus Beaux Vehicules Utilitaires".



▲ The recent Minialuxe diecast in 1/43 scale. Relatively few liveries have appeared on this casting.

customers for promotional purposes. The range of Peugeot vans, Berliet trucks and Poclain excavators was made to a high standard and many are rare today. The Peugeot was supplied to many different corporate clients, with their names or logos stamped on the side. These include 'Primagaz', 'Lipton's Tea,' food producer 'Milliat Frères' and 'Radio-Television Schneider'. Fitted with white tyres, these vans look particularly attractive and have the advantage that the type of plastic material used does not warp as sometimes happens with Norevs and Minialuxes.

RECENT ISSUES

When the D4 gave way to the J7 range in 1965, toy manufacturers inevitably turned to the newer design for inspiration, and French Dinky, Norev and Bourbon all produced many variants of this while the older van was forgotten. By the 1990s, though, interest in cars and vans of the fifties and sixties revived and, with diecasts now being produced for adults to collect rather than for children to play with, a flood of new D3/4 castings appeared from Corgi, Norev, Solido and Ixo, among others, many of which were also issued in the various partwork series.

NOREV

In 1989, Norev reinvented itself as a producer of collectors' models, rather than of toys, and since then the Lyon-based company has certainly made up for the omission of the Peugeot van from its earlier plastic toy range. A particular strength of Norev has always been originality in packaging and marketing, and in the early 1990s, models for collectors were offered in three categories with their own distinctive branding and box styles, namely 'Collection', 'Ligne émotion' and the top-of-the-range 'Ligne noire'. In 1994, a model van,

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based not on the Peugeot but the earlier Chenard & Walcker was introduced, in the red/yellow livery of 'Kub' (a brand of stock cube), green/cream 'Vals' (mineral water) and dark blue/beige for 'La Voix de son Maitre', more familiar in English as 'His Master's Voice'. As part of the 'Ligne émotion', this model was entitled to a large and imposing box carrying the Chenard & Walcker logo.

With the addition of the extended front, the van was also made as a Peugeot D3A in 'Miko' ice cream livery (blue/cream) and as a dark green 'Postes' van. A replica of a real D4A ambulance with 'Aspro' livery, as used on the Tour de France, was made in small quantities in 1995. Most of these vans were only produced for a short time but, a decade later, several appeared again, along with some new liveries and some other versions made for specific partwork series (of which more later). But that wasn't all, Norev has also branched into 1/18 scale, which allows for an astonishing level of detail inside and out. In this size, the van comes both as a dark green Chenard & Walcker and as a Peugeot in plain grey, and in the liveries of 'La Vache Qui Rit' (cream), 'Butagaz' (metallic blue), 'Sapeurs Pompiers Ville de Cassis' (red) and 'Cycles Peugeot' (yellow and blue).

CORGI HERITAGE

In addition to producing a vast range of classic British commercial vehicles, Corgi saw the potential of an equivalent 'Collection Heritage' series based on French subjects. New issues came thick and fast during a relatively short period, between 2000 and 2005, when over thirty variants on the Peugeot D3A appeared. As was common at the time, these were designated as limited editions, mostly being produced in quantities of between 1,900 and 3,000 pieces. The British 'Archive Corgi' models revived popular Corgi liveries of the sixties like Lucozade and Moorhouses' Jam and, in the same way, finishes such as 'Cibié' and 'Postes'

were borrowed from the earlier French Dinkies. Similarly, Corgi used the blue and yellow of 'Brandt' electrical goods that had previously appeared on a late JRD Citroën H Van casting supplied in a CIJ box shortly before the demise of that firm. Other recognisable French brand names included 'Glaces Miko' (ice cream), 'Vache Grosjean' (cheese) and 'Michelin'.

Corgi modified the van casting to produce a minibus with side windows, allowing for further variants, while several of the vans had extra roof accessories on the lines of the publicity vehicles used in the Tour de France caravan, such as 'Faraghi Vins Superieurs' in two-tone blue and white with roof loudspeaker and a yellow 'Michelin' minibus with extra roof signs and the obligatory 'Michelin' man at the front. The Peugeot's Chenard & Walcker ancestry was not forgotten either, and this version was produced in dark green, correctly fitted with the curved radiator. The only problem for the collector was that these issues were all brought

- 5 'Caisson de Recompression' (diving chamber) van, one of more than thirty variations on Corgi's 1/43 scale D3A van. *Photo: Hattons*
- 6 Corgi has frequently produced models in Michelin colours, including the Peugeot. *Photo:* Hattons
- 7 'Faraghi' wines is one of the most elaborate liveries on the Corgi van. *Photo: Hattons*
- 8 Both Corgi and Ixo found this 'Chocolat Poulain' livery impossible to resist. This is the Ixo issue.



▲ 'Natural Le Coultre' is a removals firm based in Geneva.



▲ Comparatively unfamiliar in the UK, the plastic model by Bourbon was issued in many promotional liveries, most of which are very hard to find.

▼ Altaya's hearse comes complete with a display plinth and funeral director figure.





▲ 'Decoclean' is a particularly attractive finish, produced for a Parisian painting and decorating firm – 120 examples of this issue were produced in 2018. Decoclean had previously commissioned 100 examples of the same van in a different blue and grey livery in 2001.



▲ The striking blue and yellow 'Cycles Peugeot' livery has appeared on numerous models and is a reminder that, before he started making cars, Armand Peugeot built bicycles from 1882 onwards. This model is by Norev in 1/18 scale which allows for an astonishing level of detail, not only externally but internally, as the side and rear doors open.



▲ This version of the Quiralu carries the logo of another Geneva removals company, Brosset, and only fifty examples were produced in this black finish.



▲ This van is one of several Quiralu models produced for a Normandy-based farm that sells dairy products.



▲ Atlas 75th anniversary of Dinky Toys gift set contained the Peugeot in grey with a Dinky Toys Club decal first seen on the Citroën 2CV van. Photo: Vectis

out in such quick succession that it would have been expensive to keep up with them at the time, but most can still be acquired at a more leisurely pace from online sellers, generally at less than the original price.

PARTWORK SERIES

This is where the picture becomes complicated. Various manufacturers - Norev, Solido, Eligor and, above all, Ixo, a relative newcomer - have all modelled a Peugeot D3/4 that has been produced in a bewildering variety of liveries for 'partwork' series, which are initially sold in newsagents along with a magazine, the idea being to entice the collector to subscribe to the full collection. It would be impossible to list them all, though the collection in which the Peugeot appears most frequently is Altaya's "Nos chères camionettes d'Antan" started in 2006, which contained an Ixo casting in 'Poulain', 'Chicorée Wilmot', 'Sapeurs Pompiers (fire)', 'Spar' and 'Pâtes Délices' finishes. Altava marketed a parallel collection for the Spanish market called "Furgonetas de Antaño" in which the Peugeot was dressed up in green and red 'Tio Pepe' sherry livery. Various other series have contained Peugeot vans but perhaps the most interesting development of the partwork concept lies in the idea of supplying the model along with a scenic diorama. Altaya's "La Route Bleue" series comes with two figures and a toolkit, attempting to fix their broken-down van. The "Les Plus Beaux Véhicules Utilitaires" series, also by Altaya, places a van in the popular blue/ yellow Peugeot Cycles livery outside a bicycle shop called 'La Petite Reine'. From the same collection comes another scene that might not have such a wide appeal – a D3A hearse outside the funeral parlour, complete with a solemn undertaker figure.

MINIALUXE

Minialuxe was originally a French brand of plastic

cars similar to Norevs. The name was revived in 2012 by an enthusiast named Marc Faujanet, who launched an ambitious range of 1/43 scale diecasts made from completely new tooling whose style owed relatively little to the original simple plastic toys. One of these was a D4A van, which has the distinction of being the only model in this scale pictured on these pages with opening rear doors. The 'spun hubs' style of wheels recalls the classic Dinky/Corgi era and Minialuxe gave the models an upmarket appeal by fitting jewelled headlights in the form of crystals supplied by Swarovski, makers of ornaments and jewellery. The new Minialuxes, however, were expensive to buy.

QUIRALU AGAIN

Collectors talk about 'reissues' today, but in most cases these are more accurately described as 'recreations', as it doesn't happen very often that the old tooling survives to be put back into operation many years later. But this did occur with Quiralu and the moulds for the Peugeot van ended up in the hands of Louis Surber of Eligor.

A catalogue issued in 1995 shows six variations on the Peugeot van, essentially the same liveries as the originals, namely 'Postes', 'Houdet', 'Thomson' (two variants), 'Primagaz' and military ambulance. Far more numerous, however, are the promotionals done to special order by Eligor who, at least until a few years ago, accepted orders for small batches of these (80 - 100 pieces, or sometimes fewer). Inevitably, some are more attractive than others and a selection is pictured here. For a time, one French enthusiast living near the Swiss border regularly commissioned special liveries, mostly with a Swiss connection, such as 'Brosset' and 'Natural Le Coultre', Geneva-based removals and storage firms. Another repeat customer was La Ferme de Héricy in the Seine-et-Marne Département, a producer of dairy and other food products which

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has commissioned numerous Quiralu models in different finishes, including an unusual design in white with black markings resembling a cow!

ATLAS DINKY

Between 2008 and 2017, many classic Dinky models were reproduced by Norev on behalf of Atlas, and the D3A was issued in the green/yellow 'Lampe Mazda' and turquoise 'Cibié' liveries as well as in a special 2009 'Dinky Toys 75th Anniversary set' in grey with "Club Dinky Toys" lettering. There is also a blue and yellow 'Peugeot Service' van which, in attempt to create rarity, was offered by Atlas to collectors who subscribed to two separate French Atlas Dinky collectors, cars and commercial vehicles. This is apparently based on a genuine factory issue of which only one example is known to survive

The same tooling has appeared under other names. Norev revived the CIJ trademark, and the Norev 2016 catalogue shows the van in the popular blue and yellow 'Cycles Peugeot' livery in a red and blue picture box with dual CIJ/Norev markings. This was issued in an edition of 1,000 pieces. Then there's the Dan Toys range, marketed by a Paris toy dealer, on which various classic French brand logos have been applied with quite attractive results, such as 'La Vache Qui Rit' cheese (white) and 'Comap Robinetterie' (blue), a plumbing equipment firm whose logo was previously used on JRD models of

► For the Spanish market, Altaya produced a parallel series called "Furgonetas de Antaño", in which the Peugeot appears in the colours of 'Tio Pepe' sherry.

Citroën vans in the fifties.

With the modern replicas of the original Quiralu and Dinky Toys, the history of Peugeot D3/D4 models come full circle. However, in the unlikely event that you manage to collect all the many obsolete and current Peugeot vans examined here, one ultimate interpretation remains. Michel Aroutcheff is a modelmaker based in France who specialises in vehicles that feature in comic books such as 'Tintin', 'Spirou' and 'Blake and Mortimer', handcrafting these in limited numbers using lacquered wood, resin and metal materials. The Belgian series "Blake and Mortimer", by Edgar P. Jacobs, traces the adventures of British scientist Professor Mortimer and Captain Blake of MI5. In the story "S.O.S. Météors", Blake 'borrows' a postal van to escape his pursuers, a moment immortalised in three-dimensions in 2016 in the form of Aroutcheff's 37 cm long model, of which only 199 were produced, all long sold out. DC

Similar in size, style and colour – the Atlas Dinky (left) and Ouiralu (right).



▲ Hachette's "Blake & Mortimer" partwork series contains a 1/43 size replica of the same van, this time with 'snow' on the roof, as in the original drawing.



▲ Eligor is another manufacturer offering a 1/43 scale Peugeot, shown here in the colours of Steenvoorde yoghurt. This is a standard issue in the Eligor range rather than a partwork model.



▲ The Eligor in 'Butagaz' colours.



FURTHER INFORMATION

For more on the French Dinky factory colour trials, see the blog of Vincent Espinasse at https://autojauneblog.fr/2010/10/30/peugeot-d3a-cibie-a-service/

The same site contains a listing of liveries on the Vape-Bourbon van at https://autojauneblog.fr/2011/10/30/fantastiques-peugeot-plastique/For a list of all variations on the Corgi Heritage model, see http://autoboite.fr/heritage/heritage.htm

For a list of variations on the reissued Quiralu casting, see http://miniatures-edf-gdf.fr/quiralu-eria-peugeot-d4a/



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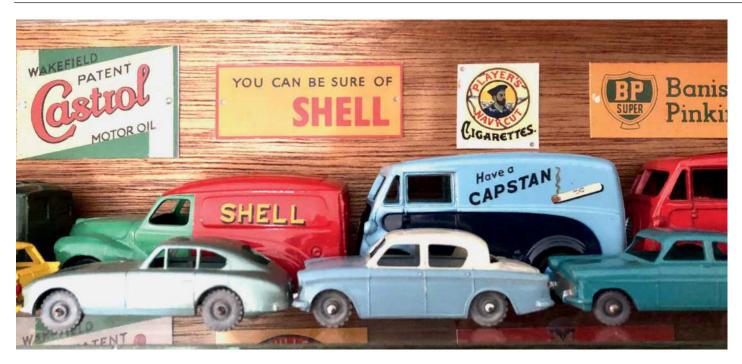








PANZERKAMPF



Time on your hands

Ian McDermott shares some excellent tips and ideas to help keep your collection under control.

eed a little inspiration for those idle moments or maybe a little something to avoid the DIY? Here are some ideas to fill your collecting 'downtime'...

