

» **PRICE GUIDE:** LATEST TOY AUCTION RESULTS

DIECAST

C O L L E C T O R

Collectors Club
OF GREAT BRITAIN

www.ccofgb.co.uk • £6.99 • January 2025 • Issue 327

The UK's only diecast magazine!

NEW RELEASES

HOLY CORGI BATMAN!

Reviewing of a trio
of brand new classic
Batmobiles...



ALSO

INSIDE...

**FRENCH
AVIATION**

Looking at
CIJ models

MINI GT

Grand Prix
1/64 range

PLUS!
THE LATEST
COLLECTING
NEWS



» **HOT WHEELS LOTUS 49**

The legendary race car made in miniature form

» **IS THIS LANCASHIRE'S FINEST?**

The iconic bonneted Leyland Comet lorry

Price: £6.99



WARNERS
GROUP PUBLICATIONS LTD
Display until 02/01/25

Has your collection outstayed its welcome?



Get in touch for a FREE valuation

Or maybe you would like
to buy from a family run,
friendly but professional
auction business?



Get in touch for a FREE 'how to' auction tutorial!

SUBSCRIBE! THE EASIEST WAY TO GET A COPY OF...

DIECAST COLLECTOR

The UK's No.1 model
magazine since 1997

PAY JUST £59.99 FOR 12 ISSUES!



Why subscribe?

- Keep up to date with the latest news, reviews and price guides
- Get inspired with auction, toyfair and event reports
- Features on all the big name brands including Corgi Toys, Dinky Toys, Tri-ang, Spot-On, Matchbox Superfast and many more!
- Practical tips for buying, restoring and displaying your models



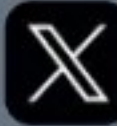
HOW TO ORDER YOURS...

Simply scan the QR code seen here, visit <https://ccofgb.uk/DiecastCollector> or call our team on 01778 392006 and quote DCC/SUBS24.

*T&Cs apply. Rate applies when you subscribe to 12 issues of Diecast Collector via a Direct Debit. Offer valid from October 31st 2024 to March 1st 2025. See website for details.



CONTENTS

FOLLOW US AT  @ccofgb  @CollectorClubGB  CollectorsClubOfGreatBritain  CollectorsClubofGB

REGULARS

06 News and events

What's happening in the world of diecast collecting.

37 Collecting by Numbers

Charting the evolution of the Matchbox Superfast range during the Lesney years, from 1969 to 1982.

42 Little and Large

In which Steve Coles compares models of the same car... but in differing scales!

44 Corgi Through The Years

Rick Wilson continues his series of year-by-year articles from the beginning of the Corgi brand in 1956.

48 A-Z of Diecast

In which Alwyn Brice continues his series, leafing through the alphabet of diecasts.

50 Top Vintage Model

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

58 Your Models

A pictorial snapshot of your prized diecast models and collections.

59 Dear Editor

Your diecast-related questions shared.

62 A female perspective

Hazel Ralston considers the world of model collecting, through different eyes.

36



NEW MODELS

10 What's New

Five pages of latest new model reviews.

17 Into the New Year

Stephen Paul Hardy reflects on the trends of the past few months.

20 Holy Trinity Batman!

Rick Wilson rushes to his Batcave to report on a trio of brand new classic Batmobiles.

FEATURES

22 And then Senna arrived

Francisco Mota looks at the Ayrton Senna effect on McLaren and in Formula 1 as a whole.

26 Hot Wheels Lotus 49

Graham Heeps discovers how designer Fraser Campbell recreated the legendary Lotus 49 in Hot Wheels miniature form.

31 MINI GT Grand Prix Collection

Rick Wilson takes a look at a new range of models that are bound to fly off the shelf... or around the race track!

34 French diecast: CIJ

Andrew Ralston remembers the aviation output of a diecast great...

38 Lancashire's finest

Nigel Robertshaw takes a look at the iconic bonneted Leyland Comet lorry.

AUCTIONS

52 Online results

We help you to put a value on your collection, with a look at recent online results.

53 Price Guide

Value your collection with auction results from around the country.

60 Toy Fair Times

News of upcoming auctions and events that you might want to put in your diary.

20



DIECAST

COLLECTOR

EDITORIAL

Publisher Claire Ingram
claire.ingram@warnersgroup.co.uk

Group Editor Cathy Herron
cathyh@warnersgroup.co.uk

Regular Editorial Contributors

David Pullen, Richard Carlson, Steven Downes, Francisco Mota, Michael Driver, Mike Pigott, Rick Wilson, Charles Barnett, Alwyn Brice, Keith D'Souza, Jarrod Cotter, Steve Coles, Ed Karswell, Andrew Ralston, David Lynn, Stephen Paul Hardy, Hazel Ralston, John Tailby

MARKETING

Marketing Manager
Sophie Thornton Tel: 01778 395085
sophie.thornton@warnersgroup.co.uk
Marketing Assistant
Rebecca Abbott Tel: 01778 395081
rebecca.abbott@warnersgroup.co.uk

ADVERTISING

Advertising Manager
Kristina Green Tel: 01778 392096
kristina.green@warnersgroup.co.uk

Advertising Production

Kay Cotterill Tel: 01778 395065
k.cotterill@warnersgroup.co.uk

NEWS TRADE DISTRIBUTION

Warners Group Distribution Ltd
Tel: 01778 391150

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions hotline 01778 392006
Subscription rates starting from:
UK and BFPO £5.99 - Europe & Eire Airmail £18.99
Worldwide Airmail £19.99
Digital subscriptions are available from £12.99 – visit
www.pktmags.com/dcc_digital for more details.

Can't find a copy in the shops? Order your copy online at www.ccofgb.co.uk

CONTACT

Write to us at:
Diecast Collector, Warners Group Publications plc,
The Maltings, West Street, Bourne, Lincs, PE10 9PH.
Email us at:
CollectingEditorial@warnersgroup.co.uk

PRINTING

Warners Midlands plc
Tel: 01778 395100



This publication is printed
by Warners Midlands PLC
Telephone: 01778 391000



SUBSCRIBE TODAY & PAY as little as £5.99 a month

Turn to page 3 to find out more on how to save!



DISCLAIMER

All material published remains the copyright of Warners Group Publications Plc, no part of this magazine may be published without the prior permission of the publisher. Views expressed by contributors are not necessarily the views of the editor or publisher and the greatest care has been taken to ensure accuracy, but the publishers cannot accept responsibility for omissions or errors.

While we take every care, we cannot accept liability for loss or damage to contributed copy/material and the large volume of enquiries means not all correspondence can be replied to personally. Competition winners' details are available from the editorial address; please enclose SAE with your enquiry. While every care is taken when accepting advertisements, we cannot accept responsibility for unsatisfactory transactions. We will however investigate any complaints. Data Protection – Warners Group Publications Plc may lend reputable companies the names & addresses of readers who have responded to offers, services and competitions organised by Diecast Collector magazine. If you do not wish to receive such mailings, please write or phone us at the given address.

NEWS

FOLLOW US AT  @ccofgb  @CollectorClubGB  CollectorsClubOfGreatBritain  CollectorsClubofGB



NEW FROM POCHER

POCHER has announced the launch of its latest model, the Pagani Utopia Coupé 1/8 scale replica. Celebrating three decades of Pagani's revolutionary automotive design, this highly detailed model captures the essence of Pagani's newest hypercar, the Utopia Coupé. Crafted with over 556 precision-engineered parts and over 200 screws, this model is a must-have for collectors and enthusiasts, offering an in-depth, hands-on building experience that takes over 30 hours to complete.

The Pagani Utopia is a marvel of cutting-edge automotive engineering, and Pocher's 1/8 scale model mirrors this innovation with meticulous attention to detail. The model features pre-decorated diecast metal parts and functional elements like opening doors, suspension, and steering, providing a realistic and immersive experience.

"We are thrilled to bring the Pagani Utopia Coupé to life in 1/8 scale," said Scott Elsey, Pocher Brand MD. "This model represents the perfect blend of innovation and artistry, giving collectors the opportunity to immerse themselves in the beauty and complexity of one of the world's most iconic hypercars."

Pocher has painstakingly replicated the car's luxurious design in the scale model, allowing enthusiasts to appreciate the precision and artistry of the Utopia up close. With only 99 Pagani Utopia Coupés produced, this hypercar is one of the rarest and most coveted vehicles in the world. Pocher's exclusive 1/8 scale model offers collectors a unique opportunity to build and own a piece of this automotive history. For more information about the Pocher Pagani Utopia, please visit <https://uk.pocher.com/>. ■



MATRIX JAGUAR COMING TO BHM

BRITISH Heritage Models has just unveiled exciting news for classic car enthusiasts and model collectors. Matrix Scale Models has announced the release of new Jaguar XJ6 Series III models, a well-loved British classic, produced from 1979 to 1989. These models are now available for pre-order, allowing collectors to secure their choice of three elegant colors: Damson Red, Portland Yellow, and classic Black.

Fans of iconic British cars may recognize the Jaguar XJ6 Series III from its appearance in the popular TV show *The Equalizer*, where actor Edward Woodward famously drove the vehicle. This particular model is cherished for its distinctive design and vintage appeal, capturing the elegance of Jaguar's legacy from that era.

British Heritage Models is offering these meticulously crafted 1/43 scale replicas at a price range of £85 to £95, reflecting the high-quality and detail-oriented production of Matrix Scale Models. Given the popularity of both the car and the show, this release is expected to be a hit among collectors and Jaguar enthusiasts alike.

Pre-orders for these Jaguar models can be placed through British Heritage Models by phone at **01244 320761**, via email at **bhm-uk@talktalk.net**, or through the 'Contact' page on their official website: www.britishheritagemodels.co.uk. ■



TOY COLLECTORS PRICE GUIDE 2025

IF you've been a regular reader of the *Diecast Collector* for a while, then you'll know that each year we publish *Toy Collectors Price Guide*, which brings together hundreds of auction prices from around the country, along with full colour pictures, to help you put a potential estimate on your collection.

Well, this year is no different and we're pleased to announce that the *Toy Collectors Price Guide 2025* is available to buy from 29th November... either direct from us here at Warners Group Publication or on the high street. Priced at £9.99, the guide clocks in at nearly 100 pages and features more than 1,300 collectables, totalling a whopping £320,000.

In terms of the collectables, we've got a bumper diecast section with

all your favourites covered, along with model railways, toy figures, tinplate, TV and film memorabilia and other toys, games and collectables. There's also an expanded eBay section featuring online results from the popular auction site.

Available as either a paper product or a digital edition, you order your copy for £9.99 (plus postage and packaging) by visiting ccofgb.uk/tcpg2025 or calling us on **01778 392006**. ■





VECTIS AUCTIONS SMASHES CHARLES HOLLYWOOD MATCHBOX SALE EXPECTATIONS

VECTIS Auctions recently exceeded all expectations in its sale of the Charles Hollywood Matchbox Collection, an event that drew Matchbox toy enthusiasts from around the globe. Originally projected to achieve £21,000, the auction concluded with a staggering total of £46,000, including Buyers Premiums, more than doubling initial estimates.

The auction, held entirely online, featured 445 lots, each meticulously curated from the late Charles Hollywood's extensive Matchbox collection. Buyers from multiple countries vied for a chance to own these rare collectibles, with every lot sold by the close of the event — a testament to the enduring appeal of vintage Matchbox models.

Among the standout lots were several pieces that fetched prices well above their estimates, reflecting their rarity and the excitement surrounding this iconic collection.

One of the top highlights was Lot 297, a Matchbox Regular Wheels 55a DUKW Amphibian, housed in a rare late-issue type D1 box with artwork by Pembroke Abbey. Originally estimated at £40-£60, this collectible shocked bidders by reaching £760. Another notable sale, Lot 161, featured a pair of Matchbox Regular Wheels 33a Ford Zodiacs, estimated at £40-£60 but closing at an impressive £539.

Lot 253 also attracted considerable attention: a Matchbox Regular Wheels 47a Trojan Brooke Bond Tea Van in a distinctive type D1 box by Pembroke Abbey, originally expected to sell for £80-£100, ultimately went for £515. Finally, Lot 24, a Matchbox Regular Wheels 5d London Routemaster Bus "Pegram" Code 3 in type E4 box, achieved £441, far exceeding its £20-£30 estimate.

This record-breaking auction illustrates the strong global demand for rare Matchbox collectibles, solidifying Vectis Auctions' reputation in the vintage toy market. ■

NEXT UP FROM CORGI MODEL CLUB!

IT'S been a busy few months for the Corgi Model Club recently, and its latest collection update announcement has just reached us.

After the Yellow Submarine, which is the March 2025 release, CMC has announced three new additions to the ever-growing collection:

• April 2025 ~ Corgi 436, Citroen D19 Safari

This model is one of those unsung Corgi Toys that many of us owned back in the day. Until they started working on this one, CMC staff hadn't realised how many variations existed! It's a surprisingly heavy diecast too,

complete with roof rack and luggage, driver and passenger figures, opening tailgate and a tilting rear seat, it's a Corgi classic!

• May 2025 ~ Corgi 266, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang Chitty isn't the recent model, which has been available direct from Corgi, but a modified version which makes it more authentic to the November 1968 original. It includes a beautiful facsimile of the 1960s-era box, something that they been working hard on replicating... including the cloud insert that Chitty sits on! As with the Yellow Submarine, CMC had to take advantage of the

existing license agreement so that this iconic Corgi could be part of the collection.

• June 2025 ~ Corgi 406, Land Rover 109 WB

Lastly, we have Corgi 406 which hopefully needs no introduction as it represents the first ever Corgi Land Rover from way back in 1957! In fact, Corgi sold more Land Rover models than Batmobiles... some 10 million in total!

Rest assured that the Corgi Model Club collection will continue to represent a broad cross section of Corgi's, throughout 2025 and beyond. These continue



to be very exciting times for Corgi collectors and the Corgi Model Club is proud to be at the heart of it!

If you have any questions about club membership then you can contact the CMC customer service team either by email on enquiries@corgimodelclub.com or by phone on 0333 030 77 44. ■

NEWS

FOLLOW US AT  @ccofgb  @CollectorClubGB  CollectorsClubOfGreatBritain  CollectorsClubofGB

ESVAL REPLICAS OF THE 1928 AMILCAR C6

ESVAL Models has exciting news for collectors and vintage car enthusiasts with the release of two 1/43 scale replicas of the iconic 1928 Amilcar C6. This limited edition model captures the essence of a car that holds a special place in the history of French automotive engineering.

The original Amilcar C6 was produced in limited numbers, only 45 were manufactured at the Amilcar factory in Paris making it a rare and desirable piece for collectors today. Among these, only six made it to the UK, adding to the model's exclusivity. Designed primarily for the racetrack, the Amilcar C6 was equipped with a lightweight yet powerful straight-six engine, which

helped it achieve remarkable speeds for its time. While the car could be adapted for road use its true potential was realized on the racing circuit.

Esval's replicas recreate the details of the original car, from its streamlined shape to the precise detailing of its race-focused design elements. Collectors will appreciate this tribute to one of the most remarkable vehicles of the late 1920s, a car that showcased both French engineering prowess and a deep passion for speed. ■



WIN

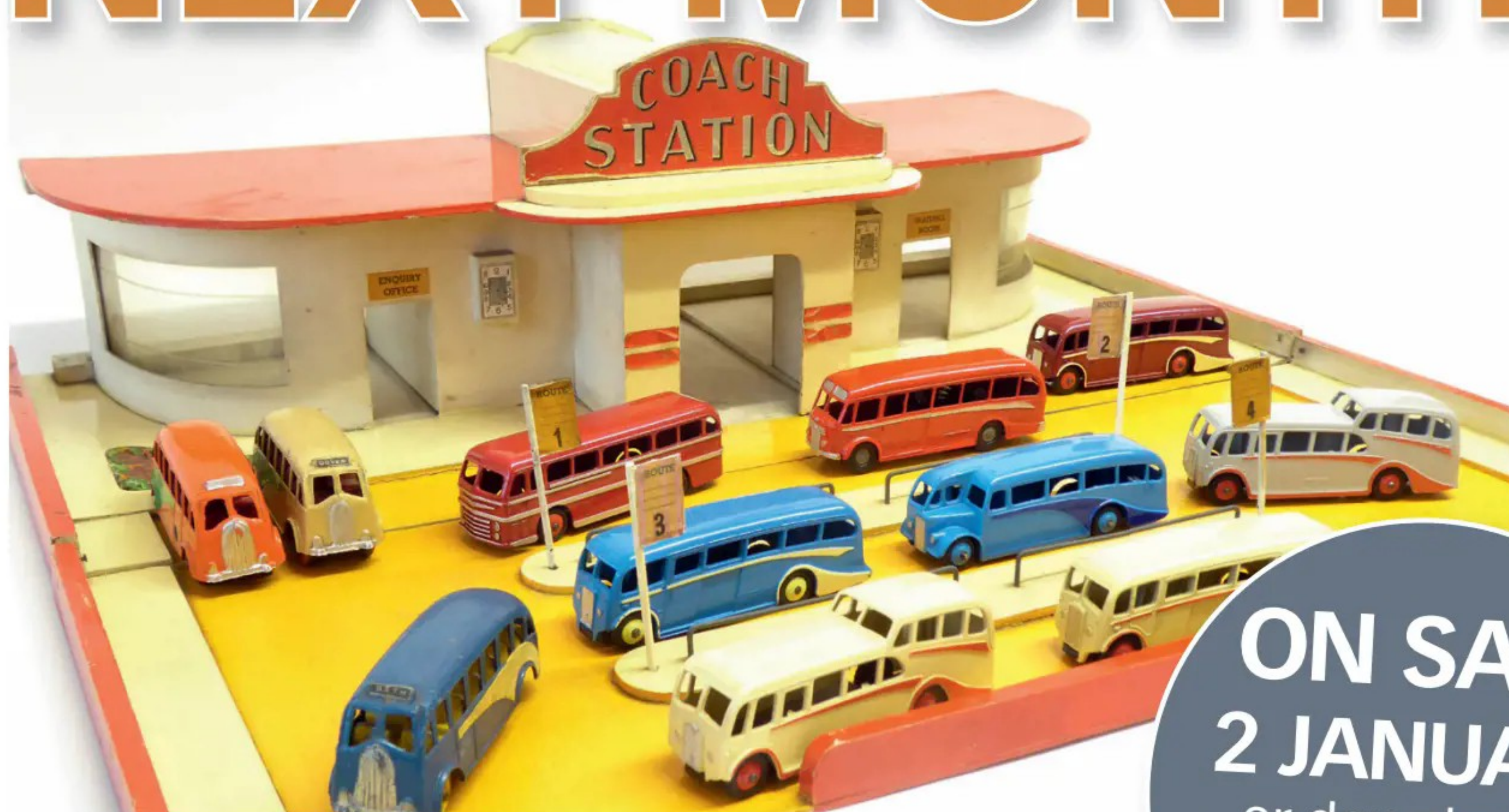
YOUR COLLECTION IN PRINT NEXT MONTH!

DO YOU fancy seeing your collection in print? The collecting community is a large, and diverse, one. And as such we all like to admire each others prized possessions, whether to further our knowledge or to add various items to our wish lists!

Send us a picture, and a little bit of information about your collection, for the chance to be included in our monthly *My Collection* series... and our favourite each issue will win a diecast model worth at least £10*. Email us at **CollectingEditorial@warnersgroup.co.uk**. Terms and conditions can be found online at: <https://ccofgb.uk/submityourcollection>. ■

NEXT MONTH

FEBRUARY '25
Issue 328



On the buses!

An exotic Art Deco coach station sets the scene for some classic buses and coaches from the 1950s and 1960s.

PLUS...

- Motor Star Monster Trucks
- Tomica Helicopters
- A-Z of diecast collecting
- Get your ideas into print
- Auction results
- All the latest news
- Extensive selection of new model releases
- And much more...

ON SALE
2 JANUARY
...or download the
digital edition 7
days earlier!

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



DIECAST • MODELS • HOBBIES • TOYS

Clevelands Wholesale Limited
Woodcock Hill Industrial Estate
Harefield Road, Rickmansworth
Herts WD3 1PQ

Tel: +44 (0)1923 711772
Email: sales@clevelandsdiecast.co.uk
www.clevelandsdiecast.co.uk



FOLLOW US
@ClevelandsTrade



LIKE US
ClevelandsTrade



SEE LATEST MODELS
user/ClevelandsTrade

Wholesale distribution of all major model, hobby and toy brands to the trade

TRADE ONLY

UK DISTRIBUTOR FOR:

MINI GT



1988 McLaren MP4/4 & 1991 McLaren MP4/6
(FROM THE UPCOMING 1/64 SCALE Ayrton Senna Collection)



MGT00872-L - 1/64 PORSCHE 911 GT3 R No.80
AO RACING 2023 IMSA VIRGINIA ROXY (LHD)



MGTS0014 (MAX VERSTAPPEN) & MGTS0015 (SERGIO PEREZ) 1/64 ORACLE
RED BULL RACING RB19 2023 F1 2023 JAPANESE GRAND PRIX PIT CREW SETS



JAMES BOND 007 "THE SPY WHO LOVED ME" UNDERWATER LOTUS ESPRIT
(FROM THE UPCOMING 1/64 SCALE 007 COLLECTION)

KAIDO ★ HOUSE



MGTKHMG162 - 1/64 BMW M3 (E30) KAIDO GT V1



MGTKHMG165 - 1/64 NISSAN SKYLINE 2000GT-R (KPGC10) KAIDO WORKS V1



Wholesale distribution of all major model, hobby and toy brands to the trade



What's new...

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.

FIAT'S UNORTHODOX MULTIPLA IS SUPERBLY CAPTURED IN 1/18TH SCALE

Fiat's unorthodox Multipla was arguably one of the most distinct "Marmite" car designs bridging the transition of the twentieth century into the twenty-first. Setting aside the issue of whether you liked the body style or not, from the pen of famous Italian designer Roberto Giolito this compact MPV goes down in modern automotive history as much for its pragmatically practical and innovative interior as its convention challenging looks. A combination of attributes that brought it numerous awards including the European Automobile Trophy in 1999, the Golden Steering Wheel in Germany and the Industrial Design Award in Italy.

So, let's start with that modular concept interior with its two rows of three seats accommodating up to six people. Whilst the large window area of the Multipla probably pushes the type of glazing used on resin bound 1/18 models to near to its limits, it nevertheless works really well. It also gives a much better than normal visual access to the interior compared with most scale model cars. An interior that is both well modelled and detailed in grey and blue upholstery and trim. Indeed the black accent and trim, not only to the window surrounds but the whole of this MPV, makes a defining contrast to the immaculate pale lime metallic paintwork. The total visual impact of all these points add up to making this one of those releases that are very collectable in their own right just for the modelling.

More than this though Ottomobile's capture of the Multipla - here in Giallo Chic guise - highlights how well its attention to detail and quality delivers an

OTTOMOBILE
Fiat Multipla
Giallo Chic

SCALE: 1/18
PRICE: TBC
REF: OT1047

www.otto-models.com/en/



ABOVE The Multipla's idiosyncratic "goggle" eyes sparkle mischievously such that a front three quarters view is the optimum angle from which to view the model.



ABOVE From the rear the tailgate glazing is a treat, particularly thanks to how neatly the third, high level, brake light is modelled.

RIGHT With its black accents, crisply defined trim, immaculate metallic paintwork and visually very accessible interior Ottomobile's Multipla is one of those releases that is very collectable in its own right just for the modelling.



outstanding model. This Multipla not only looks right from all angles but somehow captures the essence of the real vehicle having a body shape that suggests authentic replication when scaled down is a challenge to pull off.

As expected from Ottomobile, the definition between black bumper sections and trim where they meet that very attractive paintwork colour are crisp and clean. Similarly well defined are the other external detailings - including screen wiper, badges and all the inset lights that sit perfectly in their appropriate body and bumper locations. From the rear the tailgate glazing is a treat particularly thanks to how neatly the third, high level, brake light is modelled. From the front the Multipla's idiosyncratic six light "goggle" eyes sparkle mischievously such that a front three quarters view is the optimum angle from which to view the model.

Maybe right now this is a model of a car that is too easy to dismiss at first sight but the modelling of it combined with the fact that it was pretty radical and marks a milestone in MPV design makes this a model very worth adding into the collection. ■





CONRAD
Liebherr TA230 Articulated Haul Truck

SCALE: 1/50 PRICE: €129 REF: 2769/02

www.conrad-modelle.de

The range of Liebherr models continues to be updated with the latest logos, like this articulated hauler which features a tipping body with opening tailgate.



CONRAD
Grove GMK5150XL All-Terrain Crane

SCALE: 1/50 PRICE: €310.95
REF: 2125/06

www.conrad-modelle.de

This blue and yellow colour combination looks smart applied here. Fully functional, with extending outriggers, multi-section telescopic boom and luffing fly jib.



CONRAD
Doll Long Timber Transporter on MAN TGS NN Chassis

SCALE: 1/50 PRICE: €199.80 REF: 81179/01

www.conrad-modelle.de

A new release of the Doll long timber transporter system, based on a MAN TGS NN truck chassis with rear dolly and an authentic wooden load. Fully operational.



WSI MODELS
Volvo EC950F Tracked Excavator 'Black Decoration'

SCALE: 1/50 PRICE: €169 REF: 64-2013

www.wsi-models.com

Two new colour combinations have been released, first in a black overall with orange handrails and gold coloured printing of the logos and markings.



WSI MODELS
Volvo EC950F Tracked Excavator 'White Decoration'

SCALE: 1/50 PRICE: €169 REF: 64-2012

www.wsi-models.com

The white version of the Volvo EC950F is stunning and sure to be a quick seller, with a combination of grey cabin, undercarriage, counterweight and bucket.



WSI MODELS
Mercedes-Benz Actros MP3 LH 6x2 with 4-axle Trailer

SCALE: 1/50 PRICE: €174 REF: 01-4361

www.wsi-models.com

Something a little different, with a 4-axle curtainsider trailer coupled with a Mercedes-Benz #actros 6x2 tractor in the colours of JSB Internationaal Transport.



TEKNO
Volvo FH12 Globetrotter with 3-axle Refrigeration Trailer 'Travaca'

SCALE: 1/50 PRICE: €175 REF: 85998

www.tekno.nl

The colours of logistics company Travaca catches the eye. A maroon base colour with white stripe, this classic rig has been authentically replicated by Tekno.



TEKNO
Scania Next Gen S Highline 6x2 'Brian Nielsen'

SCALE: 1/50 PRICE: €119 REF: 85716

www.tekno.nl

With rear tag axle, finished in a red and blue decoration for the Brian Nielsen company. Graphics on the sides are excellent, as are those on the front grill.



NEW QUADTRAC FROM UNIVERSAL HOBBIES

Universal Hobbies' completely new model of Case IH's new flagship, European spec'ed Quadtrac tractor would be a great addition to any collection. Weighing over a kilogram it's a well-built, good-looking, detailed model.

It has European style warning boards on the front bumper, clear plastic headlights in the bonnet and on the underside a flexible towing cable. The fully glazed cab has hinged mirrors, LED work lights, an aerial and white GPS receiver. By the right-hand A-pillar there's the air cleaner and on the left-hand side on the access platform the exhaust stack. Access steps and handrails are detailed but the cab door does not open. While inside and visible through the windows are the black matting and red driver's and passenger seats. There's a joystick and monitor with active screen detailed on the driver's seat armrest. On the right-hand A-pillar there's a second monitor and another suspended from the roof panel. Each track has freely rotating idler rolls and flexible turning tracks. There are working steering rams at the pivot and for attaching equipment the tractor's provided with Universal Hobbies' standard two-point linkage with pickup hitch. Detailed over the linkage are two colour-coded external hydraulic blocks. While on the mudguards there are four work LED lights and a frame with warning boards and tail lights. There's also a silver cap on the fuel tank and safety decals detailed. ■

UNIVERSAL HOBBIES
Case IH 715
Quadtrac Tractor

PRICE: £145
SCALE: 1/32
REF: 6654

www.universalhobbies.fr/en



BRITAINS
Case CX210E Excavator
SCALE: 1/50 PRICE: £64.99
REF: 43397

Detailed, largely metal, European spec'ed excavator with freely rotating metal tracks and fully functioning boom. Production limited to 1000 models.

www.britainsfarmtoys.co.uk



ERTL
Case IH Steiger 715 Quadtrac Tractor
SCALE: 1/32 PRICE: £115 REF: 44363

Robustly built North American spec'ed Case IH 715 tractor with SMV signage and large air cleaner. With flexible freely rotating tracks and steering rams.

www.ertl.com



UNIVERSAL HOBBIES
Joskin Aquatrans 3600 Tanker
SCALE: 1/32 PRICE: £50
REF: 098760372

New detailed tanker provided with brake lines, pto shaft, working stand, level gauge and flexible hoses. At the rear there are tail lights and drinking trough.

my.joskin.com/sites/shop



UNIVERSAL HOBBIES
Joskin Volumetra 20000D Tanker
SCALE: 1/32 PRICE: around £58
REF: 2098760370

Universal Hobbies refreshed well-built and detailed tanker sports new decals, beacon, warning sign and fenders. It also has an updated drawbar and rear linkage.

my.joskin.com/sites/shop

AMAZING DIECAST BARGAINS FROM KEITH'S CARS OF DERBY

"FOR LOTS MORE EXCITING MODELS, PLEASE VISIT MY WEBSITE: WWW.KEITHSCARS.CO.UK"

GREAT 1/43 MODELS! ALL POST FREE!!



ATLAS 1959 ALFA ROMEO GIULIETTA ITALIAN POLICE 14.99



ATLAS DINKY TOY 34A BERLIET DUMP TRUCK 29.99



ATLAS DINKY TOYS #157 JAGUAR XK120 14.99



ATLAS GULF PORSCHE 917K LE MANS 1970 22.99



GREENLIGHT CHARLIE BABBITT'S 1949 BUICK ROADMASTER 'RAIN MAN' 27.99



ICONIC REPLICAS 1935 MACK BK COACH TRAILWAYS 74.99



SOLIDO 1995 PORSCHE 911 (993) CARRERA RS CLUBSPORT RED 27.99



SOLIDO 1995 PORSCHE 911 (993) CARRERA RS CLUBSPORT BLUE 27.99



IXO 1939 AEC RT REGENT III LONDON TRANSPORT 59.99



IXO 1960-67 MAGIRUS-DEUTZ JUPITER 6X6 DUMP TRUCK 49.99



IXO 1972 FIAT 238 LANCIA RALLY TEAM SUPPORT VAN 39.99



IXO 1972 FORD GRAN TORINO SPORT 29.99



IXO 1975 VOLKSWAGEN LT28 TEAM MARTINI CASTROL RALLY SUPPORT VAN 39.99



IXO 1979 FIAT 242 FIAT RACING RALLY SUPPORT VAN 39.99



VITESSE 1998 LTI TX1 LONDON TAXI 19.99



VITESSE 1955 CHEVROLET BEL AIR OPEN YELLOW 29.99



IXO 1980'S VOLKSWAGEN LT45 VW MOTORSPORT RALLY SUPPORT VAN 39.99



IXO 1986 FORD TRANSIT MK2 TEAM FORD RALLY SUPPORT VAN 42.99



IXO 2013 JAGUAR F-TYPE V8 S (DEALER BOX) 19.99



SCHUCO 2021 ASTON MARTIN VALKYRIE GREEN 69.99



SCHUCO 2021 ASTON MARTIN VALKYRIE ORANGE 69.99



SOLIDO 1995 VOLVO 850 T-5R 2.3L 27.99



VITESSE 1947 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY OPEN 29.99



VITESSE 1955 CHEVROLET BEL AIR OPEN GREEN 29.99

OXFORD DIECAST 1/43 FANTASTIC ROLLS-ROYCE MODELS 24.95 EACH POST FREE!!



25-30 THRUPP & MABERLY BURGUNDY 1936-8



25-30 THRUPP & MABERLY GREEN & BLACK 1936-8



25-30 THRUPP & MABERLY BLACK 1936-8



CORNICHE CONVERTIBLE INDIGO BLUE



CORNICHE CONVERTIBLE PERSIAN SAND



PHANTOM III SEDAN DE VILLE MULLINER BLACK



PHANTOM III SEDAN DE VILLE MULLINER CLARET & BLACK



PHANTOM III SEDAN DE VILLE MULLINER FAWN & BLACK



SILVER CLOUD HOOPER EMPRESS 2-TONE BLUE



SILVER CLOUD HOOPER EMPRESS BLACK & SILVER



SILVER CLOUD I BLACK



SILVER CLOUD I SAND & SABLE



SILVER CLOUD I SMOKE GREEN



SILVER DAWN 2-TONE GREY 1949-55



SILVER DAWN MAROON & BLACK 1949-55



PHANTOM V JAMES YOUNG BURGUNDY OVER SILVERSAND

**HOLY DIECAST BATMAN!
CORGI BATMOBILE NOW
AVAILABLE! 39.99
POST FREE!!**



**AMAZING 1/18 RESIN SCHUCO
1971 FORD TRANSIT SUPERVAN
1 179.99 POST FREE!!**



CONTACT KEITH BY EMAIL: SONOFCORNERSHOP@BTINTERNET.COM CHEQUES/POSTAL ORDERS PAYABLE TO KEITH BRADLEY - SEND YOUR ORDER TO:

KEITH'S CARS, 25 ALLESTREE LANE, DERBY DE22 2HQ TEL: 07976 917574

GRAB YOURSELF SOME TRUE 1970S STYLE WITH OXFORD'S ICONIC BOND BUG

Designed by Tom Karen of Ogle Design, who was also responsible for the Bush TR130 Radio, Raleigh Chopper and the Scimitar GTE, more than 2,000 Bond Bugs were produced between 1970 and 1974. Immortalised in diecast during period, by Corgi Toys (No.389), the entire production run of the real car was manufactured in orange and black, apart from six that were produced in white for a promotion by the cigarette company, Rothmans. Built initially at the Bond Cars factory, but subsequently at Reliant's Tamworth works, it features a wedge-shaped fibreglass body with a canopy that hinges upwards and forwards from just behind the headlights. Interestingly, the side screens were optional! The early models were powered by Reliant's 700cc engine, but this was later upgraded to the new 750cc unit. The car was very light and was interesting to drive, particularly in the snow, with its single front wheel.

The only scale models of this incredible three-wheeler in recent times have been the sublime 1/18 scale resincast, released by DNA Collectibles in 2018, and a slightly more recent 1/43 scale Altaya magazine series partwork, which is incredibly difficult to find in the UK. So, the news of Oxford Diecast's 1/76 scale release was greeted with much enthusiasm.

Oxford's newly-tooled miniature is based on the Bond Bug 700ES, which featured upgrades compared to the basic version. The ES came with more ergonomic seats, more padding over the engine cowl, twin mud flaps and an ashtray. Wearing the registration SMW 898J from 1970, it depicts a car registered during the first year of production.

Painted in that fabulously iconic orange, it's a super little model and that wonderful wedge shape is really nicely reproduced. The only gripe is that the tops of the headlights should be painted to match the bodywork, with just the forward-



OXFORD DIECAST
Bond Bug - orange

SCALE: 1/76
PRICE: £9.95
REF: 76BUG001

www.oxforddiecast.co.uk

facing lens being clear. Oxford admitted, just after the model hit the shops, on its social media channels that this was missed during manufacture and will be corrected for any future runs. Corgi made a Lime Green version of its diecast back in the seventies, and then there are the six real cars that were painted white. So, whether we get to see any more variants, other than orange, it will be interesting to find out. ■

BELOW
Painted in that fabulously iconic orange, it's a super little model and that wonderful wedge shape is really nicely reproduced.



ABOVE
That cheeky front end looks great and bear in mind that the actual model is less than 20mm wide!



WSI MODELS
Scania Streamline Topline 6x4
'Timersma Stroobos'
SCALE: 1/50 PRICE: €129 REF: 01-4210

www.wsi-models.com

The flowing lines of the Scania have been convincingly captured by WSI with printing used well for the graphics which are subtle and yet also stand out.



WSI MODELS
Scania S Highline 6x2 'Jo Pedersen'
SCALE: 1/50 PRICE: €119
REF: 01-4362

www.wsi-models.com

This three-colour Scania with rear tag axle shows the high quality finish achieved by WSI on its releases. The paint finish is flawless with high levels of detail.



DRAKE COLLECTIBLES
Mack Bicentennial Super Liner
'Captain Starlight'
SCALE: 1/50 PRICE: €198 REF: Z88011

www.wsi-models.com

Truck models don't get any better than this Aussie spec monster tractor rig. With opening bonnet, replicated engine bay and detailed cabin interior.



CORGI MODEL CLUB
Oldsmobile Toronado
SCALE: 1/51 PRICE: £35.99
REF: 276

www.corgimodelclub.com

A luxurious American muscle car renowned for its V8-powered front wheel drive. The paintwork is excellent and the Golden Jack wheels work a treat.



NZG MODELLE
Mercedes-Benz 600 Pullman
SCALE: 1/18 PRICE: €300
REF: 1071/15

www.nzg.de

Available in 3 colour variants. Featuring a luxurious interior with headrest displays and foldable footrests for the rear seats. With fully operable doors and tailgate.



BBURAGO
F1 Aston Martin AMR23, Fernando
Alonso 2023
SCALE: 1/43 PRICE: £16.99 REF: 18-38090

www.oneforfun.com

The finish on this replica is a dream; with correct sponsorship decals and metallic British Racing Green colour scheme. A beautiful addition to your pit lane.



MAISTO
Aston Martin Valkyrie, Special
Edition
SCALE: 1/18 PRICE: £45 REF: M31465

www.oneforfun.com

Highly detailed model of the 2022 car, packed with great features. Every curve and angle is recreated in impeccable detail and finished to a high quality.



BBURAGO
Ferrari 330 P4 #23 Daytona 1967
SCALE: 1/24 PRICE: £25
REF: 18-26310

www.oneforfun.com

Own a piece of history with this stunning replica; realistic badges and markings, soft-feel tyres and a superb body profile. An authentic Ferrari experience!



Diecast Gems



DIECAST GEMS THE HOME OF VINTAGE DIECAST TOYS.

PLEASE VIEW MY WEBSITE WWW.DIECASTGEMS.COM

DINKY

- 136 Vauxhall Viva White A/B+ **£150**
- 154 Hillman Minx Green A/B+ **£170**
- 156 Rover 75 Blue & Cream A—A/A- **£250**
- 156 Rover 75 Two tone Green A/B+ **£210**
- 157 Jaguar XK120 Grey & Yellow A/B+ **£320**
- 158 Riley Green A/A **£250**
- 158 Riley Cream, Green W A/B+ **£195**
- 161 Austin Somerset Red & Yellow A/A **£650**
- 168 Singer Gazelle Green & Grey A/B+ **£150**
- 169 Studebaker Green & Beige Spun W A/A—A **£180**
- 172 Stud L Cr Cerise & White Highline. Scarce A-/B-B+ **£325**
- 181 VW Beetle RAF Blue & Blue W A/A **£175**
- 182 Porsche 356A Cream & Blue W. A—A/B+ **£180**
- 254 Austin Taxi Black & Spun W. A—A/A- **£225**
- 254 Austin Taxi Dark Blue A—A/B+ **£200**
- 261 Morris GPO Telephone Van A/B+ **£185**
- 282 Roadmaster Coach Red A—A/B+ **£140**
- 301 Field Marshall Tractor Orange & Green W A/B-B+ **£185**
- 413 Austin Wagon Red & Grey A-/A- **£425**
- 414 Dodge Tipper Blue & Grey. Cream W. A/B+ **£325**
- 417 Leyland Comet Stake lorry Blue & Yellow & Red W A—A/B+ **£225**
- 420 Forward Control Red & Green W A/B+ **£180**
- 420 Forward Control Red & Cream W Scarce. A—A/A—A **£260**
- 422 Fordson Thames Lorry Mid Green A/B+ **£140**
- 448 El Camini Pick up & Trailers Flap Box. Scarce A—A/A- **£430**
- 450/31A Trojan ESSO Van Dual A/B+-A- **£270**
- 455 Trojan Brooke Bond Van A/A **£245**
- 465 Morris Capstan Van A/B+-A- **£230**
- 435 Bedford TK Tipper White/Silver/Blue Scarce. (Other Colours) A/A- **£395**
- 503 Foden 1st Cab Violet Blue & Orange A-/A- **£595**
- 511 Guy Wagon Dark Green early issue
- 514 Guy Weetabix Van A-/A- **£2750**
- 905 Foden 2nd Cab Chain lorry Green A—A/A- **£250**
- 957 Fire Service Gift Set B+-A-/B+ **£295**
- 979 Newmarket Horsebox. Grey & Lemon & **YELLOW St W Rare A—A/A—A £1200**
- 988 ABC TV Transmitter Van A-/B+ **£225**

PRE-WAR FRENCH DINKY UNBOXED

- 24H 2 Seater Sports car A- **£425**

UNBOXED DINKY PRE-WAR

- 23P Pre-War MG Magnette Record Car A—A **£175**
- 25A Pre-War Wagon T2 Blue/Orange B+ **£280**
- 25E Pre-War Tipping Wagon T2 Red/Black A- **£345**
- 30C Pre-War Daimler Two Tone Grey Rare B+-A- **£625**

UNBOXED DINKY

- 23C Mercedes Racing Car Saxe Blue RN1 A—A **£190**
- 23C Mercedes Racing Car Silver/Red Black W A—A **£180**
- 23E Speed of the Wind Silver Black W. A **£130**
- 23E Speed of the Wind Silver Red W. A **£120**
- 23S Streamlined Racing Car Dark Blue A **£195**
- 30D Vauxhall Green & Blk S W. Open Chassis A- **£195**

CORGI

- GS7 Daktari Speedwheels A/B+ **£225**
- GS7 Daktari Spun W A/A- **£350**
- GS14 Hydraulic Tower Wagon Red A—A/B+ **£250**
- GS38 Monte Carlo set & 3 cars A/B+ **£1750**
- GS40 Avengers with Green Bentley & Red W A/B+-A- **£950**
- 200 Ford Consul Cream A—A/B+-A- **£325**
- 201 Austin Cambridge Met Green & Silver A-/B+ **£175**
- 209 Riley Police Car A—A/B-B+ **£150**
- 210S Citroen Tomato Red A/A- **£120**
- 211 Studebaker Golden Hawk Blue A/B+ **£175**
- 216 Austin A40 Blue Spun shape W A—A/A—A **£225**
- 224 Bentley Black & Silver A—A/A—A **£140**
- 241 Ghia L6.4 Met Blue & White Interior Scarce. A—A/A—A **£225**
- 245 Buick Riviera Powder Blue A—A/A- **£230**
- 246 Chrysler Imperial Red A—A/B+ **£165**
- 252 Rover 2000 Met Blue A/B+ **£125**
- 259 Citroen le Dandy Plum A/B+ **£135**
- 275 Rover 2000 Met Green & White Int A/B+ **£270**
- 300 Austin Healey Cream A—A/B+ **£150**
- 301 Triumph TR2 Green A/A- **£240**
- 303S Mercedes Roadster White & Yellow RN7 A—A/B+-A- **£325**
- 331 Ford Capri White RN5 A/A- **£85**
- 339 Monte Carlo Mini & Roof rack RN177 A—A/A- **£345**
- 374 Jaguar E Type Yellow W Box. A/B+-A- **£110**
- 377 Marcos Yellow Window Box A/B+-A- **£110**
- 383 VW Beetle 1200 PTT Speed W. Wind Box. A—A/B+ **£225**
- 383 VW Beetle 1200 ADAC German Rescue A—A/B+ **£225**
- 457 ERF 44G Platform Lorry TT Blue A—A/A **£160**

Postage in the UK is £10 for any number of models signed for and tracked.
A wide range of models can be viewed on my website www.diecastgems.com

Grading guide

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

If you have a question or would like to discuss any matter please call me on my landline
01297 678250 or mobile 07973 563476.

Payments can be made through the website shop using PayPal or Stripe or you may send a cheque or arrange a bank transfer, details can be given on request. To avoid disappointment, I would recommend you ring or send a text to the mobile to reserve an item if posting a cheque.

Happy collecting! Phil Silvester at Diecast Gems.

Email: phil@diecastgems.com www.diecastgems.com

Into the New Year...



With insights gleaned from his *Fireside conversations* last month **Stephen Paul Hardy** has his eye on 2025 as the old year closes out.

ABOVE & BELOW

By the peak of market buoyancy in the 1990s Koenig Specials of Munich became synonymous with outrageous body kits, monster turbocharged engines and unique personalisation programmes founded on working on Ferraris, BMWs, Mercedes and Porsches. This prompted founder Willy Koenig to plan the ambitious project of developing a road-going version of the Porsche 962 Group C racing car powered by twin turbocharged, air-cooled, flat six cylinder engine capable of 800bhp on full boost. A 1/5 scale model of the C62 (the first legitimate Group C car built for road use) was presented at the Geneva Motor Show in March 1990. Sadly the recession of the early nineties intervened and struck the death knell for the C62, with only the yellow prototype and two customer orders having been completed.

There is no doubt in my mind that 2024 was a watershed year with an upsurge in higher-end 1/64 releases aimed specifically at auto enthusiasts and collectors. A scale that didn't hog the spotlight totally though thanks to a strong showing in the market place of, amongst others, higher-end sealed resin releases in 1/43, 1/18 and increasingly 1/12. And with them new, niche, manufacturers – notably from China and the Far East – entering the scene.

European presence seems also to be increasingly dynamic. We have seen the German based Model Car World empire embracing an increasing variety of scales through its range of exclusive and acquired brands. Similarly, the long-established Italian CAR MODEL concern offers some exquisite 1/18 sealed resin offerings in its own exclusive MITICA brand. Schuco now firmly entrenched in its renaissance, covers virtually all the traditional scales in a mixture of diecast and sealed resin products as well as still indulging in the old tradition of releasing Christmas themed special editions. However, whilst in automotive terms the collector's scale model sector of looks fairly buoyant there are hints that the toy sector is less so. At the time of going to press there is talk on the grapevine about long established German diecast manufacture SIKU for example feeling the chill winds of youngster's not

being perhaps so into cars and trucks as even their parent's generations were.

WINDS OF CHANGE

OttOmobile's October newsletter also reflected on winds of change – ones that have been blowing through my quarterly reviews in *Diecast Collector* during 2024 with comments that are better shared as direct quotes: "For 15 years now, we've been offering new products every month through the Club OttO... Last year, just over 50,000 people collected our models - that's a lot! But it's not easy to please everyone, because we all have different tastes. So over the last few months we've been offering not only youngtimers, but also much more recent models, 1/12s, rally packs, Project Cars and so on. At your request, we've refocused Club OttO on its origins, i.e. mainly youngtimers and classic competition vehicles (rally and endurance). Bye-bye electric cars or the latest BMW in the OttO Club. Our Pro customers will now have models dedicated to them, such as recent models and modern competition models. These models are much less popular with the OttO Club, but are nonetheless eagerly awaited by our network of professionals. Big discussions with collectors, professionals and car manufacturers then! The conclusion is terrible: there are practically no 1/18 American Youngtimers on the market (of a good standard anyway). And when you know a little about the models that have travelled the American roads, there are some beautiful things to reproduce... In a few months' time, the first American cars should be making their appearance at OttO: Dodge Dart, Challenger, Camaro, Mustang."

AUTOCULT UPDATE

For its December release AutoCult has a tradition of a special, unique, Model of the Year paired with a celebratory and lavishly illustrated Book of the Year.





ABOVE

The Austro Daimler 22/86 PS Spezial from 1909, amalgamating a fascinating combination of luxury tourer and racing car bodywork styles.

Last year this tradition was enhanced by the excellent idea of pairing of the Model of the Year with a digital, rather than printed, copy of the book whilst continuing to publish the book as a separately available item in its own right.

I wait in rapt anticipation to know what the Model of the Year 2024 is going to be of – something we probably we won't know until a few days after this issue of *Diecast Collector* is published!

Until then however we have had another full quarter year's releases from AutoCult to amaze and delight collectors. What has become noticeable is the very welcome consolidation of AutoCult issuing several of its new releases in paired variations. This concept was first, cautiously, introduced in the Avenue 43 range in 2022 and has now, thankfully, been expanded into the AutoCult range this past year as well. So, in chronological order of release:

AUTOCULT Q4/2024

• **Austro Daimler 22/86 PS Spezial "Prince Elias of Parma" - 1909 (#01022)**

Combining contemporary design attributes of luxury tourer and racing cars, this unique one-off based on an Austro Daimler engine/chassis was the indulgence of 27 year old aristocrat Elias Robert Karl Maria Pius of Bourbon-Parma.

• **Fiat 1200 Vignale Wonderful - 1958 (#05049)**

Although with possibly only five examples produced this car nevertheless marks a significant point in Fiat production history. The studio Vignale influenced 1200 Wonderful by Giovanni Michelotti with its removable roof centre section lays claim to marking the origins of the Targa style of design.

• **Citroën Traction Avant 11 BL Spohn - 1948 (#05046)**

Another one-off (and a "must have" in any collection of Citroën Traction Avants). Its origin was an 11 BL rediscovered in the barn after the end of World War II, which was subsequently taken to the Hermann Spohn premises in Ravensburg, Germany by a Frenchman serving in the French occupation government sector where it was custom rebodied during 1948/49. Without doubt it also makes a superb display companion to AutoCult's Citroën 15CV 6 Antem - 1948 (#05030) released back in October 2019.



ABOVE

The Czech Jawa Minor 600 from 1938, released in two eye-catching paint finishes... an increasing trend for AutoCult releases, consistent with the positive reception given to duelled releases in the Avenue 43 range.



ABOVE & BELOW

The breath taking Maybach DS8 Cabrio "Zeppelin" with its evocation of the powerful 1930s sports tourers and extensive fine detailing. The combined result of choice of subject and modelling quality sets this release very high in my list of all time greats from AutoCult.

• **Opel Blitz Ludewig Aero - 1934 (#10013)**

We reviewed this last month in *"Into Winter"* (December issue)

• **Jawa Minor 600 - 1938 (#03026-1 white, #03026-2 green)**

Another fascinating insight into the Czech motor car industry prior to WWII, and an attractive addition to any model collection representing it. The Jawa Minor was available as a two-door sedan, roadster and convertible with almost 2,000 examples leaving the assembly line in three years and ending in 1940.

• **Maybach DS8 Cabrio "Zeppelin" - 1930 (#05050)**

Set alongside the Skoda Hispano-Suiza 25/100 PS - 1928 (#01021) released back in April this is without a doubt one of my favourite of AutoCult's Q4 releases.

• **GM Corsair - 1948 (#04043-1 light blue, #04043-2 dark blue)**

What a stunningly exciting release this pair make. Adding to AutoCult's already expansive coverage of design studies many of which illustrate the "Space Age" aka "Atomic" era. With its Motopian inferences this General Motors "Corsair" study dates from April 1949. Surely "must haves" just because ...well, because they look so amazing.

• **Daimler Marienfelde DR 4.5 - 1917 (#11019-1 cargo boxes, #11019-2 tarpaulin)**





ABOVE AutoCult's latest representation of the early years of motor transport with the Daimler DR 4.5 truck from 1917 in a cleverly paired release depicting use by the long established Schenker & Co. company.



ABOVE & BELOW Another fine detail laden release, the 1958 1200 Vignale Wonderful, depicting a very significant part of Fiat's late 1950s production history despite possibly only five examples having been produced.



BELOW The 1948 General Motors Corsair design study. A best seller this Christmas? Just because ...well, because they look so amazing!