CATALOGUING

I know a number of collectors don't keep any records of when or where they bought their acquisitions, some don't even recall the price they paid, but that could be for entirely different reasons!

It's a good idea to catalogue your collection for several reasons. For one, for insurance purposes. It's provident to have a written record of your collection and preferably a photographic one too. If you have specialist cover, this would be essential should you need to make a claim. On a lighter note, it's also a handy reference as to what you have already have in your collection. More than once I've heard collectors commenting about purchasing a model only to find a similar one languishing in a drawer once they returned home.

MAINTENANCE

So, how long has it been since you moved anything on those shelves? Many cabinets are not entirely dust proof and occasionally models need a gentle clean. Now is also a good opportunity to check if any of your models have developed flat

▲ These miniature tin advertising signs really add visual interest as a backdrop to a collection.



▲ Flat tyres on static models are all too common but can be easily avoided.

tyres. It's not always older models that can suffer from this malady either.

Whilst it's devoid of models, clean out the cabinet too. It's not only models on display that need checking on. Anything that has been wrapped up and put into storage can also deteriorate. Not all wrapping paper is acid free and I've witnessed bubble wrap wreaking havoc on a model's paintwork whilst packed away.

CHANGE

Now you have everything out, do you really want to reassemble the same display? If you have space, why not compose a diorama or add some petrol pumps and oil bins to break up the scene? Or try putting up some of the miniature tin advertising signs, they make a highly attractive backdrop to vintage models and they're in scale to boot!

CABINET MEETING

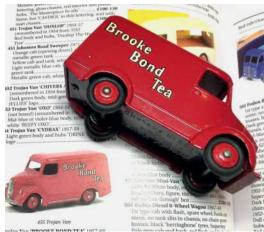
You should also ask yourself if your models are displayed in the right place. Be mindful of where you display your collection too. Avoid putting them above radiators or in direct sunlight. It's often easy to overlook sunlight as it may only fall on your collection at certain times of the day. The last thing anyone wants is pink fire engines. And if those models are stashed away in a cupboard, bring them out!





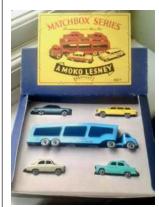
▲ There are so many routes one can go down. Where would we be without projects?





▲ Wondering exactly how much insurance cover you need? Ramsay's Guide is invaluable when it comes to this (the very latest update is due in September - see page 21 of this issue to find out how to pre-order).

- 1 If you've ended up buying two identical models it may be time to do a proper inventory.
- 2 Petrol pumps may be obvious accessories, but they look great and don't have to cost a fortune either.



▲ Reproductions of rare presentation gift set boxes can make great display pieces utilising easily found models.

GET IT SORTED

Now could be the time to take stock, maybe literally. I always find it therapeutic to have a good sort through the collection, either to weed out anything that's not really up to the grade or indeed anything I've doubled up on. It may also be time to take a new direction, in which case it might be the right point to move on some of your collection, or at least thin it out. It's good to routinely evaluate where your collection is heading as it stops things going stale and keeps your enthusiasm up.

NEXT STOP, THE SHED

Then you may have an odds box. This box can be contain anything from a collection of restoration projects to models you no longer want, but don't have any real value to move on. So, get restoring or selling. You'll soon wonder why it took so long to get around to it. Lose yourself in the shed for a few hours, preferably with the radio on and a strong cup of tea.

CODE 3 FOR ME?

If you restore or refinish models, now may be the time to try your hand at 'chops' or Code 3s, as they're known. With the advent of Atlas Dinky toys, you can construct all those models you wish had been issued back in the day.

This can open up a whole new thread of collecting and I've seen some great examples such as a re-liveried Dinky Bedford car transporter in Vauxhall guise carrying a complement of Cresta

saloons. It all takes a certain level of skill, but there is a lot of fun to be had in the journey and a great deal of satisfaction in the finish.

BOXING CLEVER

There are two ideas here if you are computer savvy - you can access lots of repro box templates on-line that can really make a cabinet display. I've similarly seen early Matchbox step stand displays posted flat packed for home construction, which are fantastic in the cabinet. The skills needed to construct the boxes can be picked up quickly and the outlay for materials is modest in comparison to the satisfaction and the displays that one can create.

SWOTTING UP

Whilst you're on the PC, you'll also know how it's possible to waste an awful lot of time doing nothing at all. Well, with a bit of time on your hands, why not join and drop into some of the great toy forums and sites. With a little tenacity, it's possible to track down some great articles and variations listings — www.vintagebritishdiecasts. co.uk being one such site.

Alternatively, go on to Amazon or ebay and track down some of those books you always promised yourself. Good second-hand reading copies can often be bought for very little and as we all know it's nice to grab a bargain. Whatever you decide to do, now is the time to enjoy this great hobby of ours.



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161 Austin Somerset Black & Beige & Beige Wheels. A/B+ £345
165 Humber Hawk Black & Green roof version. Scarce. Last version with silver extra detail and blacked out number plates.

Correct lighter yellow picture box. A—A/B+ £250
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177 Opel Kapitan Blue. A/A Superb example. **£160**178 Plymouth Plaza Two Tone Blue & late Non Picture Box.
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301 Field Marshall Tractor Orange Green metal wheels. P/Piece. A/B **£240**

344 Estate Car Brown & Cream Wheels. A-/A- **£130** 420 Forward Control Lorry Red & Green Wheels. A—A/A-Superb Ex. **£200**

422 Fordson Thames Flat Truck Red A—A/A- £145
438 Ford D800 Tipper Truck Met Red-Met Blue & Yellow.
A—A/A- £175

470 Austin 'Shell ' Van Red & Green. A-/B **£150** 491 Milk Float 'Job's' Dairies Cream & Red. Plain Yellow Box. Scarce. A—A/A **£325**

651 Centurion Tank Semi Gloss Green finish.
Yellow Hudson Dobson Box. A/A- £145
677 Armoured Command Vehicle Military Green Satin finish.
A/A- £145

697 25 Pounder Field Gun Set. Packing Piece. Yellow Hudson Dobson Box. A—A/B+ £180 902 Foden 2nd Cab Flatbed Yellow & Green. Very Scarce.& Superb. A—A/B+ £1600

DINKY SALES STOCK CONT.

942 Foden 'Regent' Tanker. Dark Blue-Red-White A—A/A- £450 943 Leyland ESSO Tanker. Rare Plastic Wheels. A Factory Touch in. Red A—A £595

FRENCH DINKY SALES STOCK

025O Ford Milk Truck Set. Scarce. Blue & White. A/A- £625 579/33C Simca Mirror Cargo Truck Grey A—A/B+ £130 810 Command Car with Camouflage netting. Inc Complete Transfer sheet. A/A- £160

CORGI SALES STOCK

201 Austin Cambridge Silver-Metallic green A-/B+ £195
238 Jaguar MK X Scarce Colour Turquoise. 2 Cases. A-/B+ £275
262 Lincoln Continental Gold A/B+ £195
275 Rover 2000 TC Met Green-Brown Interior. A—A/A- £140
312 'E' Type Jaguar Gold Chrome A-/A- £160
354 Military Ambulance A—A/B+ £180
421 Bedford Evening Standard Van Black & Silver roof only.
A/A- £225

330 Porsche Carrera 6 White & Red RN60 Blue Cover. A/B+ £120 438 Land-Rover. Met Green. Dark Olive Canopy. Spun Wheels A/A- £180

438 LR 'LEPRA' Promotional. Met Green. Dk Olive Top Cast wheels. Scarce. A/B+ **£550**

479 Commer 'Samuelson' Camera Van. Rare Cast hubs.
Gold Tripod. A/B+-A- £280

486 Chevrolet Kennel Service Wagon. Complete with 4 dogs.

Cast Whls. A—A/A- £225

506 Police Panda Imp White & Black doors and bonnet. A £195

Grading guide

A = Mint, A—A= VN Mint, A-= N Mint, B+= Excellent Plus, B-B++ Very good, B= Good

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Happy collecting! Phil Silvester at Diecast Gems.

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FROM THE EDITOR'S COLLECTION



Never lost for things to talk about, **Rick Wilson** shares another selection from his collection.

rdinarily, I'd be tempted to wait for a significant anniversary to choose a model (or two, in this case), but I have good reason to share this month as I'd like to give a very timely plug to another aspect of my work. As a freelance, I get to play elsewhere too and have been involved with a high-quality quarterly publication, currently taking the historic motorsport world by storm, from issue 1 – called *Tazio* (www. taziomagazine.com) – where I provide two pages of model reviews each time, promoting the magazine that you're reading right now. Mutual backscratching works.

The next issue of *Tazio*, #5, spends some time with the real car that these cars were modelled upon – the Le Mans 1999-winning BMW V12 LMR. Sadly, I didn't get to travel to the mag shoot (my dear friend, Dirk de Jager, took some truly astonishing photographs), but I did see the car back in the day, during the 24 hours race itself.

The project was a collaboration between BMW Motorsport and Williams Grand Prix Engineering (the F1 team), and was run by Schnitzer Motorsport as a works team for BMW. Three appeared for the testing weekend, but only two would start the race. Both would lead, but it was the #15 car that would triumph, after #17 retired with just six hours to go on Sunday morning.

The 1999 event was an absolute corker, with

▲ BMW's victorious V12 LMR in two scales – 1/43 (Onyx) and 1/18 (Maisto).



▲ Maisto's 1/18 scale model benefits from removable rear bodywork, revealing a nicely detailed engine. Interestingly, the model is fitted with rain tyres, but I don't remember it actually raining during the race that year!



▲ Taken at 4am on the Sunday morning, so exactly halfway through, Yannick Dalmas exits the Ford Chicane to begin another lap. Photo: Rick Wilson factory entries from BMW, Toyota, Audi, Nissan and Panoz joining privately-entered BMWs, Lolas and Courages in the top prototype categories (LMP and LMGTP). It was a superb entry and the race did not disappoint. Apart from being BMW's (so far) only win at the famous race, it was notable for two things – the flying Mercedes that landed in the trees (it's on YouTube if you haven't seen it – thankfully Peter Dumbreck walked away unhurt) and it was my first year in the press room under the banner of my own Maison Blanche website, so these models are a particularly special memory for me of a wonderful week working in France.

I actually bought a 1/18 scale model of the car by Kyosho, when it came out in 2000, but there was an absolute howler in the casting, so I sent it straight back. I later acquired this pair and they sit proudly in my office at home.

Released in period, this pair of diecasts (1/43 by Onyx and 1/18 by Maisto) still stand up well when compared to modern counterparts. Excellent paintwork and a very neatly-applied livery are features of both, and Maisto's 1/18 scale model benefits from removable rear bodywork, revealing a nicely detailed engine. Interestingly, the model is fitted with rain tyres, but I don't remember it actually raining during the race that year! And yes, I did stay up for the whole 24 hours, as evidenced by the photo to the left that I took of the winner at half distance, at 4am in the morning.



RN Queen Elizabeth Class aircraft carriers

Jeffrey Stevenson, a keen collector of ships, examines Corgi's recent releases from its new tooling.

ollecting waterline ship models, in the scale of 1/1200 or 1/1250, has its origins at the turn of the 19th/20th century, when Fred T Jane (of 'Janes Fighting Ships' fame) devised rules for war gaming using model ships. Model ships were also used by most major navies in the world for identification and recognition purposes and, in World War II in particular, these were produced in large numbers. Waterline models were made in the UK and the US in 1/1200 (Imperial) scale and in Germany in the near equivalent 1/1250 (metric) scale.

Post-war, many of these model ships passed

▲ Queen Elizabeth and Prince of Wales sailing together to the left.

into the hands of eager young boys keen to stage battles on living room floors or table tops. In the UK, the Tri-ang company introduced its range of 1/1200 diecast water-line models around 1960 and generated a collecting interest that is still going strong today. On the continent, the German company Wiking re-introduced many of its war time, lead/white metal 1/1250 models as well as creating many post-war models to meet the needs of young boys there. Tri-ang fell by the wayside some years ago, but was recently revived by a Hong Kong-based manufacturer, only to disappear again. Wiking is still going strong and produces very many







1 With clear display case top removed for clarity, the model is supplied set in a sea-effect base (common to both models). 2 With sea-effect base section removed, these can also be displayed as full hull models. 3 With the lower hull removed (it's not an easy task and involves grinding the hull in two), the ship can be displayed as a waterline model.

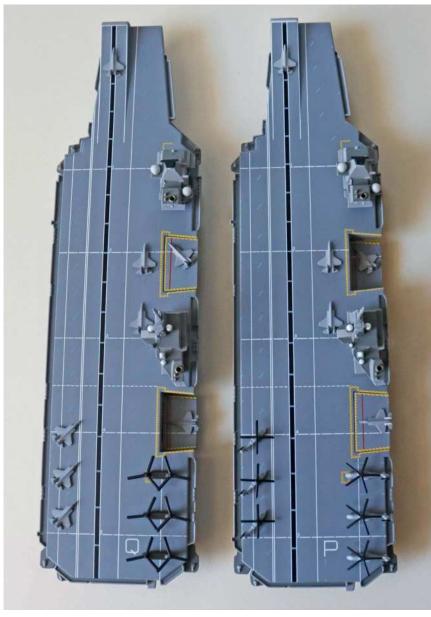
high-quality plastic model cars and trucks, but no ships. Other German manufacturers have emerged and there is a very healthy collector base for white metal 1/1250 water-line, fine-scale model ships. This is the market place into which Corgi has now decided to enter.

The news that Corgi was going to produce models of the Royal Navy's two new aircraft carriers, HMS Queen Elizabeth and HMS Prince of Wales, was greeted by the 'mini ships' collecting community with both optimism and a little scepticism. Optimism, because a major 'player' like Corgi was going to branch out into a new field of diecast collectables, and scepticism as there was some concern that the model would be too 'toy-like' to satisfy the high standards expected by discerning collectors. The images of early test shots that appeared on the Corgi website allayed concern that the model would be toy-like, but there was some disappointment as the castings were clearly for a 'full hull' model.

Like so many other models from all manufacturers, the sinister shadow of Covid affected the anticipated delivery date of the model, but when the Queen Elizabeth did eventually 'dock' it was welcomed by collectors as a very fine model. The second release, Prince of Wales, which is now available as well, is essentially the same casting with detail differences in the finish. Both are supplied in a sturdy display case inside a card sleeve. The sleeve carries the Corgi name, the model details, some prototype facts and figures, and the usual statutory information.

Significantly, it is marked "For Adult Collectors" – to emphasise the point that this is not a toy.

The model is secured within the display case set



into a blue plastic vac-formed, sea-effect base. This base is not very well done and unfortunately, looks cheap compared to the model itself. It does though, provide a 'quasi waterline' display option.

It is a simple task to extract the model from this base and display it as a full hull model screwed to the black plastic base on the pedestals provided. The base is neatly labelled with each ship's respective name and crest.

As collectors have come to expect from Corgi, the overall finish of both models is excellent. The painting is flawless and the masked areas sharp, with no fuzzy edges. The tampo-printed flight deck and island markings are immaculate with all of the various lines, numbers and lettering precise and clear. On either side of the stern, each ship has its name tampo-printed in the smallest, yet readable, font I have ever seen – superb! It should be noted that some of the flight deck markings (pale blue '/' markings) were, apparently, only carried during the Queen Elizabeth's acceptance trials. It is not known if the Prince of Wales had similar markings during these trials.

The models comprise six main castings -2x



▲ View of the aft end of the flight deck, showing the different air groups and lift configurations. Note flight deck identification letters.



▲ View of mid-ships sections, showing different lift configurations.

CORGI'S 'NAVAL POWER' SERIES



▲ Both ships sailing together to the left, with a modified Tri-ang Minic 'modern edition' Type 23 Lifex frigate.



Corgi has very cleverly used these differently on each model - 'Queen Elizabeth' has the aft lift lowered and 'Prince of Wales' has the forward lift lowered. This is a very effective way of making the two basically verv similar models look different.

islands, 2x lifts ('elevators' if you are reading this in the US!), and 2x hull castings. The rudders and propeller shafts are individual plastic mouldings. It is unfortunate that the shape of the actual ship precludes a simple casting split along the waterline. To achieve this, Corgi would have had to produce a third casting to complete the hull and flight deck of the model.

The complex, 'stealth' aspects of both islands are accurate with the individual domes, windows and platforms masked and painted in appropriate colours. As far as the lifts are concerned, Corgi has excelled itself in the way these are shown. Both are located on the starboard side of the hull. They are cast as separate pieces with the hangar doors and riveted to the side of the hull. One is mounted in the lowered/hangar deck position and the other in the raised/flight deck position.

Corgi has very cleverly used these differently on each model – 'Queen Elizabeth' has the aft lift lowered and 'Prince of Wales' has the forward lift lowered. This is a very effective way of making the two basically very similar models look different. By showing a lowered lift, Corgi has also made the models more interesting visually.

With a model aircraft carrier, the eye is immediately drawn to the flight deck – the obvious and key feature of any aircraft carrier. This is where both models display the same element of 'curates egg syndrome'. The flight decks themselves are superbly decorated, but both models are let down by the aircraft fixed to them. It is difficult to understand why Corgi has chosen to fix the aircraft to the flight deck in a model that is aimed at adult collectors. With a toy, this is understandable because of choke-hazard issues. Adult collectors would be far better served by having an air-wing supplied separately so they could choose whether to display the aircraft on the deck or leave it clear.

The aircraft themselves are also a mixed bag – the F35 fighters are accurate in plan view, but in profile they are poor. The fact that they are

'welded' to the deck emphasises their shortcomings as models. The two carriers are equipped with different air-wings – the Queen Elizabeth has 8x F35s and 3x Chinook helicopters. The model of the Chinook is 'okay' – but let down by clunky rotor blades.

The Chinook, though, is a curious choice for the model as they are not routinely embarked on either carrier. They were, however, embarked on the Queen Elizabeth during her trials and it can only be assumed that it was at this point in time Corgi 'froze' the specification for its model and opted for Chinooks on the flight deck.

The Prince of Wales also has F35 fighters, but a different complement of helicopters – with an air-wing comprising 5x F35s and 6x Merlin helicopters. The selection of the Merlin is correct – these are embarked on both carriers. The model of the Merlin itself is really very good indeed and is, in fact, a fine little model in its own right.

The Corgi model is clearly the best 1/1250 scale model of the ships available at present. There are two other 'collector models' of the ships in this scale – both are true waterline models and both are more expensive than the Corgi model. Discussions online show that although many 1/1250 ship collectors admire the Corgi model, they would only buy one if it was a true water-line model. Removing the underwater part of the hull is not an easy task but, as can be seen from the images here, this transforms the model and facilitates it being displayed alongside other water-line models in both cabinet and model harbour displays.

Looking ahead, it is hoped that the models of the Queen Elizabeth and Prince of Wales are a commercial success for Corgi and give it the confidence to extend its Naval Power range. If so, Corgi should PLEASE take note that the collector base for 1/1250 model ships is for waterline, not full hull models. Perhaps a model with an optional, detachable, plastic lower hull would be a solution for both Corgi and collectors.



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Bandai Airport

Mike Pigott looks at this extensive range of specialist airport service vehicles, by language company Bardeit (I) Mike Pigott looks at this extensive range Japanese company Bandai in the 1970s.

ome of the most unusual machines in the world are the service vehicles used for airport ground handling. These are built for very specific purposes and interact with aircraft in a particular way. Some are based on a standard vehicle chassis, while others are strangelooking, custom built machines.

Due to the specialist nature of many of these vehicles, they are not often included in diecast toy lines. Most model ranges have included ancillary vehicles such as airport coaches or fire engines, but the more unusual types are rarely modelled. Some of the best airport vehicles were made by British manufacturer Budgie Toys in the 1960s – these included a catering services truck in BOAC livery and two very different aircraft refuellers in Air BP and Esso liveries. In particular, the Japanese market seems to be fascinated by airport vehicles - Tomica, Diapet and Eidai Grip have all featured various ground support models in their respective diecast ranges. But the leader in this type of product would have to be Bandai, which devoted a whole range to diecast airport vehicles.

▲ Bandai's Boeing 747 being attended by several ground vehicles.

BANDAI

Bandai is Japan's largest toy company. Originally a textile manufacturer, in the 1950s it diversified into toy production. In the 1970s, Bandai subsidiary Popy released a wide range of diecast models based on the giant robots that were popular in Japanese TV shows and comic books. This series was later expanded to feature vehicles from these shows, plus some international franchises, including the ever-popular TV-21 programmes Thunderbirds and Space: 1999 from the UK. In the 1990s, Bandai returned to Thunderbirds with a series of large diecast models, as featured in the June 2019 issue.

AIRPORT SERIES

One of Bandai's few non-character diecast ranges was the Airport series, produced in the mid-1970s. This range consisted of 20 different miniature vehicles, slightly smaller than Matchbox size. The items were very authentic, and included many types that had never before been modelled. Of the set, 17 were airport ground service vehicles, while the other three



▲ Flight Kitchen Loader in KLM and ANA liveries.



were support and emergency types.

The models were very good quality, and all had diecast bodies and bases. Many also had plastic structures mounted on the rear. A number had accurate working features, with some incorporating retractable hoses, while others came with removable accessories.

Each model came in its own box, with illustrations and details of the real vehicle on the sides. The scales ranged greatly, from 1/75 for the luggage tractors through to 1/158 for the Flight Kitchen Loader.

AIRLINE LIVERIES

Each item was available in four different liveries. These comprised the two main Japanese carriers, Japan Air Lines and All Nippon Airways, and two international companies, Pan American World Airways and KLM Royal Dutch Airlines. The latter two were no doubt intended for export, aimed at the American and European markets respectively. Vehicles of the four airlines are all painted in completely different colour schemes and have different coloured plastic components. Some have plated parts.

Japan Air Lines (JAL) models have white upper bodies with light grey lower panels, plus red and blue double stripes along the centre. All models have the JAL 'crane' logo in red and white and some have Japanese lettering.

All Nippon Airways (ANA) models are white with thick blue lines along the sides and in some cases across the top. The labels have a red circular crest and Japanese characters. ANA models are harder to find than the other types, this is probably because prior to 1985, ANA was a domestic airline, and was not well-known outside of Japan.

▲ Battery Trucks of KLM and ANA.



▲ Battery Trucks of KLM and ANA.



▲ Trap Car in JAL livery.



▲ Toyota Ramp Bus.

Pan American World Airways (Pan Am) has the simplest livery. Its models are all-white with light blue stripes and 'globe' logo. Pan Am was the flag carrier of the USA until it collapsed in 1991.

KLM vehicles have a blue upper body and a white lower section, separated by a dark blue stripe. The plastic components are mostly orange and white, and feature the crown symbol. Some KLM items appeared to be repurposed Pan Am models, and are all-white with blue stripes.

THE MODELS

The items were numbered from one to twenty. All models had the name of the vehicle, series number and scale embossed on the base, although some shared cab/chassis components and, in these cases, the name was represented by a tiny sticker. These details were all in English, unlike the boxes, which were mostly in Japanese.

1 - Flight Kitchen Loader

One of the most recognisable airport trucks is the Flight Kitchen Loader, also known as a Catering Vehicle. These specialised trucks transport pre-packed in-flight meals prepared at a kitchen facility to the aircraft in small, standardised aisle trolleys.

The Bandai model is based on a Mitsubishi Fuso truck and is made to 1/158 scale. The truck cab casting includes the rear deck, while the unpainted base incorporates the bumper, grille and fuel tanks. The whole cargo section raises realistically with a scissor-type action.

2 - Air-Con Car

When an airliner is parked between flights, many of its functions are shut off, including the air-conditioning. To prevent its interior from getting too hot, cold or stuffy, external air-conditioning sources are used while the plane is inactive.

Bandai's Air-Con Car has a diecast cab with interior and glazing, and a bare metal base and grille. The cab is based on a Jupiter, a specialist airport vehicle manufacturer, and the scale is 1/124. There is a retractable hose that can be pulled from the side of the unit.

3 - Trap Car

Bandai describes this model as a 'Trap Car', although the more common term is Passenger Boarding Stairs. These are mobile step units that are driven up to the parked aircraft to allow passengers to board and disembark

The first of two boarding stairs in the range, Trap Car appears to be based on a Nissan Cedric van that has been converted into a pick-up truck. The model has a bare metal base which includes the thick grille, plus a white plastic interior and blue-tinted glazing.

4 - Battery Truck

In a similar way to the Air Conditioning Truck, the Battery Truck supplies power to grounded aircraft to allow them to use lighting and other electrical equipment without depleting the batteries.

The Bandai Battery Truck uses the same Fuso cab and chassis as the Flight Kitchen Loader, and

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is also 1/158 scale. It has a different load area and a retractable cable is located on one side behind the cab.

5 - Ramp Bus

This model is described as 'Lump Bus' on the packaging but 'Ramp Bus' on the base. Small buses like these are used to transport airlines crews (and sometimes passengers) right up to the boarding ramp.

The model is based on the Toyota Coaster, a large minibus very commonly used in Asia. It is quite small (the scale is given as 1/99), but it's very accurate and has a detailed interior.

6 - Conveyor Car

One of the most specialised vehicles at the airport is the Baggage Conveyor, also known as a Belt Loader. It is essentially a large mobile conveyer belt used to load luggage and small cargo items into the hold of the aircraft.

The Bandai model accurately captures the unusual looks, featuring an offset, open driving position with an orange plastic seat and steering wheel. Body and base are diecast and the scale is quoted as 1/120.

7 - Container Car (A)

This is the first of two models of a heavy tractor towing a cargo trailer with container. These tractors are used for towing several trailers, or dollies, with heavy freight containers to be loaded in the aircraft's cargo hold.

Based on a Toyota, the model has a diecast body and grille, with a separate bare-metal base. Wheels are the same types as used on the trucks, and a rear towing hitch is fitted. The trailer is diecast metal, and has a railing at each end. Loaded onto the dolly is a pair of Unit Load Devices, special standardised containers that are shaped to fit the hold of a plane.