Models of early trucks seem to exude a particular attraction all of their own and this pair is no exception. The DR series produced in the Daimler-Motoren-Gesellschaft plant at Berlin-Marienfelde was introduced in 1917 and remained in production until 1922. Apart from all the other endearing attributes of the model what I really like is how AutoCult have released it in two different loaded versions.

AVENUE 43 Q4/24

- **Koenig C 62 - 1991 (#60114 red, #60115 yellow)**

If the designation Koenig C 62 doesn't mean anything to you, then in short, it was an incredible and ambitious project intended to produce 30 examples of a road-going version of the Porsche 962 Group C racing car. Ultimately only a yellow prototype followed by customer cars in red and black were made. The backstory though makes a captivating read of "what was" and "what could have been" magnitude.

- **Tatra T 77 A - 1936 (#60118 black-blue, #60119 silver)**

When a model is listed as 'sold out' by a manufacturer very soon after release that fact speaks for itself. And so it is with this pair of what has got to be one most celebrated designs of the late 1930s and central to a complex web of interactions and schools of thought about automotive design at the time. There are already quite a number of AutoCult models celebrating the pioneering aerodynamic "Streamliner" work by Paul Jaray but his collaboration with Hans Ledwinka on the



ABOVE An excellent, modern subject choice. The striking NSU EP4 EV restomod created by 12 Audi apprentices last year to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Neckarsulm factory.

Tatra T 77 project - and the examples it produced - is legendary.

Now by pure, yet interesting, coincidence given the commentary from OttOmobile with some models of contemporary e-powered automobiles. Yes, a departure from AutoCult's usual focus on the past!

- **Microfino 2.0 in Urban (closed) and Dolce (open roof) versions (#60120 orange, #60121 2.0 mint)**

Chic, fun, retro and very much in the news the modern take on the Isetta bubble car. Of Swiss origin and Italian manufacture it is automotive history in the making. Versions also available in Switzerland in the ARWICO collectors edition (ACE) range in Santorini White (85.005560) and Zurich Blue (85.005561)

- **NSU EP4 (#60140)**

And finally, a model of the striking EV restomod NSU Prinz created by a group of 12 Audi apprentices to mark the 150th anniversary of the German firm's factory in Neckarsulm in July 2023. An excellent subject choice AutoCult - for several reasons.

But of course the grande finale release for 2024 is still yet to be unveiled... ■

FURTHER READING

<https://otto-models.com/en/shop>

<https://otto-models.com/en/content/the-otto-club.html>

<https://supercarnostalgia.com/blog/koenig-specials-porsche-c62>





Holy Trinity, Batman!

Rick Wilson rushes to his Batcave to report on a trio of brand new classic Batmobiles.

ABOVE
The pair of Corgi Model Club releases (matt member's model to the left, glossy general release on the right) with the outer box. Photo: Rick Wilson

RIGHT
The Corgi Model Club matt finish member's version with all the accompanying accessories. Photo: Rick Wilson

When the current Corgi Model Club was in its very early days, there was a leaflet that accompanied the trial model, No.474 Wall's Ice Cream Van, which revealed potential future models to follow. One of these in particular created an awful lot of excitement. No.267 Batmobile just happens to be the best-selling Corgi Toys model of all time (roughly five million sold!). It is also one that still commands premium prices, especially with good condition boxes.

It has taken a fair few years for the Corgi Model Club to finally get the Batmobile into its list of incredible Corgi replicas, as the licensing took a long time to negotiate. Plus, there was the small matter of re-engineering the tooling for such a complex model. But, after such a long wait, we don't just get one, but *three* slightly different Batmobiles!





ABOVE Both of the Corgi Model Club releases of Corgi's classic Batmobile – matt finish member's model to the fore and the general release glossy black version to the rear, on its inner plinth. Photo: Rick Wilson

CORGI TOYS NO.267 BATMOBILE

First, we must take a look back at the model that started all this wonderful madness. No.267 Batmobile was unveiled to the world in October 1966. It would last in the range until 1979, and would undergo some slight tweaks during that time, but in total it amassed sales in excess of five million! Officially, according the Marcel van Cleemput's *The Great Book of Corgi*, this was 4,907,000 plus the 1969 sales figures lost in the Swansea factory fire, but I think it's safe to say that the all-important marker was breached. The model was reportedly negotiated during the New York Toy Fair in the January, meaning this incredible model was designed, manufactured and put on sale in just nine months! Given the complicated nature of the special features, this was a truly remarkable achievement. Modelled very closely on the hero car of the hit TV series, *Batman*, the Batmobile's outrageous shape was very well-replicated. But, of course, to be a fitting tribute, it had to have a few tricks in the 'wings'.

Corgi did not disappoint with the extras. From the front, a chain-cutting or tyre-slashing blade could be deployed from the middle of the nose of the car, then, moving back to the cockpit, the model came with both Batman and Robin figurines. Right behind the pair was a triple rocket launcher, actioned by turning a notched wheel, then, finally, the exhaust flame pulsed by way of a moulded plastic 'tongue' that oscillated on a cam as the car rolled along, in and out of the exhaust port. Painted black (early cars were given a matt finish, but gloss became the norm after about six months of production), the model also featured a subtle bat symbol sticker to either side and bat emblems picked out in red on the gold-painted wheels. The Batmobile came with spare

BELOW Corgi's new version, RT26701, will come in the later window box. Photo: Corgi



rockets, an instruction leaflet and a lapel sticker and was mounted on a superb inner display plinth.

CORGI MODEL CLUB BATMOBILES

This was always going to be a truly special model for the Club and, as a reward for their loyalty, club members were to receive a special version to stand apart from the general release. This newly-tooled reimagining of the most iconic of Corgi Toys has just begun to arrive with early pre-orders, and it is everything we could have wished for.

First out of the warehouse was the standard release, with its glossy black paintwork really looking the part. This was to be followed shortly by the special member's version, painted in the very rare matt black that was produced for only the first few months in period. It also came with a specially-printed postcard that replicates advertising used in the 1960s.

Everything works exactly as it should and, turning the model over, the relief casting of Batman is still there. The figurines in the cockpit of our heroes are really well done too. Both paint finishes are excellent and have been superbly applied using modern techniques. And talking of such things, the only real concession to modern production is that the bat symbol on the sides of the car has been tampo-printed, as opposed to being a sticker. This is reportedly due to the application process proving to be a bit tricky to get spot on, with stickers not always sitting centrally to the cast in rectangle. Looking at some of the original models, this was definitely the case back in the day too.

To find out more about the Corgi Model Club and, in particular, this wonderful recreation, visit the Club website Batmobile page at <https://corgimodelclub.com/collections/pre-order-models/products/267-batmobile-with-batman-and-robin-gloss-edition>.

CORGI NO.RT26701 BATMOBILE WITH TOW HOOK

Given that the Corgi Model Club has now been taken under the wings of Corgi itself, it made perfect commercial sense for Corgi to benefit too, something it has done with a few of the Club models over the last couple of years. But to make this version stand on its own four wheels, Corgi decided to release a slightly later and modified version.

Corgi has just released images of the engineering and pre-production samples in Michael Clegg's excellent *Diecast Diaries* blog on the main Corgi website and, by the time you read this, it will be on sale through the Corgi website and your preferred retailers. Two things that stand out straight away are that this one comes in the later blue and yellow window box, plus take it out of this attractive packaging and you'll see that this Batmobile comes with the tow hook, as first seen on the original version in June 1967, hauling the Batboat in Gift Set 3.

Find out more and order this release at <https://uk.corgi.co.uk/products/batmobile-batman-and-robin-rt26701>. Or perhaps I should say "To the Batmobile page, Robin!". Don't hang around though as this is sure to prove popular, so the first batch is likely to disappear faster than our dynamic duo in hot pursuit.

So, we'll soon have all three of the new Batmobiles together in one batcave and, given the extra feature of the Corgi version, can we expect a Batboat (or two) soon? I hope so. ■



And then Senna arrived

McLaren International had a few great years following 1984, however things got even better in 1988. **Francisco Mota** looks at the Ayrton Senna effect on McLaren and in Formula 1 as a whole. Photos: João Carlos Oliveira

MAIN IMAGE

From left to right, Ayrton Senna's world championship McLaren F1 single seaters: 1988 MP4/4, 1990 MP4/5B and 1991 MP4/6, all diecasts by Minichamps.

Niki Lauda and Alain Prost took McLaren International into a level never reached before by this team, or any other team in Formula 1 for that matter. They dominated the sport for several years, to an extent that no other team could get even close. When Niki Lauda decided to retire for the second and final time, Alain Prost was left without a team mate close to his own level, if that really existed. Rosberg and Johansson took the role of second driver for short periods, but never getting close to Prost's performance. McLaren, by the hand of his leader, Ron Dennis, decided someone better was needed, as the team did not like to have a single number one driver. Money was no problem for McLaren International, due to its Philip Morris tobacco company sponsorship budget. The search

started for a young and talented driver that could be available for the 1988 season. The first person Dennis asked an opinion of was Prost, and the French driver immediately suggested Ayrton Senna as his future team mate at McLaren. He would bitterly regret his choice in the future.

McLaren International's domination in Formula 1 had started in 1984. Until 1987, the reborn McLaren became bigger, faster and grabbed two constructors and three driver's titles. However, this was only the beginning of the story. In the following seasons, McLaren would not only be better than the rest, it would be much better. It would also generate fights between their drivers that would become legendary in the sport, and remembered until today. All of this started with the hiring of Brazilian driver Ayrton Senna.



SENNA AGAINST PROST

Senna had made his first steps in Formula 1 in 1984 with a small British team by the name of Toleman Hart, where he got his first three podiums. The following season, Senna changed to the famous black and golden JPS liveried Lotus Renault. There, he got his first Formula 1 win, at Estoril, Portugal in 1985, under a heavy thunderstorm. For the following three seasons, Senna grabbed six extra wins with Lotus and no less than 22 podiums.

Lotus changed colours to the vivid Camel yellow in 1987 and, even more important than that, the team changed engines from Renault to Honda. The Japanese car builder started a major investment in Formula 1, and choose Lotus as its partner. Senna quickly established a strong relationship with the Japanese engineers, as they shared the same approach to Formula 1. The start of this cooperation between Lotus, Honda and Senna began with a pair of wins and eight podiums in the 1987 season. But soon it became apparent that Lotus maybe did not have all the necessary resources to fully explore the Honda engine. So, Senna and Honda agreed to change teams and accepted the invitation from McLaren to enter the team from 1988. In that first season together, McLaren won all but one Grand Prix and Senna won his first world driver's championship, with eight wins, 13 pole positions and 11 podiums. Prost finished runner-up to the Brazilian.

However, Prost got his revenge the following season, winning his third world driver's championship, adding six further wins to his tally and 13 pole positions. But not without controversy, when Prost and Senna collided in the Japanese Grand Prix. Senna was



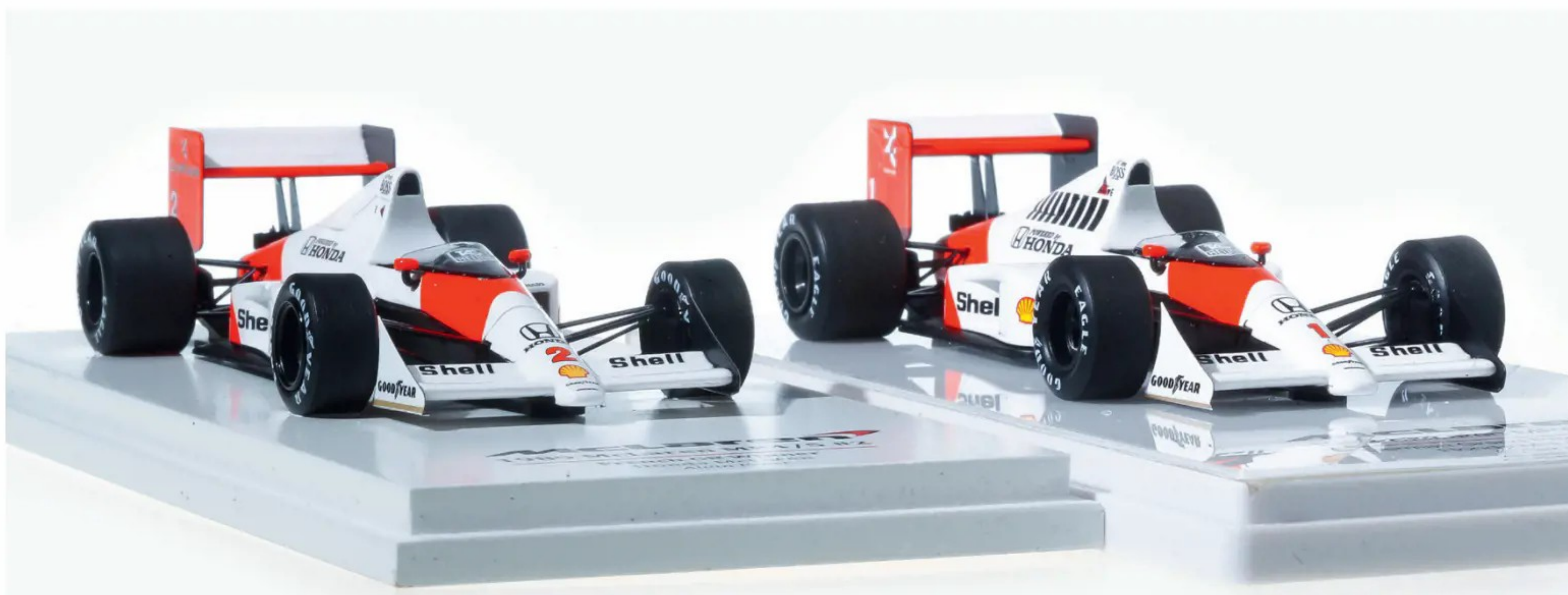
ABOVE Side pods on McLaren's MP4/5B feature a pair of periscope air scoops.



ABOVE Realistic wheels and tyres on all Minichamps scale models with brand marking.

BELOW The pair of McLaren MP4/4 as raced by Prost, race number 11 and Senna, race number 12. They look identical and true to the real car.





LEFT 1989 McLaren MP4/5 by TSM Model still on their plinths, looking wide and low. Excellent scale model cars.

BELOW LEFT Both TSM Model 1989 MP4/5 have no tobacco stickers, replaced either by bar codes or simply nothing.



ABOVE A bird's eye view of the MP4/5 TSM Model cockpit shows great detail.

disqualified and Prost won the title. The following two seasons, Senna gave no let up to Prost and won his second and third world driver's championships, accumulating 13 wins and 18 pole positions. Again, with another accident, Prost had changed to Ferrari and Senna hit the red car in the first corner throwing both vehicles out of the track and leaving the Brazilian to win the title. The 1991 season marked the end of McLaren's domination; Williams and Renault got a better package and won the next two driver's championships. Firstly with Nigel Mansell and then with Alain Prost, who had left Ferrari after calling the Italian car a truck. Senna had a new team mate, the Finn Mika Hakkinen, however, the new Ford engine was not strong enough to fight the Renault.

SCALE MODELS

For this second part of McLaren F1 domination in the eighties, we got together 1/43 scale models of all the cars driven by McLaren drivers between 1988 and 1991. They are sourced from modelmakers Minichamps and TSM Models, the first brand in diecast models and the second in resincast construction.

For the 1988 season, McLaren had race numbers 11 for Prost and 12 for Senna. The McLaren Honda MP4/4 was a relatively low and wide car, with a tall rear wing and very simple lines, if featured a telescopic

air scoop on top of each side pod. The hot air scoops from the intercoolers were fitted lower in each side. As in all Minichamps Formula 1 replicas, the front suspension has all the arms in the right position as well as brake ducts. The construction of these models is strong enough not to need any less realistic solid axle at the front. Other details worth mentioning are the rear diffuser, perfectly shaped front wing and the pair of driver figures, complete with helmets and overalls decorated with almost all the stickers. The ones that are missing are the same ones that we cannot find in the cars, the tobacco branding that was no longer allowed in Formula 1, neither in scale models. Just to remember that Senna won his first world championship with the MP4/4, the reason why Minichamps sells this model in a special box.

After winning the 1988 driver's championship with Senna, McLaren was entitled to wear race number 1, for the Brazilian and 2, for the French driver.

A NEW CAR

The new car was designated MP4/5 and featured a very different shape from the previous car. Side pods are much lower and have different shapes compared to the previous season's cars. The rear wing has a different profile and the air scoop over the driver's head also has a different shape. The car looks wider,

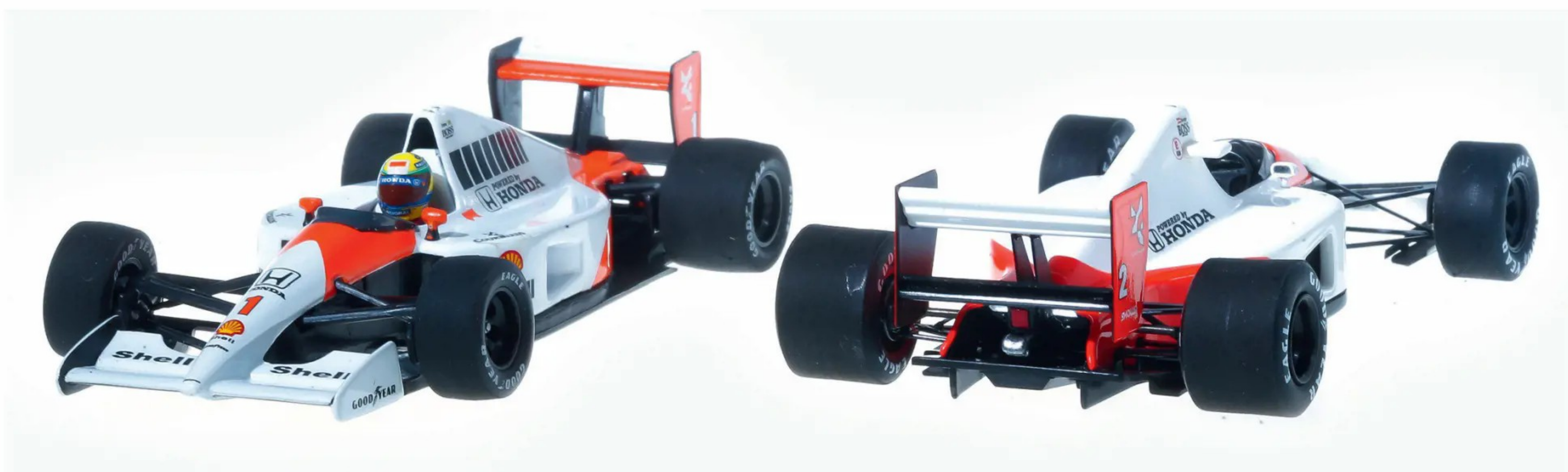


ABOVE The rear diffuser is very well replicated in Minichamps 1990 MP4/5B.



ABOVE Detailed front suspension and front wing in MP4/5B.





ABOVE 1991 MP4/6 by Minichamps, front and rear. Berger's car, manufactured by TSM Model has no driver figure.

RIGHT Several mechanical bits can be seen in the rear of 1996 TSM Model McLaren MP4/6.

FAR RIGHT Minichamps 1991 MP4/6 features an aerodynamic winglet under the front suspension, Minichamps did not miss it.



especially on the front suspension area, and is also lower. There are no driver figures in these pair of TSM Model replicas and that allows a great view of all the cockpit details, including race seats and belts, plus a very nice instrument panel. The rear side of each car has lots of small mechanical details making it look very realistic. Each car has a different solution for the absence of Marlboro logos, one has bar codes and the other has nothing, making it look better. The car with race number 2 was Prost's world driver's champion.

For the 1990 season, McLaren thought it was enough just to make an evolution of the previous season's car and the MP4/5B was the weapon used by Senna and Berger. The Austrian had replaced Prost, who went to Scuderia Ferrari. Racing numbers were 27, for Prost and 28, for Berger and both Minichamps models have driver figures inside their respective cockpits. Even if they are "B" versions of a previous version, the MP4/5B have considerable differences, mainly the much taller side pods with air scoops positioned differently. The diffuser shape is taller and, interestingly, one car has GoodYear markings on the tyres painted white, while the other as it in yellow. The car with race number 27 is Senna's world driver's championship. Both are diecasts by Minichamps.

THE LAST FOR SENNA

For the 1991 season, the season Senna won his last title with race number 1, next to Berger's car number 2, McLaren brought in a new Formula 1 ride, named the MP4/6. It featured a very different shape from its predecessor. Side pods are lower and have a more sculpted shape, with visible side radiators. The engine cover is also lower and the rear wing features a different profile.

For a brief comparison, we brought a scale model from Minichamps and another from TSM Model. The first one includes a driver figure, while the TSM

Model does not. Minichamps's looks a little higher and narrower, while TSM Model's replica feels wider, lower and more realistic. It also has more delicate suspension arms and more precise wheels and rims. As in all TSM Models wings are made from thin metal, while the rear view shows plenty of mechanical details. This model also features a small aerial fitted on the front suspension and there are extra winglets under the front suspension arms. All in all, TSM Model produces a better product, both from a proportion perspective and the detailing all around the model. It also costs more, even if, today, some of the more rare Minichamps diecasts can reach the same amount.

Between 1984 and 1991, McLaren International was the strongest team in Formula 1. The technical side was superior to rival teams, both from the Honda engine side and the carbon fiber monocoque. It was a team where money was no object, marketing was taken very seriously and driver line up always looked for the best available pair of hands in the business. No wonder they dominated the sport in such a strong way as they did. For the Formula One 1/43 scale model collector, this is a theme that deserves full attention. Even if the perpetual red and white livery changed little along more than a decade, the shape of the consecutive McLaren MP4 series is diverse enough to make an interesting collection. It's not only the cars, but also the driver's personalities, that wrote one of the most interesting and wild chapters of the Formula 1 story, and deserve a dedicated look. Thanks to Minichamps and, to a lesser extent TSM Model, there's a chance to gather all the models from this era. Minichamps was so exhaustive in modelling almost all of the Formula 1 grid for so many years, that it makes the collector's hunt much easier, when searching for less obvious scale models. A great era for Formula 1, one that will be kept in the memory of many fans of the sport. ■

BELOW 1990 McLaren MP4/5B by Minichamps, driven by Berger, on the left and Senna, on the right. Similar diecast scale models looking very realistic.





Hot Wheels Lotus 49

Graham Heeps discovers how designer Fraser Campbell recreated the legendary Lotus 49 in Hot Wheels miniature form.

ABOVE The new Hot Wheels holds its own among older and in some cases much more expensive classic F1 miniatures. Image: Graham Heeps



ABOVE Sculpt approval for the '67 Lotus 49. Image: Mattel

Voted Race Car of the Century by readers of *Motor Sport* magazine in 2024, the Lotus 49 is always cited as one of the most influential racing machines of all time.

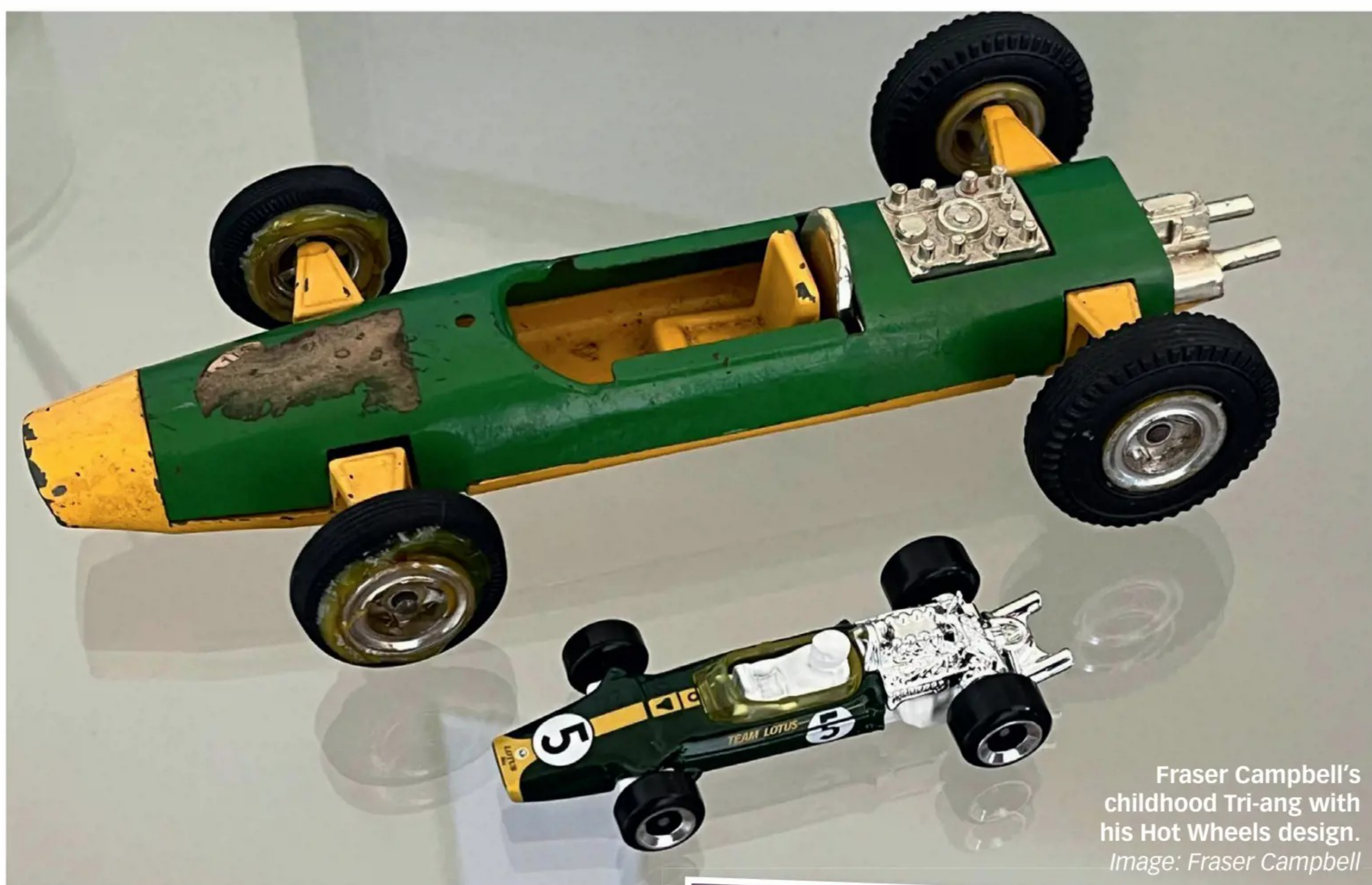
As many readers will know, Colin Chapman and Maurice Philippe's 49 set the template for modern Formula 1 cars. Introduced in 1967, it had a monocoque chassis with a rear-mid engine as a stressed member to mount suspension and gearbox. It also introduced the Ford-Cosworth DFV engine that dominated into the 1980s and, from '68, pioneered the use of front and rear wings in F1.