8 - Container Car (B)

The second type of Container Car uses the same tractor, but with a different trailer and container. This

- 1 The two versions of the Toyota container tractor and dolly.
- 2 Conveyor Car.
- 3 Isuzu Vacuum Car.
- 4 B-747 Tractor.
- 5 Container Lift.
- 6 Tokyu Chemical Fire Engine.

dolly has three enclosed sides and one that is open. The container is a large, double-width unit that can only be carried by wide-bodied aircraft. Both dollies have towing hitches at the rear, but as Bandai did not sell the trailers separately it was not possible to build up a long train of dollies.

9 - Vacuum Car

Probably the least glamourous vehicle at the airport is the Vacuum Car, more commonly known as the Lavatory Services Truck. The role of this item is to use suction pipes to remove waste from the on-board toilets, which is stored in tanks in the belly of the aircraft.

Bandai showed great commitment to detail in modelling a vehicle with such an unpleasant function. It is based on an Isuzu Elf light truck at a scale of 1/77. The main casting includes the cab plus the rear deck and mudguards, while a separate unpainted metal base is fitted, and a retractable hose can extend from the tank.

10 - B-747 Tractor

Jet aircraft are not able to reverse and need powerful tractors to push them away from the boarding gates. Larger craft need heavy specialist machines and pushback tugs are usually very low in order to fit underneath the aircraft nose, but have massive wheels in order to haul airliners. They normally use large towing poles to pull aircraft.

Bandai has modelled a very distinctive tractor which, as the name indicates, has the power to tow a Boeing 747. It has a very low profile with a control cabin in each corner. The diecast body is very detailed, and the scale is listed as 1/125. A towing pole is included.

11 - Container Lift

An even more unusual vehicle is the Container Lift. These specialised machines load the ULD containers into the aircraft hold. The loader features conveyer













belts on two levels.

The 1/125 scale Bandai model is extremely accurate and very detailed. The top is diecast, and includes the engine cover on the front section, and the framework below the rear lift. The rear belt has an operating lift that works with a convincing scissor action – even the imitation hydraulic rams raise up.

12 - Chemical Fire Engine

This vehicle is typical of the massive, heavilyarmoured fire engines used at Japanese airports. It is based on a real fire engine by Tokyu, best known for producing railway rolling stock.

Chemical Fire Engine is a very solid 1/130 scale model with a heavy diecast body and chassis. Naturally it is painted red, with an unpainted base. Japanese market models had labels on the side with fleet numbers and Japanese lettering, but these were left off the export items.

13 - Ambulance

The second non-airline emergency vehicle is an ambulance, which is based on a Nissan Civilian minibus. It is quite a small model, about the same size as Ramp Bus, also being in 1/99 scale.

Painted white, it has an unpainted base that includes the front grille and headlights. It features a lifting rear door, plus two white sirens and a pair of red warning lights on the roof. A Red Cross label is applied to the roof and Japanese market models had additional labels on the sides.

14 - Tank Lorry

The title of this model is something of a misnomer and should have been 'Hydrant Truck'. At most large airports, aviation fuel is distributed through a network of underground pipes, with refueling hydrants at each gate. Hydrant trucks, with high-pressure pressure pumps built in, are used to channel the fuel from the pipes into the tanks located in the aircraft wings.

This is the first of four models to be based on a

- 7 Nissan Ambulance.
- 8 Hino Tank Lorry.
- 9 Jumbo Trap Car.
- 10 Hino Inspection Car.
- 11 KLM Operation Car.
- 12 Jupiter Oil Supply Car.

Hino, which is the truck division of Toyota. It has a diecast unpainted base and front bumper, plus a metal cab and rear bed. Made to 1/120 scale, it features two spinning reels and a retractable fuel line in black plastic.

15 - Jumbo Trap Car

The second type of Passenger Steps Vehicle is a much larger example which uses the same Hino casting as the Tank Lorry. As the name indicates, this one is for servicing much bigger aircraft.

This model has a plastic valance around the load bed, which also includes wheel spats and pylons for the stairs. The stair component is the same used in the other Trap Car, which results in the individual steps being over-scale.

16 - Inspection Car

For external checks, special vehicles are used that let maintenance crew get close to the engines, undersides and wings. Usually known as Airport Maintenance Trucks or Inspection Platforms, some modern versions have scissor-lift elevating platforms.

The Bandai model is based on an early type. Again the 1/120 scale Hino cab-chassis is used, with a plastic rear deck that incorporates the rear wheel arches and some steps.

17 - Operation Car

This is another type of inspection platform, and serves a similar role in inspecting the outer surface of an aeroplane. The Bandai model re-uses the Jupiter cab, so is to 1/124 scale. It has a plastic load area with headboard and a plastic turntable mounted on it. It is cleverly made, so that the basket remains in an upright position as the boom is raised and lowered.

18 - Oil Supply Car

Oil Supply Car is actually another type of Hydrant Dispenser Truck, although one designed for refuelling larger aircraft. Again using the Jupiter casting, this model has a railed aerial platform on the roof which

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▲ Boeing 747 with the cabin doors open.



Fuso Gasoline Tanker.

can be raised up to allow the ground crew to reach the wing tanks on the biggest planes. It also has a retractable hose in the roof.

19 - Gasoline Tank Car

While many airports use hydrant refuelling systems, several smaller ones still use tanker trucks to refuel aircraft. The Bandai model is the fourth model to use the Hino casting, and has an extending hose that can be pulled out from the pump cabinet.

20 - Jet Tractor

The final model in the series is another Pushback Tug, but a smaller type used for towing medium-sized airliners. This tractor is based on a vehicle made by Komatsu, a company best known for producing construction equipment.

This model is a very good replica of a Komatsu tug. It has a diecast base with tow hitches on each end, and the same big wheels as the other B-747 Tractor. It also came with an orange plastic towing pole.



▲ Komatsu Jet Tractor.



▲ Pan Am boxed gift set.



▲ Three different box sizes.

Aircraf

To complement the diecast vehicles, Bandai also produced a model of a Boeing 747 Jumbo Jet. It is a large, mostly plastic jet that was almost to scale with the vehicles, and could genuinely interact with them.

The jet is quite a big item which measures 28cm in length, with a wingspan of 26cm (the vehicles are 6-7cm long). Although the model looks a bit stubby for a Jumbo Jet, it isn't – it's a fairly accurate model of a Boeing 747SP, a short-bodied, long range version of the Jumbo. While most of the plane is plastic, the five wheel assemblies are diecast.

Catalogues showed a second plane in the range – a Lockheed L-1011 Tri-Star. However, the image is just an artist's impression. I have never seen one, and I get the impression that it was never made.

The aircraft could interact with the ground vehicles in a number of ways. The front wheel assembly was fitted with a small hook, allowing it to be towed by either of the pushbag tugs using the towing pole. Two of the cabin doors can open, at the front and rear of the port side, and these are the right level for the Trap Cars, or the Flight Kitchen Loader. There is also a flip-up cargo hatch on the starboard side which can be used in conjunction with the Cargo Lift or the Conveyor Car.

The underside of the aircraft has a few small holes moulded into it, which can accept the retractable hoses from the appropriate vehicles. There are two slots at the front to plug the hoses from the Air-Con Car and the Battery Car, while there is a place for the Vacuum Car at the rear. Both wings have holes that can interact with the three different refuelling trucks.

There was also a deluxe gift set produced, containing the Jumbo Jet and a selection of boxed vehicles. It is not certain if the jet was available separately, or only as part of this set. It came packaged in a large cardboard box with an exciting painting of an airport scene on the lid, showing a Jumbo being attended by various ground vehicles from the series.

PACKAGING

Individual vehicles come in four differently-sized, colourful boxes that are half-red and half-blue. Each box shows a photo of a JAL 747 being serviced by several ground vehicles. Another side shows a drawing of the enclosed model, with a description (in Japanese) of what it did. Every box included a small fold-out catalogue with a list of models and information on the range. In some regions the models were also sold on blister cards.

The Bandai Airport Series was a great example of a limited, themed diecast range. It is a fascinating line featuring a number of weird and wonderful vehicles, and probably taught lots of kids how an airport really works. However, the range was not widely distributed and does not appear to have been sold in all countries – it seems most common in Japan, Germany and the Netherlands. Models are not easy to find and usually sell at around £25 each. The gift set with a plane in good condition is something of a 'Holy Grail' item, and is extremely rare today.





SILAS: 1966/67 SUNBEAM RAPIER MK V, STEEL GREY OR PIPPIN RED. LTD: 72 ONLY EACH COLOUR. £74.99 EACH

GOLDVARG: 1974 BUICK CENTURY NEW YORK POLICE DEPARTMENT, £84.99 (TBC)

BHM MAJESTY: RAPIER H120 HOLBAY, GRASSHOPPER GREEN, YELLOW, OR BLUE. LTD: 33 EACH. £89.99 EACH

BHM MAJESTY: 1959 PENNANT, BLUE, GREEN, OR NEW!! YELLOW/CREAM, OR MAROON/GREY! £89.99 EACH



Workbench

Rick Wilson shares his current project progress.

've been playing around with restoring old diecasts since my early teens. Having recently started a huge partwork project build from Ixo Collections (see opposite page for the latest update), it gave me this idea for this section to bring you tips as I focus on some other projects along the way too.

■DINKY TOYS NO 29C/290 DOUBLE DECKER BUS UPSCALE

As a keen heritage railway enthusiast (and with a large railway layout currently 'in build'), I was delighted to be approached by Martyn Pring at Shamrock Trains (www.shamrocktrains. com) to help in an O gauge layout project to replicate the cover of the 1957 Meccano catalogue. The image features several early Dinky diecasts, including the No 29c/290 Double Decker Bus. To make the bus more in line with the cars in terms of scale, Martyn had identified a mid-'90s Corgi Classics Bristol K6A release that was very much in the style of the vintage Dinky.

The other advantage of the Bristol model is that it can be picked up very cheaply, despite being a very good model. I also acquired a reasonably good condition No 290 bus – good enough to take paint cues from, as well as scan

▲ Donor Corgi Classics Bristol sits behind the original Dinky Toys No 29c/290 Double Decker Bus that it will eventually replicate.



▲ The 1957 Meccano catalogue cover that inspired the project.



▲ Here is the Corgi Classics Bristol disassembled and ready for stripping.

the DUNLOP advert on the side, to replicate with homemade decals at the larger scale. So far, the 'new' bus has been disassembled, ready for stripping. More on this in the very near future.

■FIAT 238 PARTWORK CODE 3

Following on from the trio of 238 Code 3s in these pages in the July issue, I recently bought a little something extra to add to one of them. The yellow minibus seemed, to me, to be in need of a roof rack for those trips away, to store the luggage of the excited occupants. I found what I was looking for at Arena Modelli (www.arenamodelli.com), in Italy – Verona to be precise.

Shipping was very cheap – and quick – and the simple, but effective etched brass kit is excellent. It comes with the parts in a protective surround – a modelling knife quickly freed the components – and each item is pre-creased for folding to ensure an easy fit. A tiny stripe of Super Glue to the bars saw the kit put together in no time, and I think it looks great, and really adds to the appearance of the plain yellow minibus. All it needs now is some luggage, and I've tracked down a 1/43 scale vintage European bus partwork model that will be donating its cargo, once it has arrived here. Expect a quick image update next time.



▲ The wonderful aftermarket etched brass roof rack kit from Arena Modelli (www.arenamodelli.com).



▲ The roof rack kit assembled and fitted to my 238 minibus.



▲ A quartet of playworn Lesney Matchbox Ferrari racers, destined to be the cargo of my Stance Hunters Fiat Bartoletti transporter.

■LESNEY MATCHBOX FERRARI 156S

When I bought the 1/64 scale Stance Hunters Fiat Bartoletti racing transporter that features in my Small World mini-series, I naturally started scouting around for a suitable period cargo. Kyosho released some rather stunning 156 Sharknoses a few years ago, but they are hugely expensive to buy now, so I've turned to a rather cheaper alternative – the No 73 Ferrari Racing Car in Lesney's Matchbox Series. An upgrade is required to be worthy of loading onto the Bartoletti, so those wonderful people at Le Mans Decals (www.lemansdecals.com) have come to my rescue yet again.

I've opted to replicate the factory team's four cars at the 1961 Italian Grand Prix. The decals are beautifully created, with lovely, crisp edges, so the only thing for me to add (apart from a respray) is the roll hoop absent from the Matchbox cars. I have a cunning plan to do this, and hopefully I can share the results next time.

■ IXO COLLECTIONS 1/8 SCALE PORSCHE 917KH PARTWORK KIT

Another slight delay since my last update, in the July issue, again due to the global shipping problems. Just after the August issue went to press, two more boxes arrived, which equates to another eight instalments - we're now up to 56 of the 96, so well over halfway now.

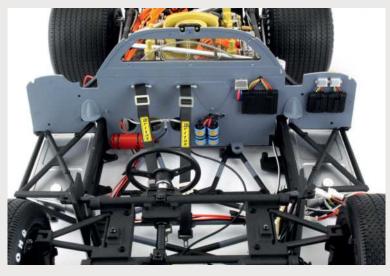
For this update, part groups 49 to 56 brought us yet more components for the rear of the tubular spaceframe chassis, meaning that the mighty flat-12 engine is now fully encased. The second rear light came with this batch too, so both are now wired up and tested to see if they work – they do! Importantly, this delivery included the last two wheels as well, so this mighty model now sits on all four of its Firestone-shod rims.

In addition to the wheels, the most obvious addition this time is that of the firebreak bulkhead, that separates the cockpit from the potential fireball that was the engine compartment on the real car. Thankfully we don't have that problem on the model, but it's still an important inclusion, of course. As are the very realistic Britax seat belts, complete with etched brass buckles.

To find out more about this incredible diecast kit offer, and to start your very own build, visit Ixo's specific partworks website page for this model at **www.ixocollections.com/en/15-porsche-917kh**.



▲ The obvious improvement, viewed from the rear, is the fitting of the two rear wheels and the second tail light, which is now wired up (and works).



▲ One of the most noticeable additions this time is of the cockpit bulkhead, complete with seatbelts and various ancillaries.



umber 26 featured three commercial vehicles during the Lesney Superfast period, with a rather outrageous hot rod intervening for a few years in the mid-seventies. Interestingly, for each of the four castings, they only got released in a single box design during their respective production runs.

GMC TIPPER TRUCK Catalogue: 1970-72 Box Styles: G

Keeping its regular wheels colour combination of red cab, green chassis and silver tipping body, throughout its entire production run in the Superfast range, GMC Tipper Truck received its wide Superfasts for 1970. The tipping action of the rear body, with a gravity-influenced tailgate

▲ GMC Tipper Truck, Big Banger, Site Dumper and Cable Truck in their initial release colourways and respective boxes. dropping down automatically, is matched at the other end with a forward-tipping front cab. Play value is well-represented by this casting.

BIG BANGER

Catalogue: 1973-76 Box Styles: I

Probably the most remembered hot rod of the Superfast era, Big Banger is an exaggerated Dodge Charger with an excessively-large engine. Painted red, it has blue tinted windows and a "Big Banger" label on each side.

The massive engine, with its huge air scoop, was chromed, as was the grille and the squared side pipes. The base was unpainted. There were no major variations, other than it occasionally being fitted with the amber windows. A few examples did leave



the production line with the curved side pipes of the very similar Pi-Eyed Piper.

Big Banger was another model used as an American limited edition in 1977 - this time it was painted brown and called Brown Sugar (one I'm still trying to find at a reasonable price, hence the absence from the photos here). This casting also appeared as Cosmic Blues in the USA, in a suitably-matching colour scheme with white star graphics on a blue body.

It would carry on under the same name, but confusingly in either black (1995) or green (1996), both with orange and white 'hot rod' flames on the sides. The casting also made an appearance in 1994 as Road Runner's car in the licensed 'Looney Tunes' range, which featured a set of six Matchbox castings modified to include a character 'driver'.



▲ Back row: USA-release blister packs of the post-Lesney Cosmic Blues, in two versions, and the 1994 Looney Tunes 'Pro Racers' release featuring Road Runner. Front row: Regular Wheels GMC Tipper Truck, original USA Cosmic Blues version, two later Site Dumper colour schemes, and a slight variation of Cable Truck with a darker, grevish glazing unit.



▲ GMC Tipper Truck featured both a tipping front cab and rear tipper body.



SITE DUMPER

Catalogue: 1977-82 **Box Styles: K**

Among the many construction models released for 1977, Site Dumper is a small, front-discharge dump truck. An unusual-looking vehicle, it has an offset cab and a working dumper. It is painted yellow, with a black base, and has a black plastic interior and engine. A version with a red tipper was produced for the Super Kings K-36 Construction Transporter set, although some inevitably turned up in individual 1-75 series boxes. In 1981 it was given a completely new look, with orangey-red cab, silver-grey dumper and the interior in white plastic.

CABLE TRUCK Catalogue: 1982 Box Styles: L

Cable Truck is a two-axle Volvo flatbed fitted with a pair of cable drums for its load. Usually painted orange, with a black base and grille, and blue-tinted windows, a black cradle clipped into slots in the rear bed to hold the cable reels firmly in place. Some models were painted more of a yellow and there are some examples of orange versions with a red chassis and grille.

The casting would also be used, from 1982, for No 35 Zoo Truck. Post-Lesney, the casting would be fitted with a plastic container as No 20 Volvo Container Truck (later numbered 62) and was to become a prolific promotional. DC

◆The three colour schemes of Site Dumper, with the original to the rear, Super Kings set version in the middle and the final 1-75 release in the foreground.

Desert Island Diecasts

Imagine you're stranded on a remote island and had only taken a handful of your collection favourites on that fateful trip, which five would you want it to be? Our regular 'Fun Ho!' expert, Christopher Moor, is this month's castaway hero. (Photos by Ross de Rouffignac.)

'm a born again diecast collector from New Zealand, who came back to collecting after a gap of 30 years. When putting this group together, I found myself telling my life story with diecasts. The chosen models are all from the second collection.

LLEDO FORCES SWEET HEARTS BETTY GRABLE VAN

Combining my interests in film and diecasts is the Lledo 1935 Morris parcels van in Betty Grable livery, No LP52-023, one of the Forces Sweethearts series from 1993. My parents used to take me with them in the 1950s, before we had TV, to the movie revivals at the local Palace. I developed my love of classic films from these Friday night sessions. An indelible memory from them is Victor Mature ripping the red feathers from the beautiful Betty Grable's red dress in the lively musical Wabash Avenue, which seeing this model always brings back to me.

CORGI BEDFORD OB COACH - ROYAL BLUE

My school mates and I graduated from Enid Blyton's Famous Five series to Agatha Christie mysteries with our oncoming adolescence. I never outgrew the habit of reading mysteries and thrillers. The TV adaptations of vintage British crime novels brought extra pleasure if I spotted a Bedford OB bus. I bought the Corgi version from The Original Omnibus Limited Editions in the Royal Blue livery, No 42501. It was the only model of this coach I have seen in the area where I live. This collector from down under appreciated the brief history of Royal Blue coachlines on the packaging – he'd not heard of these buses before. My model is No 2,639 of the 5,500 produced.

MORRIS MINOR 1000

During my brief model railways phase, I bought a roughly 1/76 scale Morris Minor 1000 saloon



▲ Lledo Forces Sweet Hearts Betty Grable Van.



▲ Corgi Bedford OB Coach - Royal Blue.





for my layout. This New Zealand diecasting is probably made for or by Modelcrafts and Hobbies, and is a copy of the Matchbox Lesney No 46a-1. Differences include a metal base without embossing, and a black painted body.

Paying four shillings and elevenpence, circa 1958, for my original was then considered dear for a model of this size, when compared with the prices of the larger Micro Models. The Morris earns going to the island with me for the happy outings recalled with Mum and my friends in their real Minor 1000s.

REPRO MICRO MODELS STANDARD VANGUARD

Before I discovered I could buy British postal notes and send to England for Dinky Toys, I collected Micro Models. Import restrictions kept Dinky Toys out of New Zealand shops for most of the 1950s.

Lincoln Industries made Micros in New Zealand from dies loaned by Goodwood, an Australian manufacturer. A favourite was the Standard Vanguard Estate Car (Lincoln No 4519).

In the 1990s, Micro Models Ltd, a New Zealand company, made collectors editions from the original moulds. The word 'Van' is printed on the Vanguard box instead of estate car. Mine is No 929 of the 1,000 manufactured for model MP603, and has the New Zealand Classic Car livery.

DUCKY TOYS LINCOLN ZEPHYR

Ducky Toys were discovered by me at the 'Fun Ho!' National Toy Museum, in the other New Zealand diecasts section, while researching and getting photos for the Fun Ho! series that I wrote for *Diecast Collector*. Ducky Toys are lead castings,

WHAT ARE YOUR TOP FIVE DESERT ISLAND DIECASTS?

Fancy having some fun and sharing your choices? Just email the editor photos of your five choices, together with about 125-150 words on each, including your reasons for choosing, to rick.wilson@warnersgroup.co.uk.

- 1 Ducky Toys Lincoln Zephyr.
- 2 Repro Micro Models Standard Vanguard.
- Morris Minor 1000, probably made for or by Modelcrafts and Hobbies.



possibly made by Hall Metal Castings, Palmerston North, during the 1940s.

A play-worn Lincoln Zephyr saloon is the only example I have. The model will not be restored, although a tyre has been replaced. While I was trying to find out something about the history of Ducky Toys, a man rang me and asked, "Are you sure you don't mean Dinky Toys?"!





Jones Fleetmaster Cantilever Crane

DTCA Chairman, Michael Driver, picks another vintage favourite by Dinky.

ranes are fascinating, and especially mobile ones – seeing them travel between jobs and then watching them as they hoist goods, vehicles, boats or building materials to building sites or goods to warehouses. Children have always enjoyed toy cranes with their winding handles and jib movements, and Dinky Toys added the Coles Mobile Crane and others to provide these toyland thrills.

In April 1967, the Dinky Toys Jones Fleetmaster Cantilever Crane (No 970) arrived ready for its first job. The review in the *Meccano Magazine* of that month has three illustrations in black and white of the model – one with the jib closed, one with it extended and a picture of a real one unloading a boat. The review gives a detailed description about the model and the real vehicle, and suggests that sceptical collectors might say it was only a crane fitted to an existing Dinky Toys Bedford TK casting! The first colour illustration is in the 1967 Dinky Toys catalogue showing it with a white cab roof and turret.

The model is in red with a black chassis and red plastic wheels, and a white crane jib. The crane body has the words "Jones Fleetmaster" cast on each side of the body. A label with "Jones" is on the rear of the body and on the offside spare wheel cover. There also are small "Jones" labels on the front jib section. On the first models, the cab roof and turret are in white, but from 1971 the model was in chromatic red, or in yellow with the roof turret now in the same cab colour. The crane jib was still white and the later

▲ Dinky Toys Jones Fleetmaster Cantilever Crane (No 970) in yellow, and rear view of the metallic red model.



▲ Dinky Toys catalogue 1967, illustrating the white cab turret.



▲ Jones Fleetmaster Cantilever Crane (No 970) in its large blister pack, with the jib extended.

models had chromed wheels.

The crane is mounted on a new chassis using the Dinky Toys Bedford TK glazed cab. The cab is modified and now has the glazed turret. The jib for the crane is in two sections, which are hinged, enabling it to be folded when travelling. To operate the crane there is a handle on the side. This turns two separate winding drums with the first one for the hook cord. By pulling the lever out this engages the drum to raise and lower the jib. The jib also has a load indicator indicating up to a maximum of 10 tons.

The models were sold in illustrated end flap boxes, which included a card packing piece and an instruction leaflet on how to operate the crane, and replace the hook and jib cords. Later models had the jib extended and came in long blister packs before deletion in 1977.

The real crane was produced by K & L Steelfounders and Engineers, from Letchworth, in Hertfordshire. They designed the Fleetmaster crane unit and this was fitted to the modified Bedford TK chassis, as represented in the Dinky Toys model. The actual crane jib can reach 20 ft and this can be increased to 30 or 40 ft by fitting intermediate sections. Perhaps this a bit too complicated for such a Dinky Toys model.

FURTHER INFO

The Dinky Toys mobile cranes were popular as playthings and eagerly collected. They sometimes feature in the DTCA Journal with photographs. You can find out more or join by visiting the website **www.dtcawebsite.com**.





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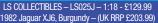


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MATRIX – MXL 0604-022– 1:18 - £209 1960 Ferrari 250GT Prototype (UK RRP £266.99)



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AUCTIONNEWS

WOLFIE GINSBURG'S LEGENDARY COLLECTION BEING SOLD OFF AT VECTIS

PART 1 of The Wolfie Ginsburg Matchbox collection was held on the 12th July and featured over 480 Matchbox models. Lots included boxed and unboxed, groups and single models including Regular Wheels, Superfast, Super Kings, Speed Kings, Battle Kings and early Moko Lesney. There was a nice range of affordable models for all levels of collector, as well as some rare, harder to find and preproduction prototype models.

Wolfie collected Matchbox toys his entire life. Having first acquired early models, in Cape Town, South Africa, where he grew up, as toys to play with and enjoy he never lost his love for these little masterpieces. He started to look after them and they became a passion that he continued to pursue for the rest of his life. Wolfie unfortunately passed away in 2014, just shy of his 62nd birthday, and at this time had a collection of close to 14,000 toys.

• Lot 75 Matchbox Regular Wheels No 27 Cadillac Sixty Special

Metallic silver-green body with rear silver trim & red tail lamps, off white roof, clear windows, type A hood interior, maroon base, 20-tread silver plastic wheels. Near mint in excellent "New Model" type B5 box.

Estimate: £300 - £360 Sold For: £850







• Lot 340 Matchbox Superfast No 75 Ferrari Berlinetta

Metallic green without silver trim, but with headlamp cowls, ivory interior, bare metal base, solid 5-spoke narrow wheels without tread pattern. Near mint in excellent "New" type G box.