The 1967 Lotus Type 49 was introduced to the Hot Wheels mainline for 2024. Designed by Fraser

Campbell, it measures 75mm (3 inches) long, making it roughly 1/53 scale, although it's proportionally narrower than it should be, as we'll see.

Hot Wheels has dabbled with Formula 1 through the years and recently announced a licensing tie-up that will bring current F1 cars to the mainline in 2025. Nevertheless, a classic like the 49 is an unusual choice for a mainstream Hot Wheels model.

"I've wanted to add this to the line for many years," says Fraser, who is originally from Leicester. "Thanks to Dima [Shakhmatov], my manager at the time, we both agreed it had to be included. I had a Tri-ang Lotus as a kid back in the 1970s but never realized the 49's significance until I drove it in sim racing game called 'Grand Prix Legends' many years later. I fell in love with that DFV Ford Cosworth



Fraser Campbell's childhood Tri-ang with his Hot Wheels design.
Image: Fraser Campbell

sound and since realized the incredible history and dominance that the DFV had for nearly 20 years. Jim Clark is a legend, too.”

Fraser’s Tri-ang, shown here with the Hot Wheels 49, was a generic F1 car from the Hiway line, roughly 1:24 scale, called the Silverstone (model number TM6555). It was available in different colours to represent teams from different countries. There was no licensing, but the Silverstone’s green and yellow are all-Lotus.



ABOVE Cosworth DFV makes its debut in Jim Clark’s Lotus 49 at the 1967 Dutch GP. Image: Historic Motorsport International/Newspress

DESIGN PROCESS

Fraser was ready to start on the model in 2022 for a 2023 release, but the need for additional time on the licensing contract with Classic Team Lotus – a new licensor for Hot Wheels, and one of two on the car with Ford – meant that the modelling process didn’t begin until around May 2023 for the 2024 range.

“Licensing is usually at least a six-month process, but these things are difficult to predict,” he explains. “Once we get the go-ahead from our licensing team that the contracts are in place, we’ll spend about a week to create direction for our sculptors.”

He then worked from photos, models and scans

to create the sculpt direction for Mattel’s in-house sculptors.

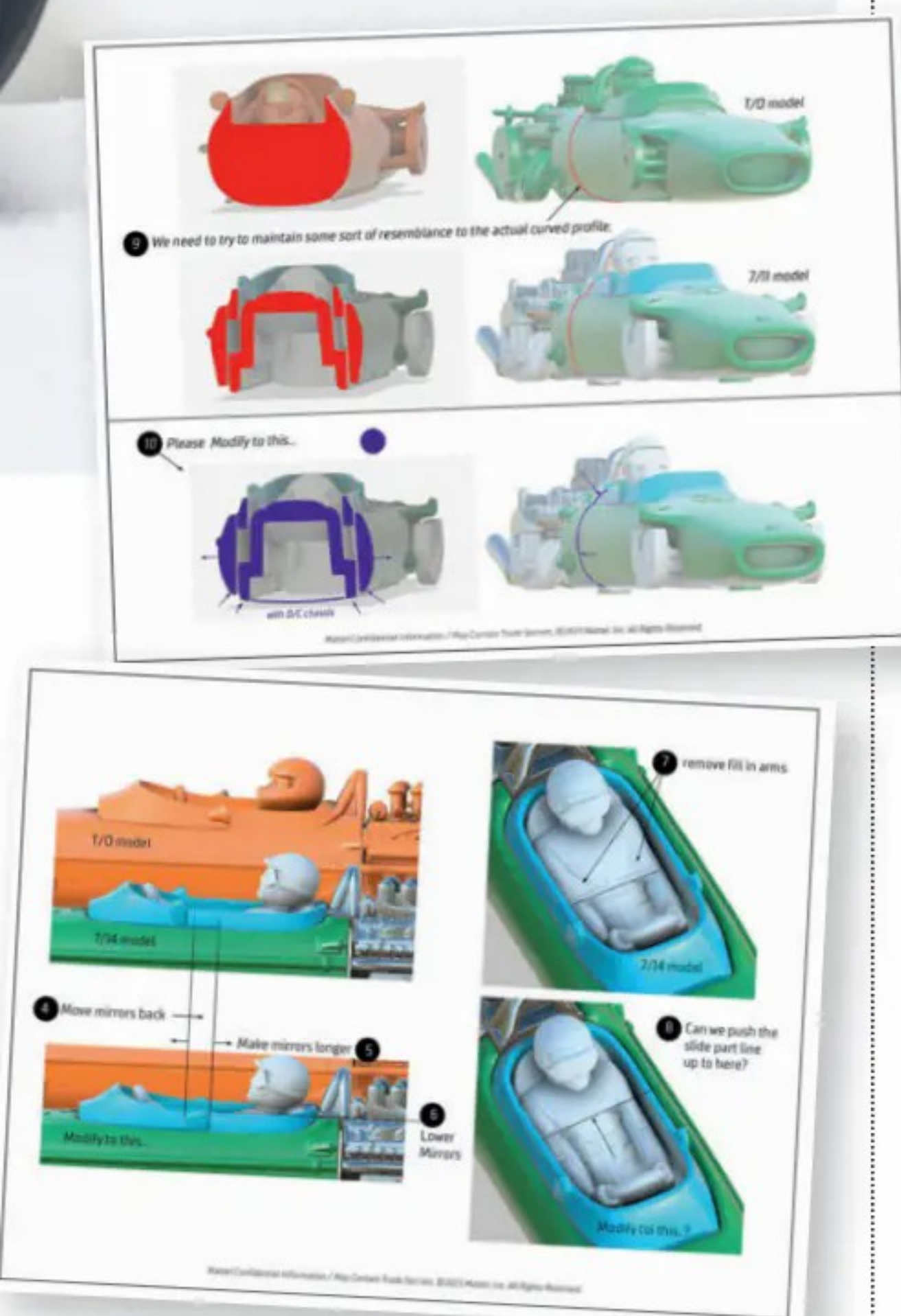
“The sculptors have two weeks to deliver but it’s usually 2-3 rounds of comments with hopefully a couple of 3D prints to review,” Fraser says. “Then we prepare for the ‘Turn Over Package’ to our tooling engineers in Malaysia. The Turn Over requires interior/exterior 3D models, exploded views, part break direction, deco plan, photo reference, chassis legal direction, and an Excel coversheet with

technical and costing data for the plant.

“After Turn Over, usually within a month or so, we’ll receive a parted-out 3D tooling model which we’ll print and review. After 3-4 rounds of markups with both tooling and plant engineers and a month or two later, we’re ready to send the sculpt and deco plan to the licensor for approvals. Once all is approved, the blue images [base image views] are prepared for the graphics team for e-sheets [livery designs].”

PERFECTING THE 49

You can see from the images here, courtesy of Fraser,



ABOVE Changes requested by Fraser during the review process. The tooling engineers were able to fulfil some but not others.
Images: Mattel



One of the author’s favourite details on the 49 model is the coolant pipe down the left-hand side. Radiators were at the front until the Lotus 72 of 1970. Images: Graham Heeps



that reviews in July 2023 led to a reshaping of the body sides to reflect the real car's more rounded profile, and a repositioning of the side mirrors (part of the wraparound screen part) further rearward. Due to tool restrictions, the team was unable to fulfil a request to move the slide part line further up the driver's body to remove the fill where his arms should be separate from his body.

"There were not too many challenges on this model," he continues. "The only issue I had was that I'd originally wanted the wider, 1.3-inch (33mm) axles [instead of 1-inch/25mm] just to get the proportions a little more accurate. I'd been convinced to go narrower so it would meet the rolling distance requirements but since this wasn't a track performance car, I wish I had challenged that. I'm still happy with it.

"We try to maintain as much authentic detail as possible. Side detail is simple to add since we have side slides in the tool, but we also need to allow for good deco coverage so keeping raised details minimal helps with the graphics.

ABOVE Graham Hill in a 49B on his way to victory in the Monaco GP, 1969. Image: Autosport International/Newspress



ABOVE Ex-Graham Hill, John Love 1967 Lotus 49 at the National Motor Museum, Beaulieu. Note how well the model's wheels match the original car. Image: Graham Heeps

BELOW Majorette's wide-axled F1 Lotus (Lotus 49) first appeared in 1968, with wings. Image: Graham Heeps



ABOVE Three F1 pioneers. DyDo/Kyosho 1:64 Lancia-Ferrari D50 (Juan Manuel Fangio, Monaco GP 1956); Hot Wheels '67 Lotus 49 (Jim Clark, Dutch GP 1967); Kyosho Lotus 72E (Emerson Fittipaldi, 1973). Image: Graham Heeps

"I was quite happy we managed to keep the small yellow window as these days we need parts to easily drop into place during assembly. I'm also pretty chuffed with the white colour break for the ceramic exhaust manifolds from the chassis."

The metal base part incorporates not just the manifolds but the driver as well, a nice throwback to a time when metal drivers were common in diecast race cars from Corgi, Dinky and Matchbox. Indeed, it's rare to see a metal base on a Hot Wheels mainline at all.

"Weight and diecast cost is a factor," says Fraser. "It would have been too light if only the body was diecast. The only extra was the added Ransburg paint



ABOVE
As Fraser says, the axles should be wider. But for a couple of pounds, who's complaining? Image: Graham Heeps

LEFT
A detailed rear view.

BELOW
The coolant pipe down the left-hand side.



ABOVE
Perhaps the obvious touchstone for the Hot Wheels 49 is the well-known Lesney 19d, which represents the 25/33 (depending on tyre width). Stock version is on the left, with a custom from my collection at the rear in the colours of Jim Clark at the 1963 French GP. Image: Graham Heeps

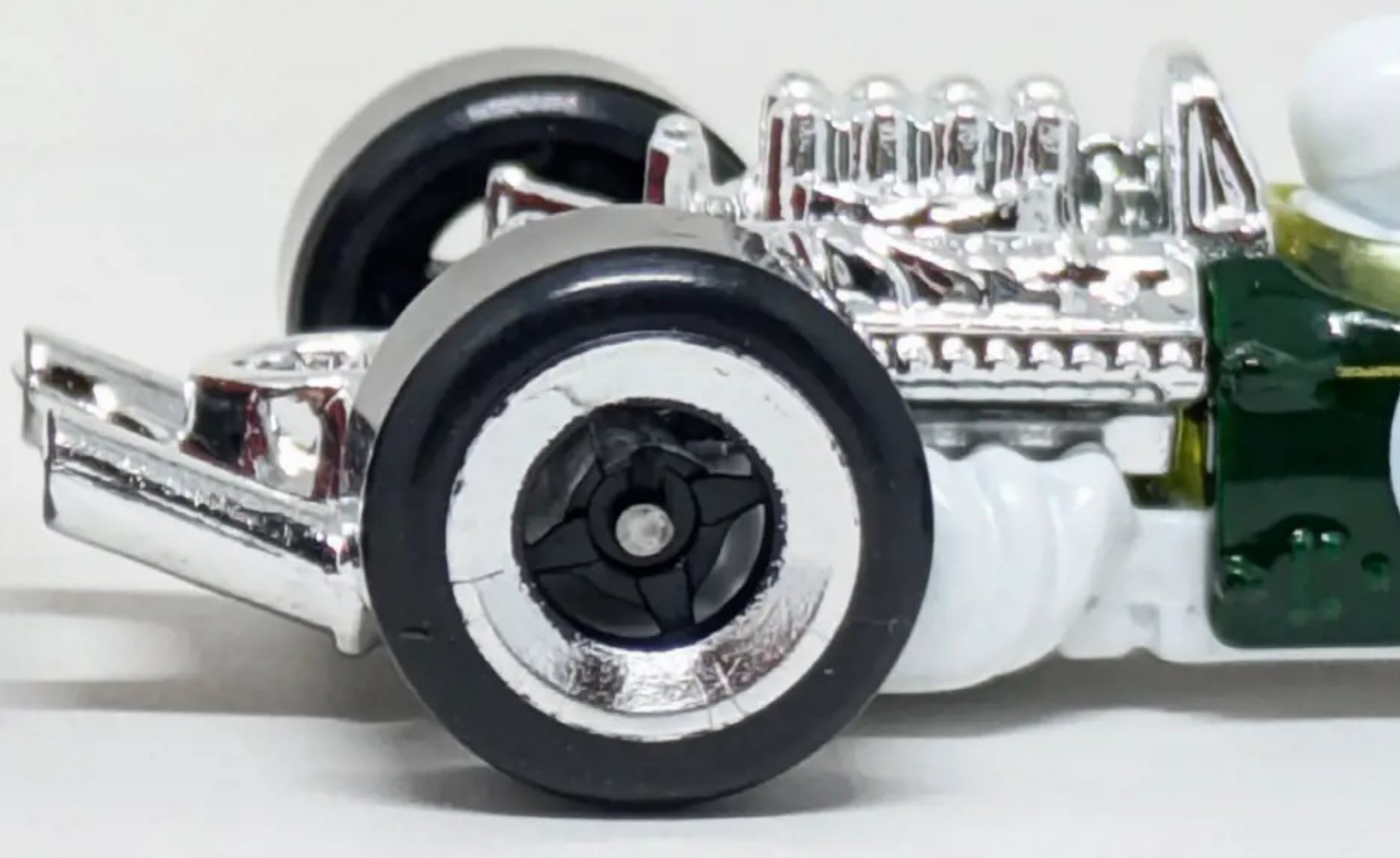
process [for the body and chassis, similar to powder coating], but it was still all within cost as it's such a small casting."

Then there is the perfect-looking 'L4' wheel, which had been designed for release with the Lotus in 2023. When the car was delayed, a new 2023 home for it was sought – and an ideal one was found in the form of another of Fraser's designs, the Alfa Romeo GTV6. The L4 has been used extensively since.

"The wheel itself was a particularly challenging project," Fraser adds. "Limiting factors in tooling, and part release from the tools, meant we could only have a totally flat inner surface (see any Hot Wheels wheel). I know it's not that noticeable straight away, but I think [the profile] really helps the overall look and feel of that particularly bulbous tire."

The '67 Lotus Type 49 appeared in two different liveries in the HW Race Day segment of the 2024 mainline. The two machines represent the cars of drivers Jim Clark (#5) and Graham Hill (#4) during the 49's debut season. At that time, F1 race numbers changed from race to race, and I can't find a record of the team-mates using #5 and #4 at the same event, though both numbers were used more than once. Fraser comments, "Andrés Andrieu did a beautiful deco. There was some back and forth with the licensor, but we got there." ■

While Fraser's Alfa GTV6 used L4 Medium wheels, the L4 Large Wide made its debut on the rear axle of the Lotus 49. It took several rounds of changes to reach the desired tire profile. Image: Graham Heeps





EXCLUSIVE MBC COMMISSIONS



UKBUS 0068
E400
MMC
DEMONSTRATOR

CP46503
LOVE FUN
LOVE
BRIGHTON

UKBUS 0075
STAGECOACH
LOCAL
OMNICITY

UKBUS 0076
STAGECOACH
TRAINER
OMNICITY

UKBUS 0077
STAGECOACH
BEACHBALL
OMNICITY

CP46504
THE
ELIZABETH
LINE

CP46601
THE
KING'S
CORONATION

AVAILABLE
FROM OUR
ONLINE STORE!

MODELBUS.UK



Andrew Clark Models
Est. 1981  **Collectors Toys**

Email: andrew@andrewclarkmodels.com
Or post list to: Andrew Clark Models,
Unit 1, Toller Court, Shortbank Road,
Skipton, North Yorkshire. BD23 2HG

WANTED NOW!

All Diecast, Tinplate, Toys and Trains
Top prices paid for;

Dinky, Corgi, Matchbox, Spot-On, Tinplate Toy,
All Trains, Planes, Britains, Scalextric, White Metal
Models, Minichamps, Quality 1/18 scale models,
Plastic Kits (Airfix etc...), Modern Collectibles.

- Anything Considered
- Will collect and pay on the day
- Will pay in a method to suit you
- Large collections a speciality, established 1981
- Many auction prices beaten

Call Andrew Today on 07753 804232 (Best Number) or 01756 793354



Always a brilliant selection of Dinky, Corgi,
Matchbox, Tinplate Toys, White Metal Models etc...
With new stock everyweek on our superb website!

Check out andrewclarkmodels.com

Also listing on ebay every week
Username: andrewclarkmodels2



MINI GT Grand Prix Collection

Rick Wilson takes a look at a new range of models that are bound to fly off the shelf... or around the race track!

ABOVE Another pair of new arrivals – MGT00679 and MGT00680, the Red Bull pair in a special colour scheme, as seen at the 2021 Turkish Grand Prix.

There has been a huge surge in the popularity of 1/64 scale in recent years. And there has always been plenty of interest at the top levels of motor racing, so it was only natural when the two came together in the MINI GT range.

TSM Models launched its MINI GT range in 2017. It hit the UK in 2019, when Cleveland's Diecasts became the sole official UK importer (and it still is today).

TrueScale Miniatures, as it was originally called, was founded in 2006, based in Hong Kong, and began distributing diecasts models the following year. Over time, most collectors referred to the company as TSM, for short, and a few years ago, this became part of the new trading name.

On its website, the company's states "TSM-Model strives for a perfect blend of passion and detailed

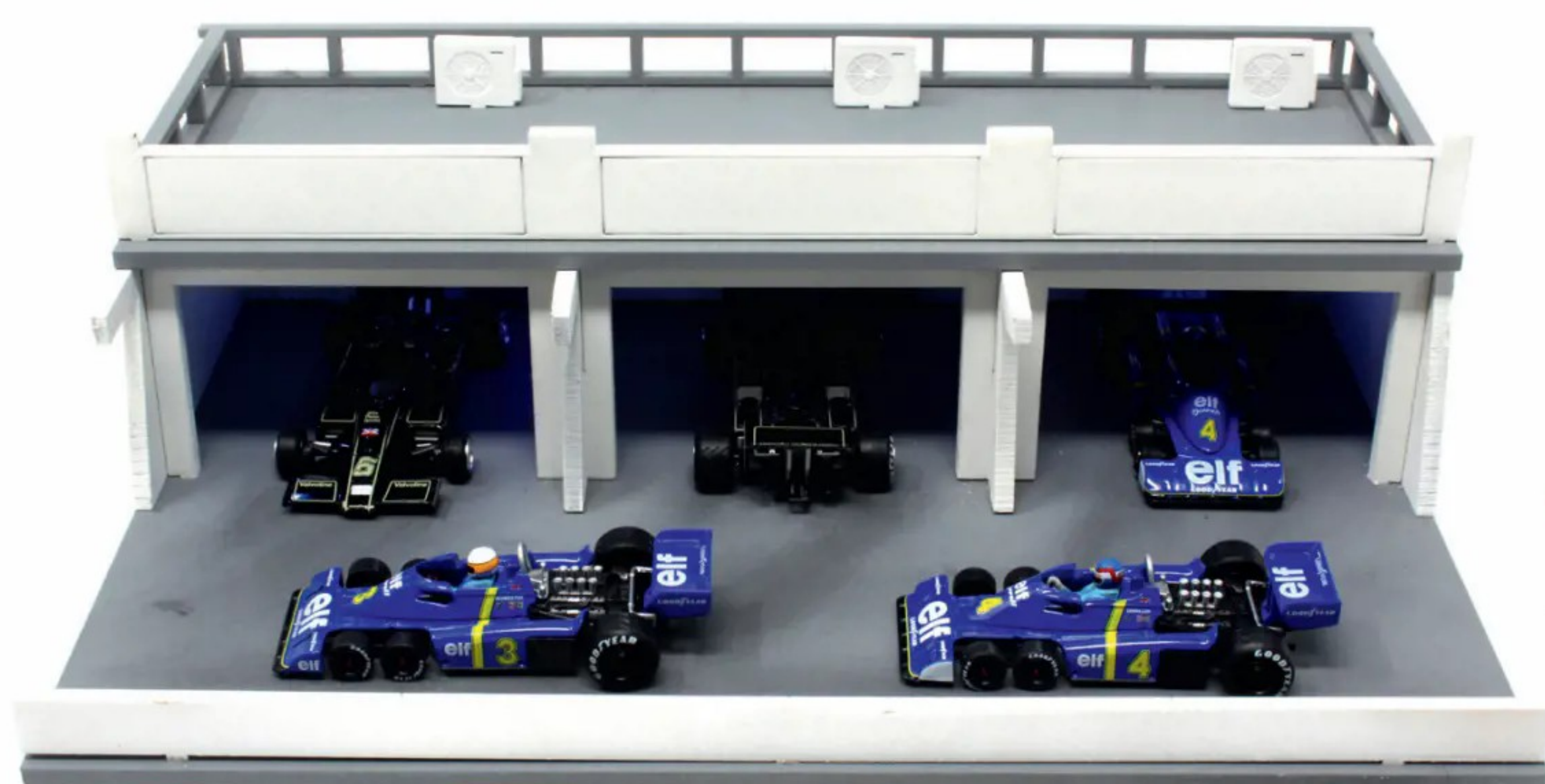
craftsmanship in each model we produce. From our humble beginnings making accessories to accentuate your collection, we have selectively expanded our offerings each year to offer not only key pieces of motorsports history, but to capture both classic street cars and the newest vehicles you admire on the road today. We are always looking for ways to improve our craft, using a combination of the newest technology and honed technique to get all of the details just right." One of those areas of improvement came to light in late 2017, when the company announced the launch of its brand new range, dedicated solely to 1/64 scale.

During early production, only a few licensing arrangements were in place, notably Honda and Nissan (these two account for the first 12 models, in Honda Civic Type R and Nissan GT-R guise, with six apiece). But many more big names were to follow, with most of them already being replicated at TSM's larger scales. Starting with standard road cars, the range quickly diversified into specials and customs, bringing several of the specialist, Far East tuning and customisation houses into the spotlight, such as LB★WORKS and Kaido House.

The first hint of MINI GT taking to the F1 circuits came in January 2021, when the company announced, out of the blue, a future release in the shape of the incredible six-wheeled Tyrrell P34. At the time, MINI GT confirmed that there was much more to follow in terms of F1 machinery. Would this be in the shape of more classics or modern racers – or both? Read on to find out...

BELOW The first four modern F1 releases from MINI GT, all from the 2022 Abu Dhabi Grand Prix – MGT00521 Alpha Tauri AT03 #22, MGT00539 Alpha Tauri AT03 #10, MGT00520 Red Bull RB18 #1 and MGT00538 Red Bull RB18 #11.





ABOVE
The first four classic 1970s F1 releases – MGT00488 Tyrrell P34 #4, MGT00489 Lotus 78 #5, MGT00583 Tyrrell P34 #3 and MGT00584 Tyrrell P34 #4.



ABOVE
The next classic F1 release – Lotus 78 in Imperial Tobacco livery.



1970S F1 CARS

Things went a bit quiet for a year, whilst the world continued to battle through the knock-on effects of the global pandemic that impacted commercial activities everywhere. Then, in May 2022, came the news that the P34 would be joined by the Lotus 78 from the same era. The pretty Lotus, wearing the team's famous John Player Special black and gold livery, was to be modelled as it appeared at the car's 1977 season presentation. Both cars would be released together, at the end of 2022.

Since then, three further releases using the two toolings have been announced, two of which arrived at the beginning of 2024 in the shape of another two Tyrrell P34s, but this time with driver figures. Another version of the Lotus 78 has been in the works for some time, even being seen as a finished mock-up at Nuremberg in January 2023, in its red Imperial Tobacco livery – this is due for release imminently. Here is the full list of classic F1 releases so far:

- **MGT00488** – Tyrrell P34 #4 1976 Spanish Grand Prix
- **MGT00489** – Lotus 78 #5 1977 Presentation
- **MGT00583** – Tyrrell P34 #3 Jody Scheckter 1976 Swedish Grand Prix winner
- **MGT00584** – Tyrrell P34 #4 Patrick Depailler 1976 Swedish Grand Prix 2nd place
- **MGT00808** – Lotus 78 #6 Gunnar Nilsson 1977 Japanese GP (coming soon)

MODERN F1 MACHINERY

In the meantime, the earlier rumoured manufacture of contemporary F1 cars has really taken off. The first licence confirmed was with Red Bull Racing, with four single car releases of the 2022-season RB18, plus two amazing pit lane diorama sets of the same car for

ABOVE The pair of Red Bulls from the 2022 Monaco Grand Prix MGT00550 and MGT00551, complete with Sergio Perez figure celebrating his win.



ABOVE RIGHT
Soon to arrive – the Red Bull RB16B pair from the 2021 season.

both drivers, each featuring a section of pit lane as a base and 20 figurines, all performing a different task, in addition to the driver in the car! MINI GT has also released a pair of the 2022-season Alpha Tauri AT03s.