Estimate: £300 - £360 Sold For: £700

• Lot 474 Matchbox Speed Kings Customised Ford Model T Van Hot Rod pre-production prototype

Metallic lilac chassis with K50-53 base taken from the Street Rod/Hot Fire Engine, but modified with customised wings & running boards, handmade van body, clear windows, 5-spoke deep dish mag wheels. Excellent, unboxed.

Estimate: £300 - £400 Sold For: £1,500 ■

Keep up with big wins on this popular online auction website - we choose three outstanding performers each month.





DATE: 7th July 2022

TITLE: Dinky Pre-War 280k Delivery Van -

'H.G. Loose' **SOLD FOR:** £820.00 **BIDS:** 23

Pre-war Type 2 Delivery Van, in green with black smooth hubs. 'H.G. Loose' and 'Looe, Phone 125' logos in cream and black on both side panels. Somewhat inevitably, due to its age, this otherwise wonderful model is suffering with metal fatigue. Lots of fine cracks and some delamination splits to the body work, with some distortion. Although in fragile condition, it's still a lovely example of this rare little model.



DATE: 10th July 2022

TITLE: Tri-ang Spot-on 1/42 Scale AEC

Major 8 BP Petrol Tanker **SOLD FOR:** £511.00

BIDS: 11

Original paint, all wheels and tyres present, all decals present. No major damage. Clean and tidy example. Although the condition is good, defects are present. These include slight paint chips on the black wheel arches, red tanker has slight damage to ladder next to the cab, red plastic tang at rear is missing, plastic noddie just above decal on offside is missing, and decals are showing signs of age/transparency.



DATE: 11th July 2022

TITLE: Matchbox Models of Yesteryear

Pre-production Y-3 Riley MPH

SOLD FOR: £230.01

BIDS: 8

Acquired from a Lesney designer as one of a pair of models due for release, but then delayed. The radiator on this version is slanted back, just as it was on the real car, and the excellent cast wheels were dropped in favour of the new, standardised wheels. This model was sprayed in quite a thick coat of white paint and unplated plastics were used. There is no knowing why the radiator was straightened for production.

Price Guide Cride coetien AUCTION PRICES LISTED



Welcome to our regular Price Guide section where we highlight a variety of collectables that have been sold through auction houses during recent months.

> Toy Collectors Price Guide 2022 - Order your copy today by calling 01778 392480, or go online to ccofgb.uk/dcc-tcpg2022



▲Corgi Toys No 1138 Ford Articulated Car Transporter. orange, silver, grey cab, lemon interior, cast hubs, blue trailer with cast hubs, chrome and red "Corgi Cars" sides. Good plus on good plus to excellent inner pictorial stand in good outer blue and yellow carded picture box, with inner packing piece. £160, Vectis, June.



▲Corgi Toys No 64 Forward Control Jeep FC150 with Working Conveyor, red, grey, yellow, black rubber belt, lemon interior, spun hubs Good to good plus on good plus inner pictorial stand in good to good plus outer blue and yellow carded picture box, with correct inner packing piece. £60, Vectis, June.



▲Corgi Toys No GS47 Gift Set, comprising blue Ford 5000 Super Major Tractor, without driver figure, and working conveyor on trolley. Good plus to excellent on excellent inner pictorial stand in good plus outer blue and yellow carded picture box. £110, Vectis, June.



▲Corgi Toys No 1112 Corporal Guided Missile on Mobile Launcher, green, silver, chrome cast hubs with white and red rocket. Good to good plus on good carded base with one inner packing piece in fair to good blue and yellow lift-off lid box. £170, Vectis, June.



▲Corgi Toys No 318 Lotus Elan S2 "I've Got a Tiger in My Tank", steel blue, black interior with driver figure, chrome spun hubs. Excellent plus in good plus blue and yellow carded picture box with collectors club folded leaflet. £100, Vectis, June.



▲Corgi Toys No 481 Chevrolet Impala "Police Patrol" Car, white and black body, lemon interior with 2x figures, chrome trim and side flashes, cast hubs, grey plastic aerial, red roof light. Excellent in fair blue and yellow carded picture box. £70,



▲Corgi Toys No 474 Ford Thames Ice Cream Van "Wall's", blue and cream, including interior, chrome trim, grey base, spun hubs, with working musical chimes. Good plus to excellent in good carded picture box, with inner pictorial stand and instruction/collectors club folded leaflet. £180, Vectis, June.



▲Corgi Toys No 420 Ford Thames Airborne Caravan, two-tone, brown interior, silver trim, spun hubs. Excellent in fair to good blue and yellow carded picture box. £80, Vectis, June.



▲Corgi Juniors No 9 Cadillac Eldorado, white body, black bonnet, red interior. Near mint on good plus blister card. £100, Vectis, June.



▲Corgi Juniors No 54 Ford Container Wagon, green cab, chassis and back, white base and skip, large chrome and black

Whizzwheels. Near mint to mint on good factory-sealed blister card. £120, Vectis, June.



▲Corgi Toys No 281 Rover 2000 TC, purple body, yellow interior, amber roof panel, chrome trim, grey base with Whizzwheels. Near mint in mint window box. £240, Vectis, June.



▲Corgi Toys No 1100 preproduction colour trial Mack Truck with "Trans Continental" trailer, white cab with graphite grey chassis, red interior, cast hubs, with pre-production colour trial trailer in lime green, black plastic slides with "Trans Continental" print, white chassis, cast hubs. Excellent plus in good plus blue and yellow window box showing correct pre-production colour trial trailer model illustration to rear. £540, Vectis.



▲Dinky Toys No 972 "Coles" 20-ton Lorry-Mounted Crane, dark orange cab and chassis, deep yellow ballast, light blue cab driver figure, bright yellow plastic hubs with black treaded tyres. Good plus in good plus yellow and red lift-off lid box with all correct inner packing pieces. £60, Vectis, June.



▲Dinky Toys No 975 Ruston Bucyrus Excavator, red, green, yellow, silver/grey plastic rollers with black rubber tracks. Excellent in good presentation box. £280. Vectis, June.



▲Dinky Toys No 924 Aveling **Barford Centaur Dump Truck,** red, yellow, silver chassis, white interior. Excellent plus beautiful example in good box with exellent inner packing piece. £45, Vectis,



▲Dinky Toys No 425 Bedford TK Coal Lorry "Hall & Co", red cab, back, plastic header and hubs, silver trim and chassis, mid-blue interior, black front bumper with scales and 4x black coal sacks. Good plus to excellent in good plus yellow and red lift-off lid box. £70, Vectis, June.



▲Dinky Toys No 981 Horse Box "British Railways Express Horse Box Hire Service", maroon body, silver trim, red super toy hubs with treaded tyres. Good plus in good plus blue and white striped lift-off lid box with dual numbered 581/981 end. £60, Vectis, June.



▲Dinky Toys No 661 Scammell Recovery Tractor, military green. including Supertoy hubs, with black treaded tyres, with windows and driver figure. Excellent in good to good plus yellow and red lift-off lid box. £90, Vectis, June.



▲Dinky Toys No 643 Austin Army Water Tanker, military green, including ridged hubs, with black treaded tyres, with driver figure and windows. Excellent plus in good plus yellow and red carded box. £60, Vectis, June.



▲Dinky Toys No 967 "BBC TV" Mobile Control Room, green, grey (including roof panel), side flashes and super toy hubs, silver trim. Excellent in good plus to excellent blue and white striped lift-off lid box. £160, Vectis, June.



▲Dinky Toys No 439 Ford D800 Snow Plough and Tipper Truck, metallic blue cab, orange back, silver chassis, white interior and plastic hubs, yellow plough. Good plus to excellent in good carded picture box. £35, Vectis, June.



▲Dinky Toys No 982 Bedford Pullmore Car Transporter, midblue cab and ridged hubs, light blue trailer with mid-blue super toy hubs, twin rivet sides with "Dinky Toys Delivery Service" on rear ramp and sides. Good plus to excellent in good blue and white striped lift-off lid box. £90, Vectis, June.



▲Dinky Toys No 952 Vega Major Luxury Coach, pale grey, chrome and metallic purple side flashes, off-white interior, silver trim, cast hubs. Good plus to excellent in good yellow and red lift-off lid box. £90, Vectis, June.



▲Dinky Toys No 2214 (1/25th scale) Ford Capri Rally Special, red, black roof, bonnet and interior, chrome hubs, race number 12, with unapplied decal sheet. Near mint on good plus carded base is with good bubble. £120, Vectis, June.



▲Dinky Toys No 430 Commer Breakdown Lorry, red cab and chassis, grey back and jib, silver trim, with windows and blue plastic hubs. Excellent in good plus to excellent blue and yellow lift-off lid box. £300, Vectis, June.



▲Dinky Toys No 697 Field Gun Set to include Artillery Quad **Tractor**, green including ridged hubs with matching Ammunition Trailer and Field Gun. Good plus in good plus blue and yellow lift-off lid presentation box. £90. Vectis, June.



▲Dinky Toys (Dublo Dinky) No 070 AEC Mercury "Shell/BP" Tanker, green cab, red back and filler caps, black grille, solid grev knobbly plastic wheels. Excellent in excellent plain yellow and red carded box. £60, Vectis, June.



▲Dinky Toys (Dublo Dinky) No 071 Volkswagen "Hornby Dublo" Delivery Van, yellow, silver trim, black base and solid plastic knobbly wheels. Excellent in excellent plain yellow and red carded box. £60, Vectis, June.



▲ Dinky Toys (Dublo Dinky) No 073 Land Rover, green, with windows, silver trim, orange horse box, black opening door, with figure - trailer and Land Rover have solid black plastic knobbly wheels. Excellent plus in good plus yellow and red carded picture box. £80, Vectis, June.



▲Dinky Toys (Dublo Dinky) Lansing Bagnall Tractor and Trailer, maroon, blue interior and driver figure, complete with maroon trailer. Excellent in good yellow and red carded picture box. £45, Vectis, June.



▲Corgi Toys No 204M Mechanical Rover 90 Saloon, green with working friction motor. Very good in good box with folded leaflet. £95, British Toy Auctions, June.



▲Corgi Toys No 206M Mechanical Hillman Husky, dark blue with working friction motor. Very good in good box with folded leaflet. £85, British Toy Auctions, June.



▲Corgi Toys No 203M Mechanical Vauxhall Velox, red with working friction motor. Near mint in good box with folded leaflet. £150, British Toy Auctions, June.

PRICE GUIDE



▲Corgi Toys No 404M Mechanical Bedford CA Dormobile, pale blue with working friction motor. Near mint in good box with folded leaflet. £110. **British Toy Auctions, June.**



▲Dinky Toys No 430 Commer Breakdown Lorry, red and grey with glazing, blue metal wheel hubs and shiny black base. Near mint in good box. £190, British Toy Auctions, June.



▲Dinky Toys No 533 Leyland Cement Truck Ferrocrete, Yellow with yellow hubs. Very good in good box. £20, British Toy Auctions, June.



▲Dinky Toys No 231 Maserati Racing Car, red and white with yellow plastic hubs and white driver, racing number 9. Very good in very good box. £80, Lacy Scott & Knight, June.



▲Dinky Toys No 157 Jaguar XK120, red body with spun hubs. Very good in very good box. £120, Lacy Scott & Knight, June.



▲Dinky Toys No 159 Morris Oxford Saloon, cream upper and cerise lower body with beige hubs. Near mint in very good correct colour spot box. £110, Lacy Scott & Knight, June.



▲French Dinky Toys No 24T 2CV Citroën, grey body with dark grey roof and cream hubs. Near mint in very good to near mint box. £55, Lacy Scott & Knight, June.



▲Dinky Toys No 238 Jaguar D-Type, turquoise with white driver, blue interior and blue hubs, racing number 26 to sides and bonnet. Very good in very good box. £140, Lacy Scott & Knight,



▲Dinky Toys No 182 Porsche 356A Coupe, cream body with spun hubs. Near mint to mint in near mint correct colour spot box. £180, Lacy Scott & Knight, June.



▲Dinky Toys No 181 Volkswagen, RAF blue body with spun hubs. Near mint in near mint correct colour spot box. £85, Lacy Scott & Knight, June.



▲French Dinky Toys No 564 Miroiter Estafette Renault, reddish orange, Saint Gobain livery, Miroitier plastic rack, one mirror, one glass sheet, one spare wheel and leaflet, Very good in near mint box. £75, Lacy Scott & Knight, June.



▲French Dinky Toys No 550 Chrysler Saratoga, pink and white body with red interior and spun hubs.Near mint in very good box with viewer hole. £150, Lacy Scott & Knight, June.



▲Dinky Toys No 112 Austin Healey Sprite, red body with cream interior and spun hubs. Very good to near mint in very good box, with packing ring. £95, Lacy Scott & Knight, June.



▲Dinky Toys No 265 Plymouth USA Taxi, yellow with red roof and transfers, fair details on the door, white tyres. Very good to near mint in very good to near mint box. £65, Lacy Scott & Knight, June.



▲Dinky Toys No 176 Austin A105 Saloon, cream body, violet blue panel line with cream hubs. Near mint to mint in near mint box. £130, Lacy Scott & Knight, June.



▲Corgi Toys No 152S B.R.M. Formula 1 Grand Prix Racing Car, turquoise body, silver trim, with suspension, driver, Union Jack decal to bonnet, no 7, flat spun wheels with spoked decals applied. Near mint in good box. £40, C&T Auctioneers, July.



▲Corgi Toys No 240 Ghia Fiat 600 Jolly, blue body, silver/ red sun canopy, two figures, red interior. Near mint in excellent original picture box. £90, C&T Auctioneers, July.



▲Corgi Toys No 247 Mercedes Benz 600 Pullman, metallic dark red body, cream interior, chrome trim, spun wheels, working windscreen wipers. Near mint in excellent box, with instruction leaflet. £70, C&T Auctioneers, July.



▲Corgi Toys No 339 Monte Carlo 1967 Winner B.M.C Mini Cooper **S**, 2nd issue, red body, white roof, red interior, cast wheel hubs. Near mint in mint box, with correct special Corgi club leaflet. £240. C&T Auctioneers, July.



▲Corgi Toys No 389 Reliant Bond Bug 700 ES, orange body, Whizzwheels. Near mint in good window display box. £50, C&T Auctioneers, July.



▲Dinky Toys Pre War No 23m Thunderbolt Racing Car, silver body/baseplate, black detailing, 'Union Jacks' on rear tailfin. Excellent in good original bluelidded box, with original tissue packing. £200, C&T Auctioneers, July.



▲ Dinky Toys No 138 Hillman Imp Saloon, metallic red body, red interior, spun wheels. Excellent to near mint, in good box. £260, C&T Auctioneers, July.



▲ Dinky Toys No 183 Morris Mini-Minor (Automatic), metallic red body, matt black roof, white interior, spun wheels hubs. Near mint in excellent illustrated picture box. £100, C&T Auctioneers, July.



▲ Corgi Toys No 441 Volkswagen "Toblerone" Van, blue body, lemon interior. Excellent in good box. £45, Sheffield Auction Gallery, July.



▲ Corgi Toys No 303 Mercede-Benz 300 SL Open Roadster, blue body, white seats. Excellent in good box. £40, Sheffield Auction Gallery, July.



▲ Corgi Toys No 231 Triumph Herald Coupe, mid-blue and white body, red interior. Excellent in very good "By Special Request" box. £30, Sheffield Auction Gallery, July.



▲ Dinky Supertoys No 908
Mighty Antar With Transformer,
yellow tractor unit with red hubs,
pale grey trailer with red hubs
and ramps, dark grey transformer.
Good in good box. £85, Sheffield
Auction Gallery, July.



▲ French Dinky Supertoys No 893 UNIC Sahara Tractor with Pipe Carrier, tan body and hubs (both cab unit and trailer), white roof accessories, 6x black pipe load. Excellent in good box. £35, Sheffield Auction Gallery, July.



▲Dinky Toys No 424 Commer Convertible Articulated Truck, yellow cab, with windows, silver grey back, blue plastic tilt, white stake back, blue plastic wheel hubs. Near mint in excellent original hinged lid box. £120, C&T Auctioneers, July.



▲Dinky Toys No 925 Leyland Dump Truck with Tilt Cab, white tilting cab and chassis, blue cab roof, orange tipper, white plastic tailgate 'Sand Ballast Gravel', light blue interior, mid-blue plastic wheel hubs. Near mint in excellent lidded box. £80, C&T Auctioneers, July.



▲Dinky Supertoys Gift Set No 990 Pullmore Car Transporter with Four Cars, Blue and light blue Bedford Car Transporter with No 794 Loading ramp, cream/green No 154 Hillman Minx, blue/cream No 156 Rover 75, red/yellow No 161 Austin Somerset, cream/green No 162 Ford Zephyr. Very good to excellent in fair to good box, with one internal packing piece. £380, C&T Auctioneers, July.



▲ Matchbox Regular Wheels No 27 Cadillac Sixty Special, metallic silver-green body with rear silver trim & red tail lamps, off white roof, clear windows, type A hood interior, maroon base, 20-tread silver plastic wheels. Near mint in excellent "New Model" type B5 box. £850, Vectis, July.



▲ Matchbox Superfast No 75
Ferrari Berlinetta, metallic green
without silver trim, but with
headlamp cowls, ivory interior, bare
metal base, solid 5-spoke narrow
wheels without tread pattern. Near
mint in excellent "New" type G box.
£700, Vectis, July.



▲ Matchbox Speed Kings
Customised Ford Model T
Van Hot Rod pre-production
prototype, metallic lilac chassis
with K50-53 base taken from the
Street Rod/Hot Fire Engine, but
modified with customised wings
& running boards, handmade van
body, clear windows, 5-spoke
deep dish mag wheels. Excellent,
unboxed. £1500, Vectis, July.



▲ Matchbox Regular Wheels No 30 Magirus Deutz Crane Truck, tan body with silver grille, red jib, gloss black base, 20-tread grey plastic wheels. Fair in fair to good type C Lesney box without "New model" to end flaps. £400, Vectis, July.



▲ Matchbox Regular Wheels No 33 Lamborghini Miura, lemon yellow body, rare ivory interior, bare metal base. Good plus in good to good plus type F2 box. £440, Vectis, July.



▲ Matchbox Regular Wheels No 41 Ford GT40, white body with racing number 6 hood decal, maroon interior, gloss black base without tow guide, red plastic hubs, 72-tread black plastic tyres to front wheels, 45-tread black plastic tyres to rear wheels. Excellent plus in good plus to excellent "New Model" type E2 box. £190, Vectis, July.



▲ Matchbox Regular Wheels
No 46 Guy Removal Van
Promotional Issue "Beales
Bealesons", tan body without
silver trim, gloss black base,
36-tread black plastic wheels.
Good plus in poor type E₃ box.
£280, Vectis, July.



▲ Matchbox Regular Wheels No 72 Fordson Tractor, raised base platform, yellow plastic hubs with black tyres Excellent Plus with usual paint loss to top of steering wheel in Good Plus type D4 box £280. Vectis. July.



▲ Matchbox Early Moko Lesney
Toys large-scale Site Mixer (x3),
(1) rare pale green body, burnt
orange barrel, black metal wheels;
(2) light green body, orange
barrel, rare dark grey metal
wheels; (3) dark green body, red
barrel, yellow metal wheels (barrel
missing handle). Fair. £800,
Vectis. July.



▲ Matchbox Early Moko Lesney Toys large-scale Coronation Coach, gold coach with figures of King & Queen, white drawbar, with original chain link traces. Excellent in fair box, with rare inner card packing piece. £320, Vectis, July.

TOYFAIRTIMES

FAIRS

7 AUGUST

- Buxton, BP Fairs, 01604 846688 or 07966 527177
- Burton on Trent, Burton Railway Society, 01283 532880 or 07877 346371

11 AUGUST

 Theydon Bois, Joe Lock, 07810 513576 or 07866 641215

14 AUGUST

- **Stafford**, BP Fairs, 01604 846688 or 07966 527177
- Rayleigh, SRP Toy Fairs, 07739 998012
- Exeter, Bulldog Fairs, 01373 452857 or 07917 125641

21 AUGUST

- Orpington, SRP Toy Fairs, 07739 998012
- Oxford, Richard Atkins, 01869 347489

23 AUGUST

 West Kingsdown, SRP Toy Fairs, 07739 998012

30 AUGUST

 Garstang, Janet Pearson, 01282 439009

3 SEPTEMBER

• Midhurst, SRP Toy Fairs, 07739 998012

4 SEPTEMBER

- Coventry, BP Fairs, 01604 846688 or 07966 527177
- Broomfield, SRP Toy Fairs, 07739 998012

AUCTIONS

9 AUGUST

• Stockton-on-Tees, Vectis, 01642 750616

11 AUGUST

 Chippenham, Wessex Auction Rooms, 01249 720888

12 AUGUST

• Chippenham, Wessex Auction Rooms, 01249 720888

16 AUGUST

- Stockton-on-Tees, Vectis, 01642 750616
- Newbury, Special Auction Services, 01635 580595

17 AUGUST

 Stockton-on-Tees, Vectis, 01642 750616

18 AUGUST

• Stockton-on-Tees, Vectis, 01642 750616

19 AUGUST

 Stockton-on-Tees, Vectis, 01642 750616

26 AUGUST

• Bury St Edmunds, Lacy Scott & Knight, 01284 748623

30 AUGUST

 Stockton-on-Tees, Vectis, 01642 750616

31 AUGUST

 Stockton-on-Tees, Vectis, 01642 750616

2 SEPTEMBER

• Taunton, Greenslade Taylor Hunt, 01823 332525

3 SEPTEMBER

 Taunton, Greenslade Taylor Hunt, 01823 332525



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Majorette Volkswagen

Vans

Andrew Ralston travels to the Far East and goes shopping.

irtually every diecast manufacturer these days is reaching into the past, revisiting subjects modelled forty or fifty years ago and bringing them out again, whether in the form of replicas of the originals or new interpretations of old subjects.

Majorette is no exception. This French company's Volkswagen Beetle first came out in 1971, followed three years later by a VW van and Minibus, and these appeared in many variations. Today, Majorette is exploiting the same theme, with new castings of both of these ever-popular vehicles. In fact, the latest van goes even further back in time as the 1974 casting represented the post-1967 second generation van with full windscreen, usually referred to as the 'bay window' design, whereas the latest Majorette van, introduced a few years ago, has the familiar split-windscreen used between 1950 and 1967.

This new model comes in the traditional van and minibus guises and also as an unusual snack-bar design with a hinged roof. Numerous variants are on general sale, some more attractive than others. Some come with chrome alloy-style wheels and others with more sober plain discs.

As so often, though, collectors who like a challenge can always find less common variants that are not widely distributed and in this case the trail leads to Hong Kong. One of the two largest supermarket chains there is called 'ParknShop', with about 300 outlets in Hong Kong, Macau and mainland China. During 2020 this chain ran a promotional offer for eighteen Majorette models, all finished in very colourful liveries, mostly carrying the brand names of food and other items sold in the shops. The Parknshop name might not be familiar in the UK but most of the products advertised on the models are much the same as in our own supermarkets like Andrex, McVitie's, Yakult or Carlsberg. These appear on a variety of base models, such as a MAN Cargo truck, Toyota Hiace and VW Crafter vans, and even on aVW Beetle.

What we're looking at here, though, is the Volkswagen T1 'splittie' of which there are five variations in the 2020 ParknShop series, three of them vans and the other two minibuses with side windows. Kellogg's must be as familiar on Hong Kong breakfast tables as it is here, and the model, finished in red,



▲ Majorette VW van in colourful 'Chupa Chups' livery.



▲ Judging by this livery, Oreo biscuits must be as popular in Hong Kong as in the UK.

carries the famous graphics and lettering on the sides and roof. The Sunkist orange juice version is suitably finished in white with an orange roof and is decorated with citrus fruit graphics. An extra touch on this one is a roof-mounted surfboard. In minibus form, the model comes in pink and white, advertising Merries (disposable nappies), decorated with nursery-style artwork, red in the livery of 'Chupa Chups', a Spanish maker of lollipops and other confectionery, and in blue and white 'Oreo' livery showing a glass of milk and one of the biscuits on the roof. The lavish use of decoration not only on the sides but on the roof and elsewhere recalls the colourful style of the Danish Tekno Volkswagen vans of the 1950s.

Adding to the promotional appeal, these models come not carded but in traditional boxes, decorated to look like the frontage of a Parknshop store. They were only briefly available in Hong Kong and, of course, the idea was to encourage customers to spend more in order to collect the necessary points. They're not easy to find in Europe and collectors will have to rely on internet sellers. The popularity of the offer soon led to further similar models being issued which we hope to cover in a later issue.

Dear Editor...

EMAIL YOUR LETTERS AND QUESTIONS TO rick.wilson@warnersgroup.co.uk

OR WRITE TO US The Editor, Diecast Collector, Warners Group Publications plc, The Maltings, West Street, Bourne, Lincolnshire PE10 9PH.





PARTS REQUIRED AND RESTORATION TIPS

IT has been many years since I wrote into your magazine, back then regarding how to do my own Code \Im models and any articles on people's own Code \Im restorations. As you can see by a couple of photos I have attached, I have managed this and have also learnt how to cut out the pillars and chassis using a razor saw to fit wider wheels, thus giving a lower stance. I have also learnt how to do my own pictures using Pinterest. My problem is obtaining certain spares such as fog/spot lamps, sun visors and chrome wheels as I have had to dismantle models to get these parts and I wondered If you or any readers know of where I can purchase these items? Maybe you could introduce a restoration page each month with readers restorations, tips and ideas?

Chris Jackson, Gravesend

Hi Chris, many thanks for getting in touch again and your Code 3 work is great. For the spare parts, I tend to do what you've done so far and scavenge from my scrappers box. There is a thriving aftermarket industry for such things though, quite often 3D-printed by enthusiasts at home, and I find most of the bits that I can't pick out from my parts bin on ebay and by joining some likeminded restoration groups on Facebook. As for a readers' restoration page, great idea! I could certainly feature some of these in the Workbench feature – when I have enough for an extra page, I'll add a round-up selection.