Just arrived are the first examples of the 2021-season RB16B. The initial pair feature a special livery as raced at the 2021 Turkish Grand Prix, with the car painted white rather than the team's usual dark blue. Another 2021 RB16B that has just seen the light of day is a special, limited edition that was made exclusively for the 2024 Red Bull Taichung Showrun. Two more 2021-season RB16Bs are coming soon too.

Exciting new licences are already in place with more teams – Alfa Romeo (2023 C43, both just released) and McLaren (2023 MCL60, coming very shortly) – as well as the 2023 cars from Red Bull Racing (RB19) and Alpha Tauri (AT04). The Red Bull RB19 will also feature in the 2023 version of the pit lane diorama sets. The future of modern F1 cars from MINI GT has definitely got the green light.

Here is the full list of modern F1 releases so far:

BELOW A brand new arrival – MGT00729 Alfa Romeo KICK C43 #77.





ABOVE

The eagerly awaited pair of McLaren MCL60 cars, MGT00767 and MGT00768, from the 2023 Japanese Grand Prix.

- **MGT00520** - Oracle Red Bull Racing RB18 #1 Max Verstappen 2022 Abu Dhabi Grand Prix
 - **MGT00521** - AlphaTauri AT03 #22 Yuki Tsunoda 2022 Abu Dhabi Grand Prix
 - **MGT00538** - Oracle Red Bull Racing RB18 #11 Sergio Pérez 2022 Abu Dhabi Grand Prix
 - **MGT00539** - AlphaTauri AT03 #10 Pierre Gasly 2022 Abu Dhabi Grand Prix
 - **MGT00550** - Oracle Red Bull Racing RB18 #1 Max Verstappen 2022 Monaco Grand Prix
 - **MGT00551** - Oracle Red Bull Racing RB18 #11 Sergio Pérez 2022 Monaco Prix
 - **MGT00679** - Red Bull RB16B #11 Sergio Pérez 2021 Turkish Grand Prix
 - **MGT00680** - Red Bull RB16B #33 Max Verstappen 2021 Turkish Grand Prix
 - **MGT00728** - Alfa Romeo C43 #24 Zhou Guanyu 2023 F1 Australian GP
 - **MGT00729** - Alfa Romeo C43 #77 Valtteri Bottas 2023 F1 Australian GP
 - **MGT00799** - Red Bull RB16B #33 Max Verstappen 2021 US Grand Prix Winner (2024 Red Bull Taichung Showrun special release)
 - **MGTS0007** - Oracle Red Bull Racing RB18 #1 Max Verstappen 2022 Abu Dhabi GP Pit Crew Set
 - **MGTS0008** - Oracle Red Bull Racing RB18 #11 Sergio Pérez 2022 Abu Dhabi GP Pit Crew Set
- Coming very soon:
- **MGT00724** - Oracle Red Bull Racing RB19 #1 Max Verstappen 2023 F1 Bahrain GP
 - **MGT00725** - Oracle Red Bull Racing RB19 #11 Sergio Pérez 2023 F1 Saudi Arabian G
 - **MGT00726** - AlphaTauri AT04 #22 Yuki Tsunoda 2023 F1 Australian GP
 - **MGT00727** - AlphaTauri AT04 #21 Nyck de Vries 2023 F1 Australian GP
 - **MGT00767** - McLaren MCL60 #4 Lando Norris 2023 F1 Japanese GP
 - **MGT00768** - McLaren MCL60 #81 Oscar Piastri 2023 F1 Japanese GP



ABOVE

The awesome MGTS0007 Pit Crew Set – this is the Max Verstappen example, from the 2022 season.

Sergio Perez is also available (MGTS0008) and both have been updated for the 2023 season and just announced as MGTS0014 and MGTS0015 respectively. Each set comes with 21 figurines, including the driver!

TOP LEFT

Coming soon, the 2022 Alpha Tauri AT04 team cars, as run at the 2023 Australian Grand Prix.



ABOVE The eye-catching graphic used to announce the exciting new Ayrton Senna range recently.

BELOW

Senna's 1988 MP4/4 & 1991 MP4/6 Marlboro McLarens, the first two early prototype samples.



- **MGT00835** - Red Bull RB16B #33 Max Verstappen 2021 Abu Dhabi Grand Prix
- **MGT00836** - Red Bull RB16B #11 Sergio Perez 2021 Azerbaijan Grand Prix
- **MGTS0014** - Oracle Red Bull Racing RB19 #1 Max Verstappen 2023 Japanese GP Pit Crew Set
- **MGTS0015** - Oracle Red Bull Racing RB19 #11 Sergio Pérez 2023 Japanese GP Pit Crew Set

CELEBRATING THE RACING LIFE OF AYRTON SENNA

Returning to earlier days of F1, MINI GT made a huge announcement earlier this year, for collectors of historic motorsport models, involving one particularly famous driver.

The Ayrton Senna Collection is dedicated to the racing legend and will feature highly-detailed 1/64 scale replicas. Each model will be carefully crafted to showcase the details of his most famous race cars, road cars and even his early-career karting days. Not only that, but there will be detailed miniature figures and specialised accessories to create a true representation of Senna's charismatic presence. MINI GT has just released a photo of the first two models to reach early prototype stage – Senna's 1988 MP4/4 & 1991 MP4/6 Marlboro McLarens.

The collection will most definitely be an essential addition for both devoted fans of Senna and Formula 1 enthusiasts. More than just collectibles, they're going to be a homage to a motorsport hero.

WHERE TO BUY?

MINI GT's models are available worldwide and are imported to the UK exclusively through Cleveland's Diecast (www.clevelandsdiecast.co.uk). Cleveland's is a Trade Only wholesaler so, if you're a retail customer, get your preferred retailers to make contact! ■



French diecast: CIJ



Andrew Ralston remembers the aviation output of a diecast great...

MAIN IMAGE

Bréguet Deux Ponts – a practical if not exactly elegant aircraft. Photo courtesy of Vectis Auctions



ABOVE
Catalogue page illustrating the eight CIJ diecast aircraft, together with the stand that was available to display them.

Children – and adults too – like models of aeroplanes as much as cars, but those of us who used to try to build plastic kits in our youth were often disappointed with the finished product. It was all too easy to get glue in the wrong places, lose small parts and make a mess of the painting. One way round the problem would be for the young aircraft enthusiast to buy built-up models, and Dinky and others were ready to meet that need. We have already examined the extensive range of diecast aeroplanes offered by Solido in France and it was inevitable that the other major player in the French diecast market, CIJ (Compagnie Industrielle du Jouet), would enter this field too, following Solido's example by making aircraft to 1/300 scale.

CIJ's origins go back further than Dinky and Solido – right back to 1878, in fact, when Albert Migault started a small toy business in Paris. In 1919 he was joined by Marcel Gourdet, a tinsmith by trade, who came up with ingenious ideas like a clockwork-powered fish that could swim up to fifty metres! Gourdet and Migault hit the big time when they started making promotional models of cars for the Citroen firm. That arrangement only lasted until 1934 when Citroen went bankrupt, but the toy factory, which had been trading under the name Compagnie Industrielle du Jouet since 1930, quickly changed loyalties to the rival Renault firm. Until CIJ's

demise in the mid-1960s, the company was closely associated with Renault and modelled most of the state-owned company's post-war cars.

There was a connection between Renault and aeroplanes, as one of the earliest French aircraft companies, the Société des Avions Caudron, was taken over by Renault in 1933. During that decade Caudron-Renault aircraft set several different speed records and CIJ made replicas of these with a clockwork-powered propeller at the front. The tinsplate fish might have been able to swim, but unfortunately the tinsplate planes couldn't fly!

After World War II CIJ entered the Dinky-sized diecast car market. These models were very successful for a time – particularly the Renault 4CV, which had made motoring affordable to ordinary French families in the post-war era. By the 1960s, however, the market had become more competitive and CIJ was beginning to struggle. Perhaps the introduction of diecast aeroplanes was a result of the company's need to bring out something different – though, in effect, CIJ was only catching up with rival companies who already offered similar products. Nevertheless, the CIJ planes were well-made and nicely decorated and included several subjects which others overlooked. As there were only eight different items in the range, we can look at them one by one.



LEFT
The Fouga
could
also be
purchased
loose from
a trade box
of twelve.

*Photo
courtesy
of Vectis
Auctions*



ABOVE The Fouga CM 170R training aircraft. The amount of blue painted detailing can vary. *Photo courtesy of Vectis Auctions*



ABOVE Standard blue and yellow box design used across the series.



ABOVE Distinctive twin-boom arrangement made the Noratlas an easy plane to identify.



ABOVE Mid-1950s trade advert for the Norécrin and Noratlas, both of which were modelled by CIJ.

REF. 1/1 FOUGA CM 170R

The Fouga Magister was a popular training aircraft introduced in 1956, used by many air forces worldwide including Finland, Israel and Cambodia. Solido had already modelled the Fouga and, in spite its small dimensions, managed to incorporate tiny wheels, whereas CIJ took the easy way out and made a rudimentary undercarriage as part of the casting. The CIJ was supplied either in a trade box of twelve or individually in a dark blue and yellow style of box with a silhouette drawing of the plane, a pattern used across the rest of the range.

REF. 1/2 NORECRIN

Nord Aviation was a state-owned company based on the merger of two existing French aircraft manufacturers in 1954 and it lasted until a further merger (with Sud Aviation) in 1970. CIJ modelled two aircraft from the Nord stable, the first being the Norecrin, a light monoplane which, depending on the version, had between two and four seats. It first flew in 1945 and, once again, there was a Renault connection as some of the early examples were powered by a Renault aero engine. With a wingspan of 60mm the Norecrin is even smaller than the Fouga and this time CIJ solved the undercarriage problem by modelling the plane as if in flight, with the wheels retracted. It's a cute little model, largely because of the colourful use of blue stripes on the wings.

REF. 1/11 DOUGLAS DC7 AND 1/16 DOUGLAS DC6

CIJ made two Douglas models, the DC6 and the DC7 which followed it. The four piston-engined DC6 was originally intended for military transport purposes

towards the end of World War II but developed into a popular civil aircraft with many going to airlines like Pan Am and North Western Orient. The DC7 had a slightly longer fuselage but was less successful than the DC6 which continued in production alongside it until 1958, by which time jets like the Boeing 707 were setting the pace. With a wingspan of 117mm the CIJ replica is almost twice as wide as the little Norecrin and comes in plain white with DC7 markings on the tailfin, rather than in the livery of a commercial airline.

However, the model was also issued under ref. 1/16 where it was described as a DC6, the casting being duly modified underneath to read simply 'Douglas' with the 'DC7' removed. This time, the plane came in the livery of 'UAT' ('Union Aéromaritime de Transport') operated many routes to French-speaking African countries. The fact that UAT used the DC6 is no doubt what led CIJ, in the interests of accuracy, to change the designation of their model.

REF. 1/12 NORATLAS

Like the Norecrin, the Noratlas was a product of Nord Aviation and was designed for military transport use, entering service with the French Armée de l'Air in 1953. Other air forces such as Portugal, Germany and Israel also used the Noratlas and a small number were employed for civilian purposes. Instantly recognisable on account of the unusual 'twin boom' configuration, the CIJ model is finished in silver/grey and white, with roundels on the wings. French Dinky also made a Noratlas, finished in all-over silver.

REF. 1/20 CARAVELLE 'AIR FRANCE'

Britain had brought out the world's first jet airliner, the Comet, in 1952 and France followed this up with



BELOW
Boeing with 'Air France' box and leaflet. Photo courtesy of Vectis Auctions



© Vectis Auctions - www.vectis.co.uk

the Caravelle. This was inevitably influenced by the design of the Comet – in fact, the nose and cockpit were licensed copies – though the engine configuration was different, with rear-mounted turbo-jets. The plane entered service in 1959, with Air France and SAS (Scandinavian airlines) at first, soon to be followed by many others and a total of 282 were built up until 1972.

The popularity of the Caravelle saw it modelled by Dinky and Solido as well as CIJ, the Dinky being the largest and most impressive as it had the characteristic drop-down staircase at the back of the fuselage – a feature that impressed me greatly as a child making his first ever flight in 1963 to Italy with Alitalia!

There are a number of variations on the CIJ model:

(1) 'Caravelle' cast in at the front of the fuselage, and a painted blue stripe across the window area and engines.

(2) Blue window transfer with the distinctive triangular shaped windows in silver. On this variant the word Caravelle is part of the transfer. Sometimes 'Air France' appears above the windows.

(3) A new window transfer with a thin white line in the middle and Air France above, without the name Caravelle. The first two variants came in the standard blue and yellow box but the third had a special promotional Air France box.

(4) Rarest of all is the 'Royal Air Maroc' Caravelle in a special box with red and green window transfer and with Arabic lettering.

REF. 1/14 BRÉGUET DEUX PONTS

This strange-looking machine is perhaps the most original item in the CIJ series of aeroplanes. It could carry 130 passengers and the name 'Deux Ponts' indicates two decks (a bit like a double-decker bus) which gives the plane such a heavy appearance. It may look as if it would struggle to get off the ground but it had a first class safety record over a period of nearly twenty years. Air France used the Bréguet on flights from Paris to Corsica and Algiers from 1953 onwards

and the plane continued in service for carrying cargo until the early 1970s. The CIJ is therefore in Air France livery and the thicker sides of the fuselage meant there was room to fit a neat transfer of the airline's winged seahorse logo. Asking prices for this model seem to be higher than for the other CIJ planes which may indicate that it is rarer, or may be a reflection of the fact that it is based on an unusual prototype.

REF. 1/15 BOEING 707 'AIR FRANCE'

CIJ's final plane was the Boeing 707 which first saw service with Pan Am in 1958 and went on to dominate commercial aviation throughout the 1960s, being described by one aviation historian as "the airliner which introduced jet travel on a large scale". The CIJ came in white with red side stripes not unlike those on the Douglas DC7, but there was also an Air France version which came in a special box like the Caravelle containing a small leaflet with English text introducing the CIJ range of model cars.

Taken together, this small group of CIJ aircraft gives a good snapshot of the French aviation industry in the sixties. The paint finish is to a high standard and exceptional care was taken to fit complex transfers accurately. It is hard to date CIJ catalogues, but by 1964 only two – the Caravelle and Boeing – were pictured, so the aircraft series was not produced for very long.

One final point: if you've got any of these airliners in your collection, you may have been puzzled by the existence of a small hole underneath. The mystery is explained in the catalogue: you could buy a stand to display the plane, which must have had quite a substantial base, as the bigger aircraft are quite heavy! ■



ABOVE Douglas DC6 in 'UAT' ('Union Aéromaritime de Transport') livery and special box. Photo courtesy of Lacy, Scott and Knight



ABOVE Boeing 707 in a plain finish without any airline lettering.



ABOVE Douglas DC7 in all-over white finish.



ABOVE The tiny Norecrin was represented in flying mode with undercarriage retracted.

BELOW The Caravelle jet was available in a special Air France box.

Superfast 1969-1982

Charting the evolution of the Matchbox Superfast range during the Lesney years, from 1969 to 1982.

CADILLAC AMBULANCE

Production: 1970

Catalogue: 1970

Box Styles: G

Keeping its regular wheels' white body with red cross stickers to the forward doors and bonnet, Cadillac Ambulance was another short-lived Superfast model. Being another emergency vehicles carpet favourite, these were always well played with so finding a mint one today can be quite a task, and not a cheap experience either, hence the slightly pre-loved example in the photograph seen here.

The only notable differences during its Superfast days were a slight variance in the paint from brilliant to off-white and the stickers could vary a little in size.

FORD CAPRI

Production: 1971-76

Catalogue: 1971-76

Box Styles: H

The model was a very good replica of the real thing and proved a strong seller in the range for several years. It had a popular action feature – an opening bonnet that revealed a plated engine. Initially the Capri was painted a slightly fluorescent orange colour but, like No.8 Wildcat Dragster, this could be affected by sunlight and various shades of orange and pink can be found today. A nice touch was the separate bonnet component being painted matt black. The interior was off-white, and the base and grille were bare metal. In 1974, the colour scheme – including the bonnet – was changed to metallic magenta.

A third version of the Capri, in a lighter orange colour, was used in the Two Packs Weekender then the Rola-matic No.67 Hot Rocker, introduced in 1974, used many of the Capri's components.

PERSONNEL CARRIER

Production: 1976-80

Catalogue: 1977-80

Box Styles: K, L

Personnel Carrier was a large, chunky model of an open, high-sided troop transporter.

The well-detailed body, which included several moulded tools on the sides and rear, was painted olive drab, while the base and side tanks were flat black. In the load area were two rows of five identical soldiers in tan plastic and a rotating machine gun was mounted on the cab roof. The windows were tinted green



No.
54

and the Superfast wheels were all black, without the chrome-foiled hubs.

MOBILE HOME

Production: 1981

Catalogue: 1981

Box Styles: L

Loosely based on a Winnebago, this was quite a nice model with a detailed orange plastic interior showing beds, sofas, dining table and sink. It had one working feature, an opening brown plastic door operated by a thumb-wheel that doubled as a step.

For such a short-lived model, there were quite a few colour variations. The body could be in white or cream, with or without a pair of brown, tampo-printed stripes, while the base could be in black, dark brown or charcoal.

NASA TRACKING VEHICLE

Production: 1982

Catalogue: 1982

Box Styles: L

Now painted white and in NASA guise, the interior, side door and thumbwheel had been changed to red.

Added to the roof was a radar dish that had originally been fitted to No.16 Badger, although the dish only rotated with manual operation on this model, not as the vehicle moved along. ■



Lancashire's finest

Nigel Robertshaw takes a look at the iconic bonneted Leyland Comet lorry. Toymakers from around the world were attracted to its elegant looks and it hasn't gone unnoticed on the current collectable scene.

ABOVE An impressive line-up of all the main Leyland Comet versions from this review to compare size and scales. There are five classic old toys (one in different scales) and three modern collectables.



ABOVE The large-scale battery operated Leyland Comet Tipper Truck from Victory Industries. Don't forget to remove the batteries after use! The number plate boasts 100 BHP although 90HP was the advertised maximum on the real thing.

After World War II "Export or Die" was the cry from the Government. Leyland Motors took up the challenge and in 1947 launched its first new post-war lorry; the mighty Leyland Comet.

It was designed primarily to meet the demands of overseas customers with its bonneted layout and medium weight capacity but most importantly it was built to heavy-duty specification. Bonneted configurations were already seen as a little out-dated for the home market so various publicity materials of the day promoted the Comet as semi-forward control rather than as normal control. The cab was positioned a little forward and into the engine compartment but to all intents and purposes it was a bonneted lorry; boasting a classic and rather stylish "look".

Talking of publicity and related marketing ads, Leyland promoted its new lorry with some exciting slogans. "Engineered for World Markets", "Unequalled for their Power, Speed and Economy", "For sheer, slogging reliability nothing compares to the Leyland Comet". The initial petrol and diesel engines were uprated with the introduction of the Comet 90 (horse-power) in 1950.

All the engineering was Leyland but surprisingly the stylish cab was a bought-in assembly manufactured by specialists Briggs Motor Bodies. Similar cabs were built for other manufacturers, notably Dodge, Fordson and Guy although all had styling differences and of course changed badging. Briggs also produced the body for the legendary Jowett Javelin motor car with the front end showing a clear family resemblance to the Comet cab.

The Briggs business was acquired by Ford in 1953 and this provided added impetus for Leyland to develop and manufacture its own new in-house cab. The Comet (or Super Comet) name continued and from 1953 moved onto a modern looking forward control cab design with the "mouth organ" front, then progressing to the Vista View or LAD cab in 1958 with the Comet sharing the Ergo cab with other Leyland Group marques from 1964, but it's the early bonneted version that concerns us here.

Incidentally, the Comet name first appeared on a Leyland tank built during WWII. British Army tanks generally started with a "C" with the Comet adding to the list of Cruiser, Crusader, Cromwell, Centaur etc. and fortunately another war-time tank, the Churchill, also fitted within the rule!

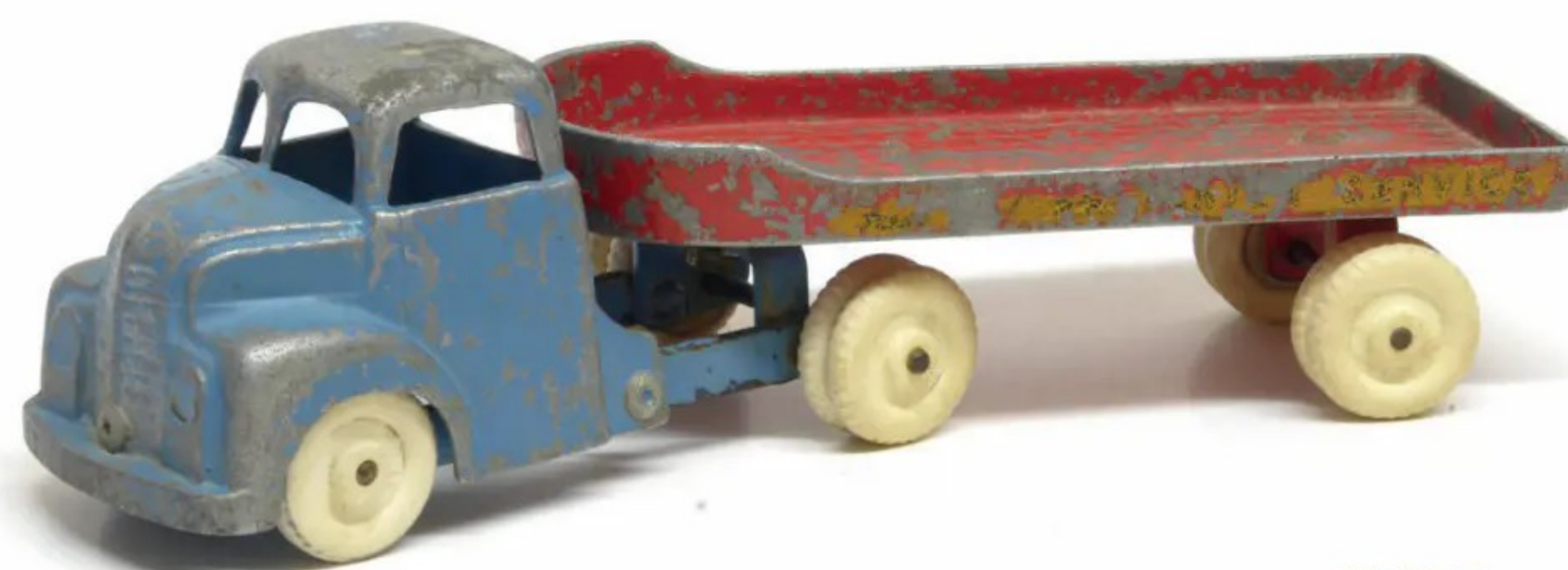
The stylish bonneted Leyland Comet lorry inspired a number of toymakers of the day who included a Comet, (with a variety of bodies and applications), within their commercial vehicle line-ups. The lorry is also well represented with modern versions made for the current collector market. It's probably to be expected that the first Comet model rolling off the production line, and a real beauty, was from market-leader Dinky, promoted under its prestigious Dinky Supertoys banner.

DINKY TOYS

The first exquisitely engineered Dinky Toys Comet was announced in the July 1949 issue of *Meccano Magazine* where, interestingly, it commented on the bonneted styling with "An entirely new appearance has been given", and "The familiar radiator has been dispensed



ABOVE The author takes the wheel of a 70 year old Comet parked-up in Cyprus. What a proud looking vehicle and definitely one of Lancashire's finest (the lorry, not the driver!).



ABOVE Made for outdoor use this is a substantial piece of engineering from Fun Ho! of New Zealand. The model underlines that Comets were exported right around the World.



ABOVE An action shot of the Comet from a 1950 Leyland brochure.



ABOVE A page from the Mettoy 1953 catalogue with its two clockwork Leyland Comets.

BELOW The three classic versions of the Leyland Comet from Dinky Toys or Dinky Supertoys! Introduced from 1947 they were state of the art die-cast toys back in their day.

with. Instead there is a bonnet and front end that are decidedly modern in style". Now that's an interesting way to turn a potentially negative impression into a positive image for the vehicle!

By 1953 there were three Comets with different bodies in the Dinky range...

• Leyland Comet Lorry

The first Comet featured an unusual tinplate stake truck style body. It was also fitted with a characteristic tow hook although due to their body designs the other two Comets did not have this feature despite it appearing on lots of Dinky commercials from the era.

• Comet Wagon with Hinged Tailboard

This version featured a rather nice bottom-hinged opening tailboard fitted to the dropside body. An impressive action feature for its day.

• Leyland Cement Wagon

This model had a very solid looking flatbed body designed to carry its heavy load and was beautifully finished in the yellow Blue Circle Portland Cement livery with related Snowcem and Ferrocrete signage.

There were some interesting and quite rare colour combinations with the first two models together with wheel and box variations. Also each model received three different catalogue numbers over their lives as they moved between Dinky Toys and Dinky Supertoys status. The underside lettering and the relevant numbers shown on the models, together with the related boxes, didn't always keep up with these alterations and updates. These complex reclassifications were presumably important to the Dinky operation at the time but must have created a real headache for toyshop owners and presumably confused many Dinky

customers of the day, not to mention anyone preparing a concise overview of the Dinky Comet range such as in this piece!

The three Comets were one of Dinky's best commercial vehicle ranges during the 1950s with the final two leaving the catalogue in 1959, after a 10 year run. There was a rather different interpretation of the Leyland Comet from a business that would, within just a few years, strive to oust Dinky from its number one spot as the leading diecast toy manufacturer.

METTOY

Mettoy, soon to become famous for its competing Corgi Toys range, featured two large-scale clockwork models of the Comet lorry in its 1952 and 1953 catalogues.

At this time the business was big into (rather old-fashioned) tinplate toys and had produced various square cabbed lorries with their exposed radiators usually carrying AEC-style triangles or "M" for Mettoy badging.

The more curvaceous lines of the Comet cab called for something a little different and the Mettoy version was moulded in plastic although tinplate construction was retained for the chassis and semi-trailer bodies. This is a very early use of plastic for toy making and as well as being a better medium for modelling the stylish Comet cab the change may also have been driven by the metal restrictions relating to the Korean War.

There were two versions of the Mettoy Comet, both featuring semi-trailers which had previously been paired with tinplate AEC-style square cabbed lorries...

• **Petrol Tanker** - This was finished in a striking red livery with the lithographed tanker body displaying Shell BP signage and an eye-catching "Petroleum Spirit Highly Inflammable" warning sign.

• **Articulated Lorry** - The yellow wagon body was finished in "Speedy Transport Contractors" livery with the towns "London Liverpool Northampton Swansea" sign-written along the sides. The last two places were the main bases of the Mettoy business (although Liverpool was of course the stronghold of rivals Dinky Toys!).





VICTORY INDUSTRIES (VIP OR V-MODELS)

The Leyland Comet Tipper Truck was one of the few commercials in a superb range of large-scale (1/18) battery operated toy vehicles produced by Victory Industries. The electric motor powered the rear wheels and through an intricate gearing mechanism it also operated the tipping body.

The impressively engineered model appeared around 1955 and there were several colour options, red, orange and yellow, during its relatively short production life.

Battery leakage and subsequent corrosion were a problem with the model and probably explains why this is a hard (and expensive) vintage toy to find in good condition.

FUN HO! NEW ZEALAND

This monster of a truck, appropriately named the “Large Articulated Truck”, or “Articulated Truck” when matched with a slightly shorter trailer, featured in the Fun Ho! cast aluminium range, which was generally designed for robust outdoor use. First seen in 1954 it remained in the range until as late as 1976 but they were only made in small quantities for the New Zealand home market and are now quite rare and sought after models.

No doubt the aluminium used in its manufacture kept the weight down but it still tips the scales at going on four times the weight of a Dinky Toys Comet model! New Zealand toy makers could be relied on to generate some rare and unusual versions of British lorries and this Fun Ho! Leyland Comet is no exception. The same can often be said of cheaper-end toys made in Hong Kong in the 1960s although no Comets from this source have been tracked-down.

We’re staying with export markets but moving a little nearer to home.

JUP JUGUETES UNIDOS PUERTO SPAIN

Toys made in Spain in the 1950s are rarely seen making these large models highly prestigious versions of the Leyland Comet. The method of construction is rather unusual with the cab manufactured in a very hard Bakelite material with the chassis and body made from wood with paper coverings providing the body detailing. Amazingly the Comet was produced in three different scales, the largest so expensive that it attracted a luxury goods tax with the duty stamp appearing on the underside, as found on the largest lorry in the related photo.

A nice touch was the inclusion of a driver in all



ABOVE The Vanguards version also had branding issues with Lledo and Corgi names also appearing. Here’s a selection which includes the four main body styles in various operator liveries, some featuring the grooved bonnet sweep finished in a contrasting colour.



ABOVE Base-Toys or B-T Models have produced a wide variety of Leyland Comet models with at least seven different bodies with a selection shown here.

BELOW In the early 1950s, before the introduction of its Corgi Toys brand, Mettoy was still producing clockwork tinplate toys. For the stylish Comet cab construction moved to plastic although retaining tinplate for the rest of the vehicle. What a charming old-fashioned version of the Comet.

three scales. Additionally the Comet’s characteristic sweeping dished groove that runs up and along the bonnet sides was picked out in a contrasting colour finish. A handful of versions on the current collectable scene have this embellishment but this is the only vintage toy from the era boasting such extravagant treatment.

Later the JUP Comets moved to a more traditional style of self-coloured plastic cab and there were rather stylish versions with high-sided bodies fitted with canvas tilts.

BASE-TOYS OR B-T MODELS

The Base-Toys Leyland Comet line-up comprises at least seven different bodies with a box van, refuse truck, dropside wagon, flat-bed, tipper, Luton van, tanker and maybe a drinks truck. All the range is built to 1/76 scale and most versions of the Comet appear in both plain colours and also in a variety of operator liveries. The majority of the components including the cab and body are made from plastic with only a diecast metal chassis providing some weight to the model. The odd version includes additional detailing with very fragile side lights and door mirrors.

Perhaps it’s a matter of taste but the model doesn’t quite capture the look of the Comet, certainly when compared to the Vanguards version reviewed next. Despite a few shortcomings the range does provide an interesting and colourful line-up of Comet lorries.

The next range moves up in both quality and size to 1/64 scale.





ABOVE
These are the two impressive versions of the Ixo Leyland Comet manufactured in Bangladesh and available with this magazine part-work from Spain.

VANGUARDS LLEDO CORGI

This range, appearing in 1996 and well before Base-Toys, boasts just four body styles; box van, tanker, flat-bed and dropside wagon with all once again appearing in a variety of liveries. The Vanguard model is largely diecast although with a fairly bland plastic base which contrasts to the largely plastic Base-Toys version which has a diecast base with exhaust and transmission detailing. Incidentally although the scales of 1/76 and 1/64 are not too dissimilar the largely die-cast Vanguard version weighs-in four times heavier than its competitor. Despite this distinctly superior quality and feel, many of the Vanguard lorries seem to sell for similar prices to the competing Base-Toys on the internet auction sites.

The Vanguard's proud box description "designed and built in England" later changed to "precision diecast replica (Made in China)" reflecting the somewhat inevitable transfer of production to the Far East. The branding also reflected the changes with Vanguard and Lledo names giving way to Corgi on more recent issues.

Finally we return to the export market and to a model that's only been available for a year or so.

IXO SALVAT

Produced by Ixo for the Spanish publishing house Salvat, there are two versions of the Comet available within



ABOVE Here's the Comet emblem fixed to the bonnet of an old timer.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
Thank you to James and Craig for their help and support with this piece.

a magazine partwork themed on "Spanish Trucks and Buses, a collection of representative nostalgic models". I feel a bit left out here. How can Spain, with a smaller population and a relatively restricted vehicle heritage, manage to sustain this type of publication when there has been nothing similar for the UK; and think of the scope and opportunities with Britain's commercial vehicle manufacturing history? Having just seen a copy of the magazine accompanying the Comet model, dare I say that the content is somewhat lightweight?

Both Ixo models are quality diecasts (albeit with plastic bodies) to 1/43 scale with the tanker finished in the striking red and yellow of Campsa, the then state-owned petroleum company.

The second Comet, in green, is modelled as a high-sided wagon used for agricultural purposes and interestingly is very much in the style of the 1950s Spanish JUP lorries reviewed earlier.

The Leyland Comet certainly deserves its place in the history of Spanish lorries as it is credited with largely kick-starting the Spanish economy after the ravages of war. Spain later developed its own vehicle manufacturing base with the state-owned Pegaso operation. One of its most successful vehicles, distinguished by its corrugated cab, paid homage to the significant assistance provided by Leyland and was named the Pegaso Comet.

COMET CONCLUSION

The toy and model makers have done the bonneted Leyland Comet proud! There are five main versions manufactured essentially as toys in the years when Comets roared up and down Britain's roads and across the world and there's a further three much more recent offerings designed for the collectors market. There are also a few white metal and resin kits to various scales which are a little outside the scope of this piece and there was even a white metal Comet coach body which was designed to accept the necessary parts from the Corgi Classics 1/50 scale Bedford OB Coach.

Given that Comets ventured right across the world there might just be the odd version that has been missed (I've already mentioned Hong Kong and I'm also thinking of South American toymakers as a further potential source). Please let us know?

Finally let's sign off with a few more of Leyland's enthusiastic slogans for its mighty Comet; "it's bound to last longer – it's built that way", "Comet 90 cuts haulage costs by over 4/- a ton", "born of a fine engineering tradition" and even "hey, the best Comets are on the ground"! ■

BELOW
A head-on shot compares and contrasts the various versions of the mighty Comet.





Ford Anglia 105E

In which **Steve Coles** compares models of the same car... but in differing scales!

The first classic car I ever really liked from being age 7 or 8 was the Ford Anglia 105E, having repeatedly taken the same classic car book out of the local library as a child, with a single picture of one in it. On the toy front, I was aware of the Dinky version, as well as the Lesney one, from a young age and later the existence of the Pathfinder white metal model, which was way out of my price range. So I was delighted when Lledo announced their new Vanguard's range of collector's models back in 1996 that contained a 105E Anglia. My first purchase was the Broadspeed Racing two car set; to this day a firm favourite within my collection. This month I have gathered a number of Anglia's and have split the cars into two groups; the blue group and the red group.

Aside from the Broadspeed colours, one of the nicest looking colour schemes, in my opinion at least, is Bermuda Blue with an Ermine White roof and side flash. Not only is there one of these in the Vanguard's range but Oxford Diecast have produced two, in both 1/76 and 1/148 scales. Oxford have used the 7990 TD registration plate made famous by the flying Anglia in the *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* story. However, I've chosen not to include the Corgi version of Harry Potter car but the original Vanguard's version from 2002, as I think it's a

nicer looking model whilst sharing the same colours.

Despite being one of the first Vanguard's castings, I think it looks great, capturing the tricky lines of the 105E well. The later additions of separate wipers and jewelled headlamps really lifted this casting too. The bonnet and 'C' pillar badges have been correctly picked out in red, while the rear mounted fuel filler cap and boot handle and hinges are silver. The interior, whilst very basic looking due to the age of the casting, is at least a decent representation of the 105E's interior. The seats are a very pale blue-grey colour, as is the dashboard, which does show the basic shapes of the Anglia's dashboard layout. A black two spoke steering wheel finishes things off nicely.

Oxford Diecast's 1/76 looks great alongside it. They've done a great job of creating the two-tone colour scheme considering the small size. I like the shape of this model too, although when compared to the profile of the larger Vanguard's Anglia, this one looks just a little too tall or a little too short (it is hard to say which it is!) This aside, the details on Oxford's Anglia are delightful. The carefully painted lights, trim and badges are spot-on. I particularly like the distinctive rear lights. The interior, being all black, is hard to make out any details. What is truly delightful is the level of detail to be found on the diminutive 1/148 scale Anglia. The lights, trim and even the tiny badges are all there (even my eyes can just see the word Anglia on

ABOVE An enchanting trio of Bermuda Blue and Ermine White from Oxford Diecast (1/148 and 1/176) and Corgi Vanguard's (1/43).



ABOVE The smallest, 1/148 scale, appears a different shade of blue. Could this be a result of painting clear plastic instead of metal?



ABOVE Oxford have included the 'Anglia' badge, fuel filler cap and boot handle on the 1/76 Anglia.



ABOVE When viewed from the side, the rear side windows of the smaller two Oxford Diecast examples look taller in comparison with the larger Vanguards.



ABOVE Oxford Diecast have included the 'Anglia' badge, fuel filler cap and boot handle on the 1/76 Anglia.

BELOW The lack of number plate on the smaller Anglia leaves the rear looking somewhat plain.



Aside from the generic wheels with exposed axle ends and some minor details, the smaller Trackside Anglia is more than a match for the larger Vanguards model.

the bootlid). I've tried to avoid any Harry Potter related puns for these models, but together they really do make a magical trio!

Moving on from the blue corner and into the red corner. We are sticking with the Vanguards casting for the 'large' element. Released in 2005, Vanguards Anglia numbered VA00125 was finished in Dragoon Red with a white roof and side flash. This release also sports whitewall tyres and red wheels which complement the red bodywork really nicely. External differences when compared to the blue version include no bonnet or 'C' pillar badges but a lovely '1200' badge on the rear panel, signifying this being the 123E Super model. The white side flash had a very fine silver outline and silver has been used to represent the thin chrome trim strip along the lower edge of the bootlid. Wing mirrors were not fitted to this model, and this was near the start of the time

when Corgi fitted mirrors rather than having them loose in the box. Once again, the interior looks basic but this time is in red. We must remember this is representing a time when car manufacturers would make their interiors the same colour as the paintwork – something that continued right into the 1980s. Even the Anglia's steering wheel is red!

Corgi dipped their toe into 1/76 cars just as Oxford were fast gaining momentum. They released their Trackside branded 1/76 triple car sets in three different versions. Each set contained a Morris Minor 1000, Vauxhall Viva HA and Ford Anglia 105E. Within set CR3003 was a delightful Anglia finished in red with contrasting white roof and side flash. And just like the red Vanguards model, the side flash is very neatly outlined in silver. The lights front and rear have been well detailed with paint, as has the boot handle and filler cap. Sadly, there are no badges on this one.

Although when placed next to an Oxford 105E saloon, the Corgi not only looks a little crisper and angular (an angular Anglia?!), it is also a slightly different size, being slightly longer and lower than the Oxford. This aside, both Vanguards and Trackside look in proportion and together make a lovely comparison. The Trackside version is only let down slightly by the generic wheels and visible axle ends (something not seen on the Oxford equivalent).

So these two sets of Anglias both have enough (magical) charm for even the most discerning collector. Which do I prefer? Hard to say. The red pairing look very striking, and are a little more unusual. Plus, the detailing on the Vanguards is superb. I think, for me, the blue corner comes out on top... but only just. ■



Both red examples capture the distinctive shape of the 105E Anglia well, although when viewed together the smaller Trackside one looks a little too long.





Corgi through the years

Rick Wilson continues his series of year-by-year articles from the beginning of the brand in 1956. We continue the series with the models released during the first half of 1978.

Another year and another batch of interesting releases to explore, nearly all of them now in 1/36 scale. The Mettoy Group would declare record profits for 1978 in its 1979 report, but there were signs of cost-cutting and maximising of tooling becoming the norm. But in terms of numbers of new models, Corgi still seemed to be going strong.

January was a perfect case in point, with brand new tooling in the shape of the Chevrolet Van, which was released in four different liveries in the same month. At 1/36 scale, it was a chunky diecast and featured opening rear doors, which revealed a printed card interior. Additionally, there were four panels cut into the roof to allow more light in to appreciate the detailing. All of the livery designs were made up, but one of them was far more popular than the other three put together! No.423 Rough Rider (yellow), No.431 Vanatic (white) and No.432 Vantastic (black) had combined sales of 131,000, but No.434 was painted Hot Pink and bore allegiance to a popular American TV show,

Charlie's Angels. This version alone sold 160,000 units before being withdrawn in 1980.

Moving into February, another newly-tooled US-based model moved into view – the AMC CJ-5 Jeep. It was a very good representation of the visually-pleasing vehicle, painted in Metallic Green and with a removable white plastic hardtop section. It will make another appearance in a few paragraphs, as well as in revamped form in June 1979 as No.441 Golden Eagle Jeep.

The month also brought us two vehicles much more familiar to UK shores – a new version of the famous London Taxi and a Police Jaguar. Outwardly similar to No.418 Austin Taxi, released in June 1971, No.425 London Taxi was, in fact, new tooling and featured opening rear doors that were hinged from the rear, just like the real thing. It also incorporated a sliding interior window. No.429 Police Jaguar XJ 12C was based on the No.286 Jaguar XJ 12C saloon, which had been going since December 1974. With a roof-mounted sign and aerial fitted to the boot, the car was painted white and wore its 'jam sandwich' stripes with pride.

**1978
PART 1**

ABOVE
No.926 Stromberg Helicopter and No.434 Charlie's Angels Van. Image credit: Vectis





ABOVE No.419 CJ-5 Jeep. Image credit: Vectis



ABOVE No.425 London Taxi. Image credit: Vectis



ABOVE
GS42 Agricultural Set.
Image credit: Vectis

BELOW
Numbers 423 Rough
Rider Van, 431 Vanatic
Van and 432 Vantastic
Van. Image credit: Vectis



ABOVE
No.429 Police Jaguar XJ
12C. Image credit: Vectis

RIGHT
No.1112 Combine
Harvester. Image credit:
Vectis



March had a very Spring-like farmyard feel to it in terms of new models, with two gift sets and a combine harvester. GS42 Agricultural Set comprised No.55 David Brown Tractor and No.56 Tipper Trailer, a working auger grain elevator and a grain silo. The auger really worked and had a wonderful action that provided plenty of play value. Fine grains, such as sugar or sand, could be raised and discharged into the silo, which in turn could be emptied into the waiting trailer to be taken away. Corgi also provided the auger and silo separately, as Gift Set 43, for those that already had the tractor and trailer. Completing

CORGI TOYS 1978 RELEASES – JANUARY TO JUNE

No	Title	Scale	Released	Withdrawn	Sales
271	James Bond Aston Martin DB5	1/36	May	-	824,000+
419	AMC CJ-5 Jeep	1/36	February	1980	231,000
423	Rough Rider Van	1/36	January	1978	27,000
425	London Taxi	1/36	February	-	390,000+
429	Police Jaguar XJ 12C	1/36	February	1980	225,000
431	Vanatic Van	1/36	January	1979	49,000
432	Vantastic Van	1/36	January	1979	55,000
434	Charlie's Angels Van	1/36	January	1980	160,000
484	AMC Pacer Rescue	1/36	May	1980	160,000
926	Stromberg Jet Ranger	-	June	1980	247,000
1112	Combine Harvester	1/36	March	1979	109,000
GS42	Agricultural Set	1/36	March	1979	49,000
GS43	Auger and Silo Set	1/36	March	1979	35,000
GS44	Metropolitan Police Land Rover and Horsebox	1/36	June	1980	157,000
GS49	Flying Club Set	1/36	June	1980	106,000

Source: The Great Book of Corgi 1956-1983



ABOVE
No.271 James Bond Aston Martin. Image credit: Vectis



ABOVE
No.484 Pacer Rescue. Image credit: Vectis



ABOVE
GS49 Flying Club Gift Set. Image credit: Vectis

the trio of farm models for March was No.1112 Combine Harvester. It was actually the No.55 David Brown Tractor fitted with a model of the Danish JF Combine Harvester, which coupled to the tractor's PTO. The tyres on the model actually rotated too.

April was given a miss so the next new models appeared in May, but it was worth the short wait as along came No.271 James Bond Aston Martin DB5. A totally newly-tooled model of the incredibly popular DB5 was now at the larger 1/36 scale and included the three main features from the earlier, smaller incarnation – forward-facing machine guns, pop-up rear bullet shield and, of course, ejecting baddie. This model outlasted the Mettoy days of Corgi and had already sold close to a million by then. Also released at

CORGI TOYS 1978 JANUARY TO JUNE RELEASES PRODUCTION COLOURS		
No	Title	Colours produced
271	James Bond Aston Martin DB5	Silver
419	AMC CJ-5 Jeep	Metallic green/white
423	Rough Rider Van	Yellow
425	London Taxi	Black
429	Police Jaguar XJ 12C	White
431	Vanatic Van	White
432	Vantastic Van	Black
434	Charlie's Angels Van	Hot Pink
484	AMC Pacer Rescue	White/black/orange
926	Stromberg Jet Ranger	Black/yellow
1112	Combine Harvester	White/red/yellow
GS42	Agricultural Set	As per constituent parts
GS43	Auger and Silo Set	Yellow/white/chrome
GS44	Metropolitan Police Land Rover and Horsebox	White
GS49	Flying Club Set	Green/white

Source: The Great Book of Corgi 1956-1983



ABOVE
GS44 Metropolitan Police Land Rover and Horsebox Set. Image credit: Vectis

March had a very Spring-like farmyard feel to it in terms of new models, with two gift sets and a combine harvester.

the same time, but rather overshadowed by the DB5, was a 'Rescue' version of the AMC Pacer, now released as No.484, complete with bright colour scheme and a roof-mounted light unit.

Rounding out the first half of the year were another three new releases, two of which were gift sets. GS44 Metropolitan Police Land Rover and Horsebox comprised the newer version of the Land Rover and No.112 Rice's Beaufort Double Horsebox, both painted white and adorned by Police markings. A mounted policeman was also included in the set. The second set for June was GS49 Flying Club Set, which was basically an updated version of Gift Set 19, with the same Little Nipper aircraft and trailer, but this time hauled by the new CJ-5 Jeep released in February, now wearing a lighter shade of Metallic Green and a suitable logo on its plastic hardtop.

Finally, a companion model for the fabulous 007 Lotus Esprit released last year – the Stromberg Jet Ranger helicopter that was seen chasing our hero into the sea during *The Spy Who Loved Me*. It even had two working rocket launchers! Interestingly, this was the only model for the first half of the year that wasn't stated as manufactured at 1/36 scale.

Next month, we conclude the models for 1978. Featuring another great group of new releases, be sure to check out the February issue of *Diecast Collector!*

McLAREN MODELS

PO Box 21762, Larbert, Stirlingshire, Scotland FK1 9GG

Tel: 07483 260915 Email: BMclcars@aol.com

Scotland's largest diecast source since 1983



CMC - M097-2 - 1:18 - £999
1957 Fiat Typ 642 Bartoletti Transporter 'Maserati'



CULT - CML173-1 - 1:18 - £179.99
1962 Rover 110 P4, Bordeaux / Beige



KESS - 43049050 - 1:43 - £94
1956 RR Silver Wraith Gulbenkian



MATRIX - 30110-041 - £94
1971 Austin 1300GT, Red



KESS - 43027021 1:43 - £94
1947 Bentley MKVI Franay Cabriolet



CULT - CML204-2 1:18 - £179.99
1964 Sunbeam Tiger 260, Red



CULT CML060-1 - 1:18 - £179.99
1937 Rolls-Royce Gurney Nutting



CULT - CML116-3 - 1:18 - £189.99
1938 Bentley 4.25 litre Vanden Plas

Website Open 24hrs or Phone 07483 260915 : Mon-Fri 10am-4pm
Worldwide Mail Order Available - Postage Extra, Details on our website

www.mclaren-models.com



SPA CROFT MODELS

Beautiful Models for the Discerning Collector

Our Reputation is Your Guarantee

www.spacraftmodels.co.uk
98, High Street, Tibshelf, Derby, DE55 5NU
Tel: 01773 872780 Email: spacraft@aol.com

£91.50



£91.50



£91.50



MATRIX MODELS 1966-1970 Ford Lotus Cortina Mk.II Red, White or Gold. Due November 2024

£89



£89



£89



MATRIX MODELS 1969-1974 Austin 1300GT Mk.III. Now Available

£89



£89



£89



MATRIX MODELS 1973-1981 Reliant Robin Mk.I. Green, Yellow or Orange. Due November 2024

£94.99



£94.99



£95



Kess 1947 Bentley Mk.VI DHC. Franay Coachwork. Open or closed. Now Available

Kess Available Nov/Dec.
1947 Rolls Royce Phantom III Labourdette Vutotal Cabrio Red

£92.50



£92.50



£95



MATRIX 1979-1985 Jaguar XJ6 SIII Damask Red, Portland Yellow or Black Available November

Kess Available Nov/Dec.
1947 Rolls Royce Phantom III Labourdette Vutotal Cabrio Grey

Forthcoming models are available to pre-order. No payment required. Give me a call/email.

£94.99



£94.99



£94



Available November
1951 Cadillac Superior Ambulance Red, white, or brown metallic

Available November
1973 Cadillac Fleetwood 60 Brougham Green/black metallic, beige/white, black

Available November
1991-94 Jaguar XJR (XJ40) Red or blue metallic, Br. R'c'g green

R.M. Toys Ltd



Russell Martin - Over 30 years experience in the model trade!

WANTED: Diecast, White Metal, Buses, Airplanes, 1/18th Scale, 1/43rd Scale, Formula 1, Modern Rally, Historic Rally
ANYTHING CONSIDERED COLLECTION AVAILABLE



For more information please contact:-

Tel: 023 9226 2446 Mobile: 07957 823507

Email: russell@rmtoys.co.uk

Or post list to:-

RM Toys Ltd, 31 Aston Road, Waterlooville, Hampshire, PO7 7XQ



British Heritage Models

(Tel: 01244 320761)



MATRIX: 1979-89 JAGUAR XJ6 4.2 SERIES III, DAMSON RED... BLACK... OR PORTLAND YELLOW. £84.50 EACH



CULT 1/18 SCALE: 1962-64 ROVER P4 110, WHITE OVER GREEN... BEIGE OVER MAROON... OR TWO-TONE BLUE. £175 EACH



MATRIX: 1940 PACKARD HENNEY AMBULANCE, RED, LTD. EDITION: 150. £84.50



MATRIX: 1972 CADILLAC FLEETWOOD BROUGHAM, BEIGE, BLACK, OR METALLIC GREEN. £84.50 EACH



MATRIX: 1941 PACKARD HENNEY AMBULANCE, BLACK OVER RED, LTD EDITION: 150. £84.50



MATRIX: 1991-94 JAGUAR XR XJ40, METALLIC BLUE... METALLIC RED... METALLIC BRG. £84.50 EACH



ESVAL: 1957 STUDEBAKER BROADMOOR PRESIDENT, STATION WAGON. £79.50



ESVAL: 1953 PEERLESS GT COUPE, RED, BLUE, GREEN, OR SILVER (RACE). £79.50 EACH



ESVAL: 1957 STUDEBAKER COMMANDER PROVINCIAL, STATION WAGON. £79.50



ESVAL: 1936 HUMBER SUPER SNIPE, 6-LIGHT, RAF STAFF (PROTOTYPE SHOWN). PRE-ORDER NOW!



ESVAL: 1937 HUMBER SUPER SNIPE, TAXI WITH ROOF LUGGAGE (PROTOTYPE SHOWN). PRE-ORDER NOW!



ESVAL: 1937 HUMBER SUPER SNIPE, 6-LIGHT, POLICE (PROTOTYPE SHOWN). PRE-ORDER NOW!

UK P&P
£4.50

www.britishheritagemodels.co.uk

2 Alyn Road, Chester, CH2 4DY — Email: bhm-uk@talktalk.net

UK P&P
£4.50



With the letter K there are a few manufacturers worthy of mention, although most seem to have fallen by the wayside. Last issue I covered Kembo, that oddly-named British maker; this month we launch with Kemlow.