CAMPSITE CAPERS WITH CAMPERS APLENTY

I am attaching a photo of the repainted Ford Thames Airborne, as featured in the July edition of *Diecast Collector*. I'd like to take this opportunity to give you special thanks for taking on the project and completing it to such a fine degree. As you can see from the photograph, the Airborne has happily taken its place among the caravans and campervans at the 'Good Morning' campsite. A bit of a free for all, but the Airborne has made it up front in the end. Once again, many thanks for the refurbishment and featuring it in the pages of the Workbench articles.

Will Roe, Coventry

You're more than welcome, Will, and thank you for the location update – the Airborne is clearly in some great company. It really was a very pleasurable refurb, and it's always very rewarding to bring classic old Corgis back to life.



CUSTOM BUS LIVERIES FOR FLEET

FURTHER to Peter Elliott's letter, in the August edition of *Diecast Collector*, he referred to Peter Taylor's earlier appeal for a livery. I have attached a photo of part of a livery that I use for my fictitious 'miniature world', the village of New Weald, in the county of Willshire. I know these are only stickers, which I can easily make myself, in this case seen on a cheap Carven mini bus model, but I just wanted to illustrate how you can 'taylor' something personal to add to your general collection.

Will Roe, Coventry

ED Excellent, thanks Will!

VARIATIONS AND COLOUR CHOICES

AFTER reading the article *Long live the Griffin*, in the August issue, I am prompted to ask why manufacturer's produce several variations of the same model, mainly different colours such as the inclusion of Vanguards Astras and Cavaliers.

Why? I have been waiting for years for a manufacturer to bring out an Austin



1100, 1967 era. The Austin 1100 was my first car back in the 1970s. At a toy fair before the pandemic, I picked up an old, battered Dinky Morris 1100, for 50p, and restored it to replicate my old Austin OYL 854F (which is the identical year and colour of the model in the car museum in Gaydon, as I wrote to ask for the colour code). See what it looks like now, pic attached. Also, I've just seen an advert in the mag about Matrix Models' Austin 1300s (not the same I know, different grilles, etc., but why Damask Red? So how about an Austin 1100 in Alaskan Blue?

Roland Oxley, email

Hi Roland, the simple answer to the question of why so many different versions of the same type of car are produced is that tooling for diecasts is to maximise investment. Your replication using the Dinky as a base is excellent. As for Matrix making an Alaskan Blue version, our regular contributor, David Wright, has very close ties with the team at Matrix, so, if you're reading this David, could you ask the question, please?

GREENLIGHT'S MAJOR MILITARY MIX UP

THE July 2022 issue of Diecast Collector arrived in my letterbox the other day and, while reading it, I saw the new Greenlight Collectibles M4 Sherman Tank (shown on pages 9 and 40) in two different versions, with either a long or short gun. The late vehicle is meant to be the M4A3E8, or Easy Eight. This is the model with the red hull front, from the Korean War. The Sherman was originally built with a 75mm gun. Later



vehicles had a longer and more powerful 76mm gun, but this was mounted in a new turret (taken from the T23 tank, which did not go in to production). Greenlight has tried to economise by using the same turret for both versions, and using different barrels for the 75mm and 76mm guns. That just does not work. Sorry to be negative, but this is a major error.

Paul Adams, New Zealand

This is why I love having such experts as readers! I have my specialist areas, but I have to confess that militaria is not one of them. Thank you for pointing that out, Paul. If I get to see the chaps at Greenlight in Nuremberg next January, I'll try to remember to bring this one up.

A BIT OF A TRUCKING MISTAKE BY IXO

WHY did your reviewer report that the Ixo TR100 Mack R Series, in the *What's New* section of the August edition of *Diecast Collector* magazine was an "absolutely wonderful replica"? The cab, bonnet and bullbar are all excellent, as from the film *Convoy*. The problems are that the chassis is far too short – you could not hook up a trailer as the sleeper cab will be in the way, plus the sleeper is not wide enough and should fit around the exhaust. As depicted, it would be a hard job to fit anybody over 4ft tall in. Ixo has just used the other model, TR082, and simply added a sleeper and bullbar, which is a pity as I have approximately 60 of the Ixo trucks – all of them are excellent and are great value for the money.

Nigel Hendry, Norwich

Hi Nigel, I'm afraid I'm the guilty party and I refer to my reply to Paul Adams' letter as it's the same reason – it's not my area of expertise, so thank you for taking the time to write in and point this out. Whilst I was admiring the quality and the finish of the model (you're right, these Ixo trucks are generally superb and represent excellent value), I'd missed the obvious defects in terms of accuracy to the real thing. I have to confess that I'd also missed the fact that it is meant to be a replica of the famous *Convoy* truck!



TRIUMPH TRIBULATIONS – AND A BEETLE

I have, as many people do, a vast collection of Corgi and many other diecast cars, lorries, etc. However, I have these two cars that I think are rare and would like more information on them if possible. One is the Volkswagen with the split screen and the other is a Triumph TR2, but a copycat



version – both are in good condition, but not boxed.

Terry Farrow, email

ED Hi Terry, the Beetle is easy - it's by Matchbox Dinky and was produced between 1993 and 1998 - it's still widely available on the second-hand market, and sells for around £15-20 when mint and boxed. The Triumph is definitely most intriguing and is one I know nothing about. So, it's time for our expert readers to step in here again. Thoughts, anybody?

MIGHTY MARCOS/ MINI COMBO IS FOR REAL

I have just received my latest (August) edition of Diecast Collector and saw a review of the superb Matrix Mini Pick-Up with Mini Marcos bodyshell on page 16, and thought you



would like the story of the actual car. You might be interested to know that there is a Le Mans connection too. William (known as Billy) Dulles was guite a character, with fingers in lots of pies. Sadly, Billy died earlier this year in America, where he had been living for quite a while. This is what Billy had to say about transporting a Mini Marcos shell on the back of his Mini pick-up. "I delivered the shell on the back of my Mini Pickup (pictured in Hyde Park) via Silver City Airlines. They operated Bristol Freighter Aircraft from Lydd in Kent to Le Touquet and, if you made the first flight of the morning, you could get to Paris in time for lunch. Whether you got back to London the same day depended on how long you took over lunch." The reason why there is a Le Mans connection is because the car Billy took across to France was built up as a race car and competed in the Le Mans 24 Hour Race way back in 1966. Many years later, a French garage owner recreated the Mini Marcos on the back of a Mini pick-up. He took it to a Classic Le Mans and Matrix has also produced a model of this too. I do hope you find the above interesting and it's always nice to find out the history of an actual car that a model is based on.

Ian Morton, email

Ooh, thanks Ian, that is most awesome. I did wonder, when we saw the model, if it was based on a real vehicle and it is absolutely brilliant, from my point of view, to hear about the Le Mans connection. I also happen to be a bit of a Mini maniac, so, this would make a great article – best I snaffle one of these beauties soon! Thank you so much for taking the time to send this in.

SSIFIEDS

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Never bettered

Stephen Paul Hardy gets nostalgic for a bit of diecast crafting.



Stephen Paul Hardy.

recently noticed something in a photograph of a play-worn diecast model 'Oval' Beetle, posted on the Volkswagen Model Club Facebook Group discussion thread, which set a serious train of thought in process. It wasn't the model itself that caught my eye, but a little aftermarket sticker on it that I instantly recognised as one of the utter captivations of my Corgi Toys infused childhood.

Always a lover of small details and accessories that appropriately enhance a model in keeping with a manufacturer's style, there is something from the 1960s that, as far as I am concerned, has never been matched or bettered. I am talking about the series of five small packets of 'Corgi Toys Self Adhesive Accessories', the contents of which were veritable treasure. Working first from memory, then supported by research, as far as I can see the fuller range was:

A No 1460 Number plates, Road fund licences, 'GB' plates, 'Running In' labels (approx 66 items)

B No 1461 'Styla' Sports discs, tyre trims and number plates (approx 36 items)

C No 1462 Commercial vehicle markings (Class licences, speed restriction plates, hazard triangle

reflectors) and number plates (approx 69 items) **D** No 1463 Number plates, 'CD plates', 'Learner' Plates and touring pennants (approx 100 items) **E** No 1464 AA & RAC Badges, 'Press' labels, 'Ontow' labels, Garage trade plates, taxi licence plates (approx 86 items)

I remember having at least one of each packet and patiently adding finishing touches (in some cases rather liberally, with as many of the stickers as could reasonably be added!) to several of my Corgi Toys vehicles with them. My particular favourite packs were A, D and E. The wheel trims from pack B, although looking rather smart, never seemed to stay in place satisfactorily, and pack C was rather lightly used, because I was more into the cars than the commercials. My absolute favourites were the beautifully detailed AA and RAC badges.

Setting nostalgia aside, what an amazing record these are of daily life in the 1960s - far more so possibly than the Corgi vehicles themselves. Just looking down the list there are things there that have long since dropped out of our lives - like 'Running In' labels and now even road fund licences!

NEXT MONTH

October 2022 Issue 300

Diecast Collector is 25!

This issue is our 300th, as we celebrate our 25th birthday with a look back at some extra special diecasts.



Please note: These planned editorial contents may be subject to change where necessary

PLUS...

- MGB 60th anniversary
- Small World part 4
- Corgimatics
- Cool collector ice cream vans
- Racing colours Belga (part 2)
- Corgi Chevrolet Astro I
- Collecting by numbers Superfast #27
- Workbench
- Auction results
- All the latest news
- Extensive selection of new model releases, reviewed by our team of experts

October issue on sale 1st September or download the digital edition 7 DAYS EARLIER on 25th August at www.pocketmags.com/diecast-collector



must be the last person on Earth to have seen *The Italian Job*. My delayed pleasure was only experienced at all because a local cinema showed it as part of a classic film series, earlier chances having been passed up when I heard that the film was originally intended to be a serious heist movie, but was subverted into a comedic escapade with added thrills. The splurge of publicity around the trio of Minis hid the presence of some more interesting cars that might have got me up in the circle of Sutton Granada much sooner. I hope that my single exposure will excuse any inaccuracies in what I think I saw.

The film starts with various cameras tracking the rapid progress of a Lamborghini Miura through the twisting terrors of an Alpine road, the Italian driver looking more relaxed than he should be until he enters a tunnel and demolishes the car and himself on the vast blade of a bulldozer that the Mafia has parked there just for him. This is where my clarity has gone missing. I think the Miura was orange while also thinking that when the bulldozer got rid of the wreckage, it was a yellow Miura sandwich that was shoved into space. And wasn't the car right-hand-drive?

I do know that Noel Coward played the genius who masterminded the job from his comfy prison cell and that Michael Caine collected a silver-blue Aston Martin DB6 from posh storage when released from the same prison. There was an E-Type coupé involved towards the end of the film (and a roadster?) which were taken at gunpoint by Mafiosi (and pushed into the void?).

I am more confident with the Miura on this page, but then I am looking at it. The original car, launched at the 1966 Geneva Motor Show, was soon to be viewed as the first supercar. Designed in the Bertone studio by the young Marcello Gandini and with a



Top: The sleek side view of the Miura SV – the real car is just 41 inches high.

▲ Bertone's unmistakable Miura styling is instantly recognisable.



▲ The purposeful rear end of the more powerful SV features a wider track.

Bizzarini-designed V12 engine mid-mounted, it could reach 170mph if the occupants were okay about being deafened and cooked. Partly inspired by the Ford GT40, the Miura was a road-hugging 41 inches high or low. The Miura-S appeared in 1969 with even more punch but the car replicated here is the ultimate Miura SV from 1971 with 385 bhp and a body widened at the back to allow for the increased rear track and wheels. Nobody wanted the extra power to be wasted. For me (and a lot of others), the visual improvement was in losing the finned cooling ducts (those eyelashes) around the pop-up head lights. The model by Ixo is perfect. I did have to remove and shave the headlights to get them into the less-goofy down-position and I've yet to produce a photo of the Miura from behind that shows how low and wide the real car looks, but I assume that's just me. The cabin is particularly good the wheels crisply cast - I see no faults.

I don't consider myself to be a Lambo man and often think of getting shot of the five I have. But, every time I take them out, well, something happens and back they go. Now I look properly, I seem to have six.

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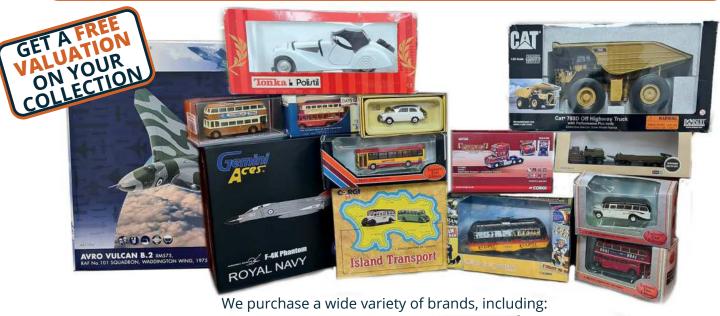


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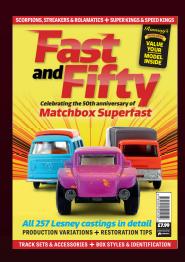
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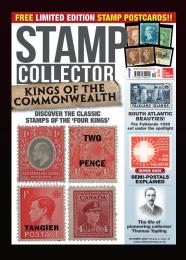
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