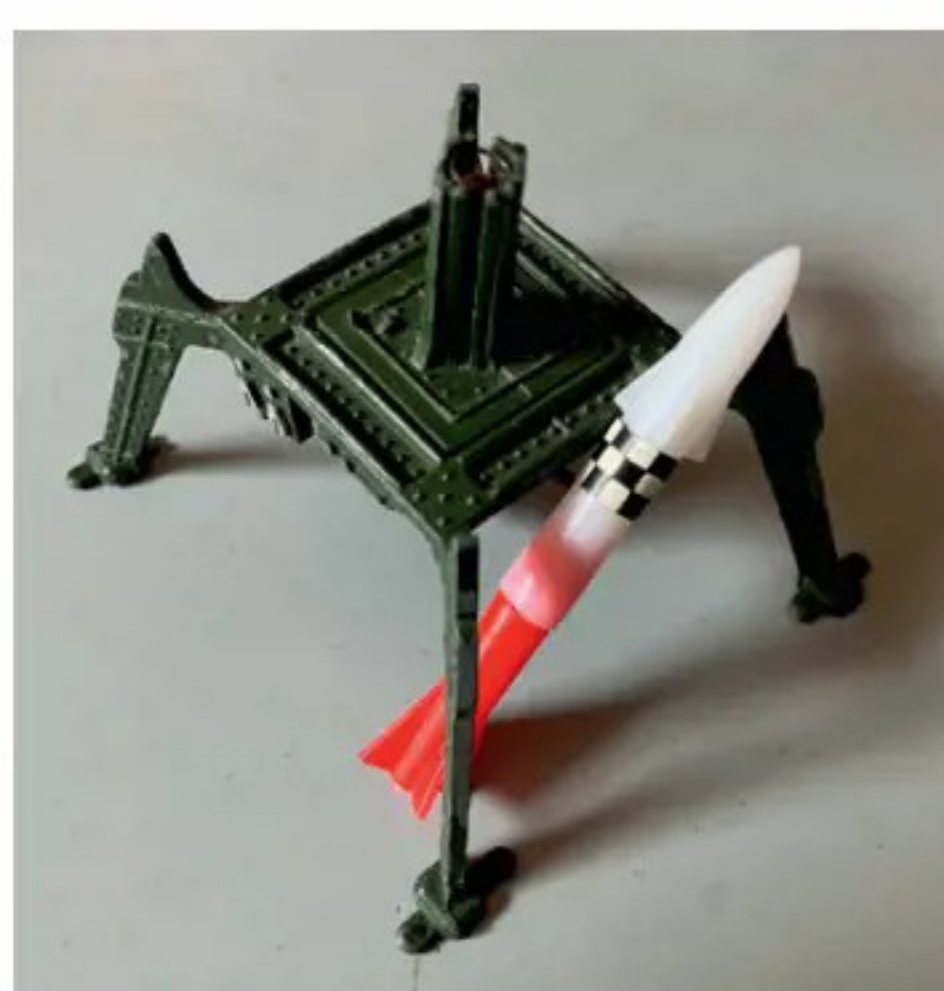
Kemlow's background is a fascinating one: the result of a meeting between Charlie Kempster and Arthur Lowe (not the Arthur Lowe!), the company began operations in 1945 with a second-hand die and apparently scrounged lead from post-war bombsites. Initially lead figurines were produced but the pair then became friends with Ray Jackson of DCMT, who was well-versed in the diecasting process. Business progressed and the company made use of an adjacent plastics specialist to incorporate this material with Kemlow's output: it was used in items like petrol pumps.

Whilst Kemlow is perhaps best remembered for its enormous range of HO/OO gauge railway accessories marketed under the MasterModels moniker, it did contribute quite a few diecast vehicles to toyshop shelves. First off the blocks was a Quad (although the model looks much more like an armoured car), followed by a towed artillery piece. A Fleetmaster saloon with an optional caravan soon appeased the civil contingent; incidentally, the caravan is now quite sought after. Other road transport included a taxi, trailer and a police car. Farmyard and bucolic products followed, although one aberration was that of a child in a dodgem car.

The early 1950s saw a pantechicon introduced

ABOVE Kemlow lorry turns up in both military and civilian guises.

RIGHT This is the most common Kay car in my experience. It's loosely based on the Austin Devon.



ABOVE One of the lesser-known Kemlow products is this two-piece rocket launcher.



ABOVE Underside of the Kay fire engine reveals the clockwork motor assembly.

while a small range of Matchbox-sized military vehicles soon followed under the Sentry Box brand. These were marketed in little card sentry boxes and are quite delightful, mimicking the early Lesney output with their grey metal wheels. Some larger military vehicles in the 1/43 Dinky scale were also manufactured (the Daimler



LEFT This armoured car and field gun marked the start of Kemlow's production; the armoured car can be found in speckled camouflage also. Image: Vectis

BELOW A complete set from Kay – but how much was manufactured by the company?



Armoured Car a dead ringer for the latter's production, differing only in the missing baseplate); while in 1957 some small scale models under the Wee World label were also released. These were largely farming themed.

The company enjoyed a good few decades in terms of its railway output before being wound up in 2001.

RISING SUN

So, what's your interest? Radio control? If so, Kyosho will serve that whim extremely well indeed, with both road and water transport – and there's even an aeroplane to sample, if that's your thing. This innovative Japanese company also produces some stunning cars in 1/18 scale: here the selection is quite eclectic, to say the least.

For eclectic read the popular AC Cobra and Ferrari marques, the latter encompassing such classics at the 250 GTO and the F40. Of course, Lamborghini's Countach is in the mix but there is also the hairy-chested Austin Healey as well as the classic BMW 2002. The ghastly, slab-sided modern Rolls Royce Phantom isn't omitted but fortunately the better-looking Phantom VI has been created. Don't miss the Frogeye Sprite or Mini – or indeed the iconic Jaguar E-Type. Some rally variants (Toyota, Subaru and Lancia) are there for those who like their liveries. In short, there's something for just about everyone and the quality is high, a fact that is reflected in the prices (typically starting at around £200). If you have deeper pockets, then the terrific 1/12 scale may well appeal, which picks up on some of the 1/18 models: predictably these are not bargain basement in terms of cost. If funds are tight, a much smaller range of cars in 1/43 is available, as is a somewhat finite range of 1/64 cars.

Dating back to 1963, Kyosho made its name initially with radio-controlled models, as mentioned above, a market that it really made its own. Its move into diecast models in 1991 was perhaps inevitable: initially Japanese cars were modelled (Nissan, Datsun, Mazda and Honda) but that soon changed to embrace European and American marques. Not surprisingly, its reputation for quality has been underlined by various accolades and awards over the years.

SPECIAL KAY?

To my mind it's special, if only because no-one I've ever met within toy circles seems to know anything much about the enterprise; and, far less, no-one has ever decided to pen a coffee table book on the company's output.

For this output was pretty impressive, by all accounts. According to fellow enthusiast Rob Newson, the company's 1930s catalogues included all sorts of games, such as chess sets, board games, table tennis, billiards, dart boards, chemistry and electrical sets. Toys were made for both indoor and outdoor use, so here was a jack of all trades whose wares were likely to be found in homes up and down the land.

Kay actually dates from 1934 (and was known originally as Kay Sports and Games); it was owned by the Kempner family, who were Polish immigrants.

Whether or not Kay actually manufactured a great deal, however, is a moot point. The enterprise had a strong reputation as a wholesaler and I suspect that much of its output was sourced from other makers. Certainly, diecast model vehicles from the likes of Charbens and Taylor & Barrett turn up in its garage sets; and there's a strong suspicion that Kay may have produced the buildings and subsequently added the vehicles. It possibly had access to a diecasting machine for small items like petrol pumps and oil cabinets.

Whilst all this is conjecture, Kay certainly did manufacture some diecast vehicles after the second world war. A small range includes a fire engine, an ambulance, a saloon car, a coach and a petrol tanker. There is also a locomotive belonging to this set. What is interesting about these miniatures is that they feature a slot-in clockwork mechanism (possibly bought in?) that gives them some degree of motive power. This series was retailed under the moniker of Midge Mechanical and were around 1/70 in scale. An oddity in the set is that of a tinplate Midget Racing car, also clockwork, that may have been sold alone although it also turns up with its own tinplate race track. I've never seen a box for this item... but perhaps one reader has such? ■



ABOVE Gorgeous 1/12 scale Ferrari F40 in red (what else?) is by Kyosho – but it's not cheap!



ABOVE Personally, I feel the detail on this Kyosho 356A Porsche Speedster is a tad heavy. However, it does benefit from opening features.

TOP VINTAGE MODEL

DTCA Chairman, **Michael Driver**, picks another vintage favourite from Dinky...



Dinky Toys Leyland Comet Lorry [no.531/931] in red with yellow back and the two blue versions with fawn backs

SEE PAGE
38 FOR MORE
ON THE
COMET!

Dinky Leyland Comet Lorry

After the war quite a number of army lorries were surplus to requirements and these were often used by civilian companies. However commercial vehicle manufacturers were starting to introduce new ranges of lorries during the 1940s and 1950s. Mostly these were normal control vehicles, that is with the engine in front of the cab. The main manufacturers were Ford, Commer, Dennis, Bedford, Foden and Leyland with its Comet wagon and its new cab design.

The Dinky Supertoys Comet Lorry No.531 arrived in June 1949. It is in the *Meccano Magazine* black and white advert as a 'new' Supertoys model and is designated as a 'Leyland "Comet" Lorry'. The review appears in the July *Meccano Magazine* and says 'It is representative of an entirely new range of medium weight diesel-engine export models, to be made available in limited numbers at home, that has been introduced by Leyland Motors Ltd. In these an entirely new appearance has been given to Leyland products'. It also says that 'The familiar radiator has been dispensed with. There is a concealed stack, and a bonnet and front end that are decidedly modern in are incorporated. Access to the engine is given by raising the "crocodile jaw" bonnet, and behind this is a

pressed steel cab of modern styling, the smoothly flowing lines of which blend into the new front end'. The model is finished with a red cab and a yellow tin plate back and yellow wheels. They came in a blue card lift off lid box, some of which have labels as Dinky Supertoys and others as Dinky Toys. There are also models with a blue cab and mid blue cab both with fawn backs.

In 1954 the number was changed to 931 and it was then sold in a blue and white illustrated card lift off lid box and still with a red cab and yellow back and wheels.

A further change came when it was re-numbered in 1956 as number 417 and became a Dinky Toys model. It now has a dark blue cab, a yellow back and red wheels although some had blue wheels. There are some less-common ones with yellow cabs, light green backs and green wheels. The card lift off lid



ABOVE
Dinky Toys Leyland Comet Lorry [no.417] in less common yellow and green and one in blue and yellow with red wheels.

boxes are now illustrated and in yellow. The model was finally deleted in 1959.

The majority of the models were issued with grey Supertoys tyres, but some of the models have been found with the black Supertoy tyres.

The real Leyland Comet started out in 1947 and was referred to as a semi-forward-control 6-ton model with new new-style cab bodywork. It remained in production up to 1961. It had been designed for the export market as a medium lorry with 5 to 7-ton capacities using 75 hp diesel engines with five speed gear boxes and bevel geared rear axles. There was also a coach version and interesting to note that the Comet name was first used by Leyland for one of its tanks during the war. ■

The Dinky Toys Collectors' Association

The Dinky Supertoys lorries with their various colours have always interested collectors. Articles do appear in the DTCA Journal with photographs and information on them. Find out more or join by visiting the website www.dtcawebsite.com.

SUBSCRIBE! THE CHEAPEST WAY TO GET A COPY OF...

COLLECTORS GAZETTE

The only monthly newspaper
dedicated to toy collectors!

PAY JUST £41.99 FOR 12 ISSUES!



Why subscribe?

- Features from the world of vintage, nostalgic toys and models
- Handy tips and price guides featured every month
- The latest releases from all the major manufacturers including Corgi, Matchbox, Hornby, Airfix and LEGO
- Get inspired with the latest auction, toyfairs and events news



SAVE UP
TO 30%
FOR THE
YEAR!

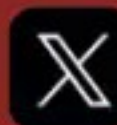


HOW TO ORDER YOURS...

Simply scan the QR code seen here, visit <https://ccofgb.uk/CollectorsGazette> or call our team on 01778 392480 and quote GAZ/SUBS24.

*T&Cs apply. Rate applies when you subscribe to 12 issues of Collectors Gazette via a Direct Debit. Offer valid from October 31st 2024. See website for details.

SALE RESULTS

FOLLOW US AT  @ccofgb  @CollectorClubGB  CollectorsClubOfGreatBritain  CollectorsClubofGB

From collectables of the future to old favourites, online auctions will always manage to produce some interesting finds... and occasionally, even more amazing prices! We visit auction houses and sites for this month's results.



- **Item:** Corgi Gift Set 20 GS20 Transporter with 6 cars
Condition: excellent, a great display item with some instructions and original box
Sold for: £660.64 (27 bids)



- **Item:** Mattel Shogan Warriors 2-in-1 figure
Condition: very good, fists and helmet in working order and fly off as they should
Sold for: £275 (6 bids)



- **Item:** WSI Riga Mainz Liebherr LTM 1500 8.1
Condition: new and complete, was taken out of its box for the photo
Sold for: £325 (2 bids)



- **Item:** Hot Wheels Kool Kombi
Condition: mint, from 2015 LA Convention #01361/2000
Sold for: £280 (2 bids)



- **Item:** Tekno 405 VW Split Screen Kolevogn van
Condition: mint and unboxed
Sold for: £412 (11 bids)



- **Item:** Tri-ang Sunbeam Rapier
Condition: good with glossy paintwork, in original outer box
Sold for: £260 (15 bids)



- **Item:** Corgi No.468 London Routemaster Bus – "Cokerchu"
Condition: very good rare version, original box is fair with age-wear
Sold for: £241.89 (4 bids)

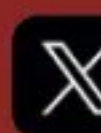


- **Item:** Corgi No.107 Batboat with trailer
Condition: mint with very near mint outer box, includes original figures and decals
Sold for: £227.22 (3 bids)



- **Item:** Dinky Leyland Octopus Tanker Code 3 - Newcastle Brewery Brown Ale
Condition: a well-loved toy with some light damage, new tyres and hand finished
Sold for: £212 (8 bids)

SALE RESULTS

FOLLOW US AT  @ccofgb  @CollectorClubGB  CollectorsClubOfGreatBritain  CollectorsClubofGB



■ **Franklin Mint 1957 Ford Skyliner**, in 1/24 scale. Item appears excellent-near mint with its display case. Items is missing its polystyrene inner. Outer box appears very good-excellent. **Sold for £50, British Toy Auctions, November.**



■ **Minichamps VW 1600 L Variant 1970** boxed 1/18 scale, Item appears in near mint condition and is housed in its original polystyrene inner inside of an excellent box. **Sold for £85, British Toy Auctions, November.**



■ **Limited edition Franklin Mint 1/24 scale 1955 Bentley S1**, with tag and ephemera. Item appears in excellent condition. Housed in original polystyrene inner in a very good-excellent box. **Sold for £95, British Toy Auctions, November.**



■ **A boxed Limited edition Franklin Mint 1/24 scale 1946 Chevy Suburban Ambulance**, with tag and ephemera. Item appears in excellent condition. Housed in original polystyrene inner in a very good-excellent box. **Sold for £200, British Toy Auctions, November.**



■ **A boxed 1/24 scale Danbury Mint 1951 Ford F-1 Pickup**, with ephemera. Item appears in excellent-near mint condition. Housed in original polystyrene inner in a very good-excellent box. **Sold for £55, British Toy Auctions, November.**



■ **A boxed 1/24 scale Danbury Mint Replica of the 1931 Coca-Cola Delivery Truck**, item appears in excellent-near mint condition. Housed in original polystyrene inner in a very good-excellent box. **Sold for £50, British Toy Auctions, November.**



■ **A boxed 1/24 scale Danbury Mint 1948 Chrysler Town & Country**, item appears in excellent-near mint condition. Housed in original polystyrene inner in a very good-excellent box. **Sold for £30, British Toy Auctions, November.**



■ **A boxed 1/24 scale Danbury Mint 1949 Jaguar XK120**, item appears in excellent condition. Housed in original polystyrene inner in a good box with some storage wear. **Sold for £20, British Toy Auctions, November.**



■ **A boxed Corgi #3 Batmobil with Batboat**. Item appears mint in box with original missiles still attached to their sprues. Box shows some minor storage related wear to the edges. **Sold for £280, British Toy Auctions, November.**



■ **A boxed Corgi #926 007 Stromberg Helicopter from 'The Spy Who Loved Me'**. Item appears near mint with all 10 missile accessories still attached to their sprue's. Item has come partially loose in its box. Boxes appear very good-excellent with some signs of storage wear. **Sold for £85, British Toy Auctions, November.**



■ **A boxed Corgi #925 Batcopter**. Item appears to be in excellent-near mint condition. Item is loose in its box. Box appears good-very good with some storage wear. **Sold for £110, British Toy Auctions, November.**



■ **A boxed Joy Ride 1/21 scale Ghostbusters Ecto 1 (#33538)**. Item appears mint in a very good-excellent box. **Sold for £70, British Toy Auctions, November.**



■ **A boxed American Muscle 1/18 scale Musters Koach (#36685)**. Item appears mint in an excellent box. **Sold for £60, British Toy Auctions, November.**



■ **A boxed Corgi #CC99111 Only Fools and Horses Ford Capri & Reliant Regal Super Van set**. Item appears mint in box. Box appears excellent. **Sold for £50, British Toy Auctions, November.**



■ **A boxed Corgi #05506 The Italian Job Three Piece Mini Set**. Item appears mint in box. Box appears very good-excellent, some minor storage wear. **Sold for £60, British Toy Auctions, November.**



■ **A boxed Brooklin Models Buick Collection number 011x 1939 Buick Century Convertible Coupe M-66C**, in limited edition black. It appears mint in a mint box. **Sold for £30, British Toy Auctions, November.**



■ A boxed Brooklin Models Buick Collection number 012 1937 Buick Special 2 Door Coupe M-46, in Samarra Beige Poly. It appears mint in a mint box. **Sold for £28, British Toy Auctions, November.**



■ A boxed Brooklin Models Buick Collection number 013 1936 Buick Special 4 Door Trunk Sedan M-41, in Trouville Blue. It appears mint in a mint box. **Sold for £40, British Toy Auctions, November.**



■ A boxed Brooklin Models Buick Collection number 013x 1936 Buick Special 4 Door Trunk Sedan M-41, in limited edition black. It appears mint in a mint box. **Sold for £30, British Toy Auctions, November.**



■ A boxed Brooklin Models Buick Collection number 014 1937 Buick Special 2 Door Touring Sedan M-48, in Coronary Green. It appears mint in a mint box. **Sold for £30, British Toy Auctions, November.**



■ A boxed Brooklin Models Buick Collection number 015 1938 Buick Special 4 Door Phaeton M-40C, in Homer Gray Poly. It appears mint in a mint box. **Sold for £35, British Toy Auctions, November.**



■ A boxed Corgi #258 The Saint's Car Volvo P.1800. Item appear to be in very good condition with some signs of use. Housed in a very good-excellent box. **Sold for £50, British Toy Auctions, November.**



■ A boxed Corgi #475 Citroen Safari Olympic Winter Sports. Item appears to be in very good condition including figure, skiing equipment accessories and instruction sheet. Item comes in a very good box that shows some minor wear. **Sold for £45, British Toy Auctions, November.**



■ A boxed Corgi #497 The Man From U.N.C.L.E. Gun Firing Thrush-Buster. Item contains appear to be in excellent condition with ring accessory. Item is housed in a good box; some storage wear. Item not checked for completeness. **Sold for £95, British Toy Auctions, November.**



■ A boxed Corgi Gift Set 13: Renault R16 Tour De France Paramount Film Unit. Item appears to be in very condition. Housed in a good plus good that has some storage wear to it. **Sold for £40, British Toy Auctions, November.**



■ A boxed Corgi #510 Citroen DS Conversion Tour De France Team Manager's Car. Item appear to be in very good-excellent condition but is missing it side 'Paramount' decals. Box appears excellent. **Sold for £45, British Toy Auctions, November.**



■ A boxed Dinky #352 'UFO' Ed Straker's Car in Gold. Item appears in excellent condition and comes with its instruction sheet. Box appears very good; some minor wear to one end flap. **Sold for £130, British Toy Auctions, November.**



■ A boxed Dinky #103 'Captain Scarlet' Spectrum Patrol Car, in Metallic Red. Item appears in excellent condition and comes with its instruction sheet. Box appears very good-excellent. Item not checked for completeness. **Sold for £120, British Toy Auctions, November.**



■ A boxed Dinky #105 'Captain Scarlet' Maximum Security Vehicle in white. Item appears in excellent condition and comes with its crate accessory. Box appears very good-very good. **Sold for £120, British Toy Auctions, November.**



■ A boxed Tri-ang Spot-On #264 Tourist Caravan (1/42 scale). Item appears to be in excellent-near mint condition. Box appears very good with some minor storage wear. **Sold for £110, British Toy Auctions, November.**



■ A boxed Corgi Gift Set 8 Lions of Long Leat. Item appears in very good condition some contents loose. Box appears good; some age related wear. **Sold for £70, British Toy Auctions, November.**



■ A boxed Dinky #359 'Space 1999' Eagle Transporter. Item appears to be in excellent-near mint condition. House in a good plus box; some storage wear. **Sold for £170, British Toy Auctions, November.**



■ A boxed Corgi #292 'Starsky & Hutch' Ford Torino. Item appears to be in excellent-near mint condition. House in a very good box; some storage wear. **Sold for £130, British Toy Auctions, November.**



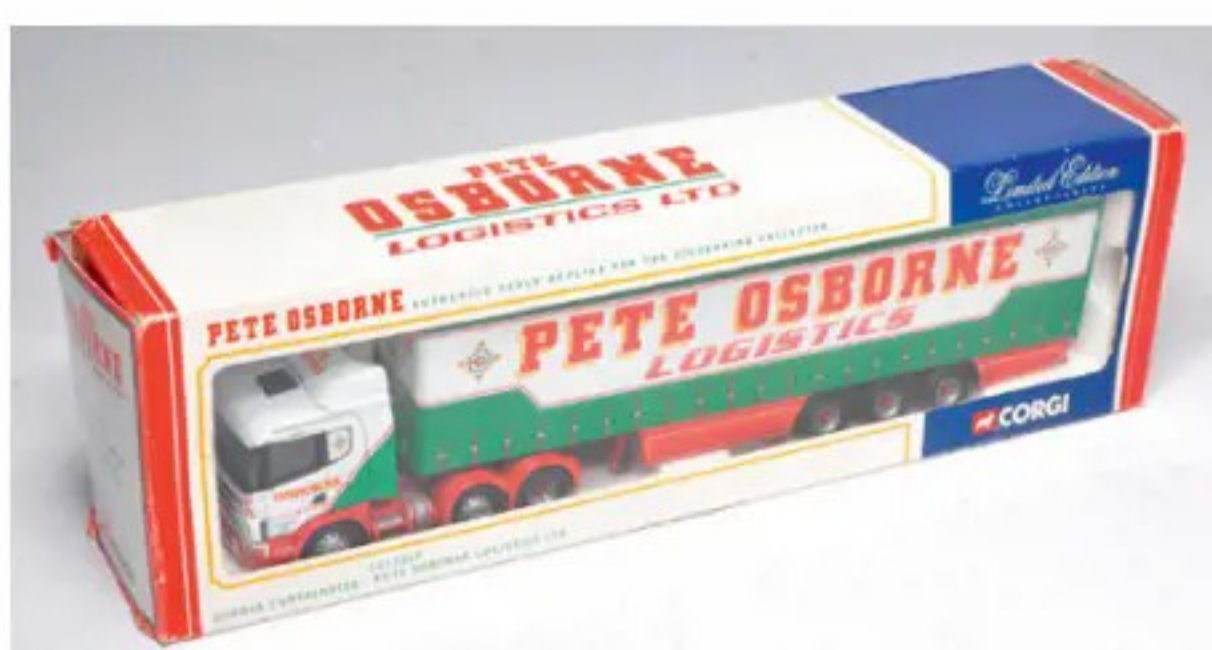
■ A boxed Corgi #320 'The Saint' Jaguar XJS. Item appears to be in excellent-near mint condition. Housed in a good-very good box; some storage wear. **Sold for £35, British Toy Auctions, November.**



■ A boxed Corgi #808 Basil Brush and his car. Item appears to be in excellent condition. Housed in a very good box; some storage wear. **Sold for £70, British Toy Auctions, November.**



■ Corgi No.302 Hillman Hunter Rally with Kangaroo figure. Displays good, with some more obvious signs of wear. In good to very good box. **Sold for £80, M&M Specialist Auctioneers, November.**



■ Corgi 1/50 diecast model truck issue, comprising Scania Curtainside in the livery of Osborne. **Sold for £24, M&M Specialist Auctioneers, November.**



■ Minichamps 1/12 diecast model motorcycle issue, comprising signed 2001 GP 500 Yamaha YZR500. Hand signed by Carlos Checa. Good provenance. **Sold for £65, M&M Specialist Auctioneers, November.**



■ Minichamps 1/12 diecast model motorcycle issue, comprising signed 2001 GP 500 Yamaha YZR500. Model is hand signed by Max Biaggi and comes with accompanying letter. Good provenance, from the collection of an avid enthusiast. **Sold for £70, M&M Specialist Auctioneers, November.**



■ Minichamps 1/12 diecast model motorcycle issue, comprising signed 2002 MotoGP Yamaha YZR500. Model is hand signed by Gary McCoy. Good provenance. **Sold for £85, M&M Specialist Auctioneers, November.**



■ Minichamps 1/12 diecast model motorcycle issue, comprising signed 2001 GP 500 Yamaha YZR500. Model is hand signed by Norifumi Abe and comes with accompanying letter. Good provenance, from the collection of an avid enthusiast. **Sold for £80, M&M Specialist Auctioneers, November.**



■ Minichamps 1/12 diecast model motorcycle issue, comprising signed 2001 GP 500 Yamaha YZR500. Model is hand signed by Shinya Nakano and comes with accompanying letter, plus Sticker. Good provenance, from the collection of an avid enthusiast. **Sold for £70, M&M Specialist Auctioneers, November.**



■ Minichamps 1/12 diecast model motorcycle issue, comprising signed 2002 MotoGP Yamaha YZR500. Model is hand signed by Pere Riba and comes with accompanying complimentary slip. **Sold for £80, M&M Specialist Auctioneers, November.**



■ Minichamps 1/12 diecast model motorcycle issue, comprising signed 2000 Ducati 996 Superbike. Model is hand signed by John Reynolds and comes with accompanying complimentary slip. Good provenance, from the collection of an avid enthusiast. **Sold for £95, M&M Specialist Auctioneers, November.**



■ Minichamps 1/12 diecast model motorcycle issue, comprising signed Yamaha YZR 500 2002 MotoGP. Red Bull Racing. Model is hand signed by John Hopkins. **Sold for £75, M&M Specialist Auctioneers, November.**



■ Minichamps 1/12 diecast model motorcycle issue, comprising signed Ducati Desmosedici 2003 MotoGP. Model is hand signed by Troy Bayliss. Good provenance, from the collection of an avid enthusiast. **Sold for £80, M&M Specialist Auctioneers, November.**



■ Minichamps 1/12 diecast model motorcycle issue, comprising signed Ducati 998 F02 2003 British Superbike. Model is hand signed by Shane Byrne and comes with accompanying photograph (signing the model). Good provenance, from the collection of an avid enthusiast. **Sold for £75, M&M Specialist Auctioneers, November.**



■ Boxed Schuco 1/18 Miniaturmodelle Ferguson TE 20 diecast model, diecast excellent, box good. **Sold for £70, Wessex Auction Rooms, November.**



■ Boxed limited edition 1/18 Pauls Model Art Minichamps Nigel Mansell signed 1987 Williams Honda FW11B - N.Mansell Winner British GP, Model No. 117870005, COA 1 of 100 models, signature located to left hand side of model, on display plinth, complete and in excellent condition with original receipt. **Sold for £220, Wessex Auction Rooms, November.**



■ Boxed limited edition 1/18 Pauls Model Art Minichamps Kimi Raikkonen signed Lotus F1 Team 2013 Lotus E21 Winner Australian Grand Prix, No.110130107, COA 1 of 100 models, on display plinth, complete and in excellent condition with original receipt. **Sold for £150, Wessex Auction Rooms, November.**



■ **Boxed limited edition 1/18 Schuco Exclusive Sir Stirling Moss signed 1959 Italian Grand Prix Winning Cooper T51 #14 diecast model**, Model No. 450032600, COA 1 of 50 models, Sir Stirling Moss signature located to the bonnet, complete and in excellent condition with Schuco model leaflet. **Sold for £160, Wessex Auction Rooms, November.**



■ **Boxed limited edition 1/18 Pauls Model Art Minichamps Sebastian Vettel signed 2008 Italian Grand Prix Scuderia Toro Rosso STR3 S.Vettel diecast model**, Model No.150080015, limited edition 1 of 4999 models, COA 1 of 400 models, Sebastian Vettel signature located to left hand side of model, on display plinth, complete and in excellent condition. **Sold for £160, Wessex Auction Rooms, November.**



■ **Boxed Sun Star 1/18 Back To The Future Part 3 Time Machine diecast model**, box very good, diecast excellent. **Sold for £60, Wessex Auction Rooms, November.**



■ **Boxed Exoto 1/18 Grand Prix Classics Tyrell Ford 003 diecast model**, in blue, with outer box, excellent. **Sold for £80, Wessex Auction Rooms, November.**



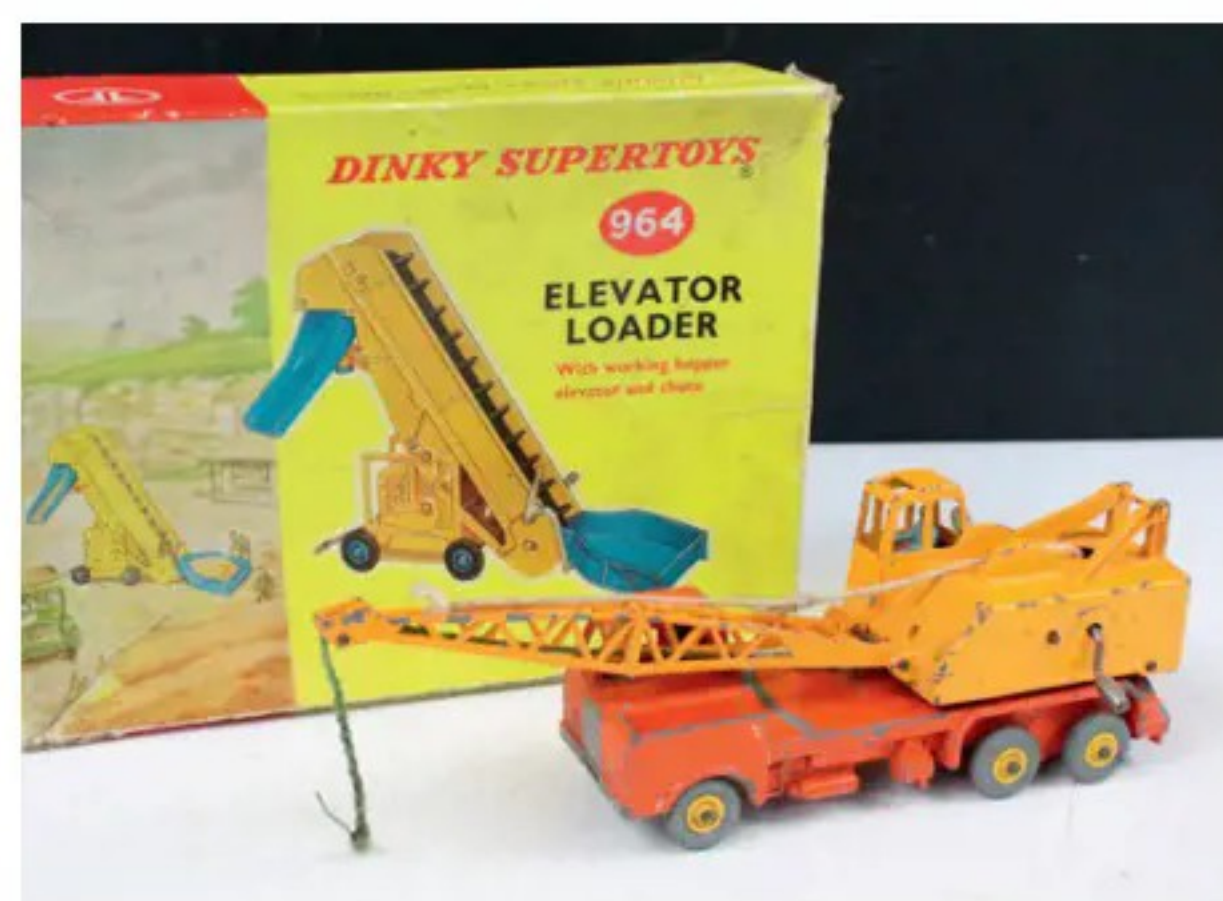
■ **Boxed Matchbox 75 Series 39 Pontiac Convertible diecast model**, in lemon yellow with white interior, diecast excellent, box very good. **Sold for £85, Wessex Auction Rooms, November.**



■ **Boxed Nicky Toys Atamco (P) Ltd Calcutta 194 Bentley S Coupe**, in red, with driver, diecast very good overall, box with some storage squash otherwise good. **Sold for £160, Wessex Auction Rooms, November.**



■ **Boxed Corgi Magic Roundabout 859 Mr McHenry's Trike & Zebedee Box diecast model**, with pull-along cord, diecast very good, small box window crack otherwise very good. **Sold for £80, Wessex Auction Rooms, November.**



■ **Boxed Dinky Supertoys 964 Elevator Loader diecast model**, in very good condition, box showing signs of wear throughout and squashing to lid, together with a Dinky Supertoys 972 20 Ton Lorry-Mounted Crane, diecast playworn. **Sold for £30, Wessex Auction Rooms, November.**



■ **Boxed Corgi Juniors Whizzwheels 3020 Club Racing Gift Set**, complete with Ford Capri and Trailer in metallic blue, Austin Healey Le Mans Sprite in red, Land Rover Wrecker Truck in purple, Morgan Plus 8 in yellow, Ferrari 512S in metallic red, Porsche Carrera 6 in white with blue windows and 1300 Mini Cooper S, 2 x figures and 8 x yellow cones, diecast ex, box fair with signs of storage and edge wear and creasing in places and general grubbiness, inner plastic tray gd overall with some writing inside. **Sold for £80, Wessex Auction Rooms, November.**



■ **Boxed Dinky Supertoys 666 Missile Erector Vehicle with Corporal Missile and Launching Platform diecast model**, good overall condition with some wear, discolouring to missile, good box. **Sold for £80, Wessex Auction Rooms, November.**



■ **Corgi Toys (Classics) 97212 Leyland Tiger Coach "Ellen Smith" (1/50th)**, red and white. Lid of box is signed by "Steve Berry Tested to Destruction" - shortly after the "Corgi Heritage Centre" opened "Steve Berry" brought along the Top Gear film crew to film a piece for Top Gear in the piece "Steve Berry" can be seen standing on this coach to test it's durability afterwards he signed the box and wrote tested to destruction the whole top gear episode can be viewed on BBC i Player \ YouTube Search "Steve Berry Corgi". **Sold for £30, Vectis Auctions, November.**



■ **Corgi Toys (Classics) 97170 Burlington Seagull Coach "Woods Of Blackpool" (1/50th)**, silver and black, with certificate signed by "Sir Stanley Matthews Tom Finney, Nat loftHouse" the significance of this vehicle was the coach that brought the Victorious Blackpool football team home after beating Bolton Wanderers in the 1953 FA Cup Final at Wembley Stadium certificate was hand signed in person by "Sir Stanley Matthews" in Blackpool at the launch of this partic. **Sold for £30, Vectis Auctions, November.**



■ **Corgi Toys (Classics) 69902 Pre-Production Bedford MK Army Covered Truck**, resin and metal sample finished in military green in interluding canvas style open roof. Released in 1998. **Sold for £40, Vectis Auctions, November.**



■ **Corgi Toys (Classics) 22601 Pre-Production (1/50th) Bedford TK Tanker "Cadbury"**, resin and metal sample. Very light damage to roof. **Sold for £25, Vectis Auctions, November.**



■ **Corgi Toys 04203 "James Bond" Aston Martin DB5 "40th Goldfinger Anniversary"**, silver body, mint including presentation box. **Sold for £45, Vectis Auctions, November.**



■ **Corgi Toys Aviation Archive pre-production/limited edition (1/72nd) Gloster Gladiator MKII**, bare metal casting with drab grey plastics only 100 produced. Slight damage to one blade. **Sold for £20, Vectis Auctions, November.**



■ **Corgi Toys Cameo Collection pre-production Volkswagen Saloon (Beetle) 'Psychedelic'**, metal hand painted and decorated finish. Was never put into production. **Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, November.**



■ **Corgi Toys (1/36th) pre-production Ford Sierra Rally Car**, hand painted and decorated finish - white, red, blue 'The Corgi Heritage Centre' Roof and Racing No.97. Release in 1997. **Sold for £35, Vectis Auctions, November.**



■ **Corgi Toys 457 ERF Model 44G Platform Lorry**, two-tone blue, silver trim, flat spun hubs and metal tow hook. Excellent in a good plus lovely bright example with collectors club folded leaflet. **Sold for £80, Vectis Auctions, November.**



■ **Corgi Toys 457 ERF Model 44G Platform Lorry**, two-tone blue, silver trim, flat spun hubs and metal tow hook. Excellent in a good plus, with collectors club folded leaflet. **Sold for £50, Vectis Auctions, November.**



■ **Corgi Toys GS19 'Chipperfields' Gift Set (1st issue)** containing Land Rover, red, light blue metal tilt, lemon interior, spun hubs and with Trailer Blue and red with spun hubs, plus elephant in cage. Conditions are good plus overall, inner carded tray is excellent with a fair outer blue and yellow carded picture box. **Sold for £80, Vectis Auctions, November.**



■ **Corgi Toys 1144 'Chipperfields' Scammell Handyman Crane Truck**, red and blue, chrome jib and cast hubs. Excellent plus with Rhino figure in cage, inner plastic tray is good plus, outer blue and yellow window box is good (replacement Cellophane). **Sold for £140, Vectis Auctions, November.**



■ **Corgi Toys 246 Chrysler Imperial**, red body, pale blue interior with figures, chrome trim and cast hubs also complete with golf bag and trolley in boot. Excellent plus lovely bright example with a good plus blue and yellow carded picture box. **Sold for £70, Vectis Auctions, November.**



■ **Corgi Toys 300 Austin Healey Sports Car**, red body, cream seats, silver trim, flat spun hubs. Good plus still a bright example in a good blue carded picture box. **Sold for £50, Vectis Auctions, November.**



■ **Corgi Toys 302 MGA Sports Car**, metallic green, cream seats, silver trim and spun hubs. Near mint beautiful example in a good plus blue and yellow carded picture box. **Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, November.**



■ **Corgi Toys 312 Jaguar Type E 'Competition Model'**, chrome plated body, black interior with figure, wire wheels, blue and white racing No.2 stripes. Excellent overall in a good to good plus blue and yellow carded picture box. **Sold for £50, Vectis Auctions, November.**



■ **Corgi Toys 321 BMC Mini Cooper S 'Rallye Monte Carlo'**, red body and interior, white autographed roof, silver trim, spun hubs and racing No.2. Good plus including blue and yellow carded box with detailed picture and correct flash. **Sold for £90, Vectis Auctions, November.**



■ **Corgi Toys 339 BMC Mini Cooper S 'Rallye Monte Carlo'**, red body and interior, white roof with chrome rack and spare cast hubs, silver trim and racing No.177. Good plus bright example in a good plus blue and yellow carded box with detailed picture. **Sold for £80, Vectis Auctions, November.**



■ **Corgi Toys 317 Morris Mini Cooper 'Rallye Monte Carlo'**, red body white roof with chrome spot-light, lemon interior, silver trim, spun hubs and racing No.37. Excellent overall (couple of minor marks) in a good plus blue and yellow carded picture box. **Sold for £70, Vectis Auctions, November.**



■ **Corgi Toys 321 BMC Mini Cooper S 'Rallye Monte Carlo'**, red body and interior, white roof, silver trim, spun hubs and racing No.52. Good plus lovely bright example in a good (slightly grubby) blue and yellow carded box with detailed picture. **Sold for £80, Vectis Auctions, November.**



■ **Corgi Toys 339 BMC Mini Cooper S 'Rallye Monte Carlo'**, red body and interior, white roof with chrome rack and spare cast hubs, silver trim, and racing No.177. Good plus in a good late issue blue and yellow window box with detailed picture box on rear. **Sold for £60, Vectis Auctions, November.**

NEW EDITION!

TOY COLLECTORS PRICE GUIDE 2025

1300+ VINTAGE MODELS VALUED

Call 01778 392006 or visit ccofgb.uk/TCPG25

YOUR MODELS

FOLLOW US AT  @ccofgb  @CollectorClubGB  CollectorsClubOfGreatBritain  CollectorsClubofGB

✦ Callum Markley

This is just some of my collection of Matchbox Lesney regular wheels and Superfast 1-75 series. I started collecting when I was around 10 yrs old, I'm 15 yrs old now. It was my Mum who set me off collecting, when she was reminiscing about the Matchbox cars she used to buy in the 1970s. I would like to find an example of every regular wheels with all their different variations. I try to buy the best I can afford but if I haven't got a particular one I still buy it whatever the condition. A lot have been brought from car boot sales, but some of the better ones are from fairs and auctions. I think my Mum enjoys the search as much as me; I get lots of cars for Christmas and birthdays.

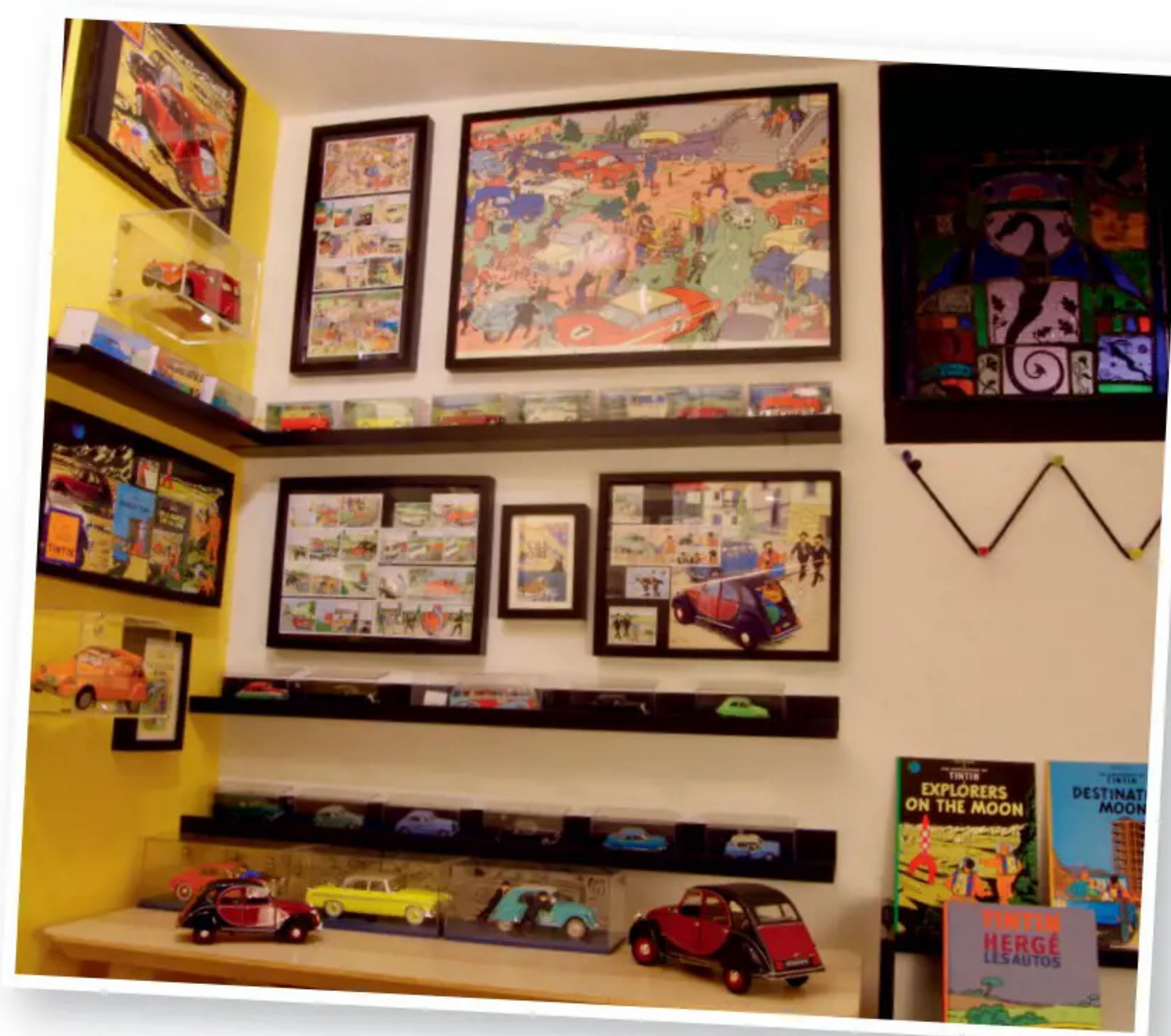


This month's WINNER!



➔ Marcus Stoddart

So this is my small collection, maybe too small to be of interest when I look at other collections in your magazine and especially in Facebook groups? All the models are also just modern ones with nothing vintage or rare but most of them share a very Belgique flavour in theme. Each model has a story and is part of some story. When I look at them the story and their part becomes real and brings a big smile to my face in the same way as for many years since childhood. Of course the much loved Citroën 2CV plays its part also. What is not often known is that the drawing of the Rally 2CV with Thompson and Thompson of the last page of the story *The Red Sea Sharks* here in my big picture frame and also as a model is actually a representation of the 1955 2CV AZL exactly as assembled in Citroën's Belgian factory at Forst, Brussels.

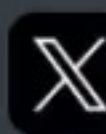


Send us a photo and a little bit about your collection for your chance to be included and win a brand new diecast model worth at least £10*. Submit yours to CollectingEditorial@warnersgroup.co.uk.

*Ts&Cs Apply - Not affiliated with any manufacturer. See <https://ccofgb.uk/submityourcollection> for details.



Dear Editor

FOLLOW US AT  @ccofgb  @CollectorClubGB  CollectorsClubOfGreatBritain  CollectorsClubofGB



COMMER OR KARRIER?

■ I was pleased to see Michael Driver cover some of my favourite models in the November issue, namely the Dinky BBC models. Some clarification of detail is required. Whilst Michael attributes model number 968 to Commer, the Roving Eye Camera vehicle RE2 was a Karrier, using a Bantam chassis evidenced by the smaller tyre/wheel employed against 967 or 969. Both Commer and Karrier were in the same division at Rootes, but Commer was employed for larger vehicles. Dinky No.969, the extending mast vehicle, is clearly a Bedford, but Mobile Control Room No.967 which Michael says is possibly a Commer, is in fact, another Bedford, bodied by Marshals and one of four denoted MCR 13,14,15 & 16 by the BBC. I enclose a photo of my Dinky BBC, ABC and RTL television vehicles which were displayed at the Amersham Museum.

Patrick Hogan, Beaconsfield

ED Thank you for the clarification Patrick, it's much appreciated.

SPOTTING FAKES

■ **CONGRATULATIONS** on another excellent edition of *Diecast Collector* (December 2024). I would just like to make comment on the 'How to spot a fake' article by Joseph Stopps.

The subject of faked pre-war Dinky Toys has become something of an obsession for many older Dinky collectors. That said, it's very (very) niche and involves only a few hundred buyers and sellers. Many of whom know each other. The Facebook Group referenced by Joseph has over 16,000 members but is now virtually dormant other than on the subject of 'fakes' where collectors become over-exercised and indulge in what I would say is online bullying (rather than 'calling-out').

All collecting has an element of 'buyer beware' - but I think it's a little sad when an obsession with fakes becomes the only motivating factor.

Name withheld on request.

ED I'm glad that you are enjoying the magazine, and thank you for your contribution on the subject of fake models.

A BABY LOTUS ELAN

■ I read with interest Alex Winson's article on the baby Elan in small scale in the last issue (December 2024). Having owned the real thing, it's always good to see such a model in miniature.

It's not clear from the photos but I assume this is a left hooker; the single side mirror would indicate this. However... after all that effort, where on earth did Welly find the 1:1 car for the comparison? Elans, indeed cars in general, did not have side mirrors affixed to their doors in the sixties, that trend began in the seventies.

Grant Lee, email

ED The mystery of the Elan deepens...



METAL FATIGUE

■ I know that through the years, *Diecast Collector* has published articles and letters regarding "metal fatigue" and the included image is a prime example! Bought brand new in 1996, and kept in a dry warm room (not a damp loft or out-house). The outer box has only recently deteriorated because it has been sitting on the 'to chuck' pile, due to its contents being so distorted. All of my other 1990s Corgi Classics, especially the Chipperfields Circus ranges, are still factory fresh and mint, as are the lovely buses and lorry ranges. Was it only these that suffered I wonder? I've never seen such metal fatigue, only in a Vanguards Castrol Ford Transit Van that turned to dust. I wonder if the Cameos, as this is, was affected.

Mr C Pearson, Kent

ED We have definitely seen better Chipperfields models, how disappointing that yours have deteriorated so badly!

TOYFAIR TIMES

FAIRS

5 DECEMBER

- **Theydon Bois**, Joe Lock, 07866 641215

7 DECEMBER

- **Maidstone**, Mike Spencer, 01622 298159/01732 840787

8 DECEMBER

- **Brecon**, James & Jackson Events, 07967 681080/07904 777605
- **Gateshead**, Jim Corr, 07504 035955
- **Newton Abbot**, Ray Heard, 01823 480097

10 DECEMBER

- **Hook**, Steve Clements Fairs, 01380 725322/07732 330305

15 DECEMBER

- **Port Sunlight**, James &

Jackson Events, 07967 681080/07904 777605

- **Lincoln**, J & J Fairs, 01522 880383
- **Orpington**, Kent, SRP Barno Toy Fairs, 07739 998012/07498 912091

19 DECEMBER

- **Wootton Bassett**, Steve Clements Fairs, 01380 725322/07732 330305

22 DECEMBER

- **Ditton**, SRP Barno Toy Fairs, 07739 998012/07498 912091

29 DECEMBER

- **Rayleigh**, SRP Barno Toy Fairs, 07739 998012/07498 912091

1 JANUARY

- **Newark**, J & J Fairs, 01522 880383

5 JANUARY

- **Walsall Wood**, Transtar Promotions, 01922 643385
- **Midhurst**, SRP Barno Toy Fairs, 07739 998012/07498 912091

11 JANUARY

- **York**, Jim Corr, 07504 035955
- **Brentwood**, J & J Fairs, 01522 880383

AUCTIONS

4 DECEMBER

- **Kenardington**, C & T Auctioneer Services, 01233 510050

6 DECEMBER

- **Tennants**, Leyburn, 01969 623780

7 DECEMBER

- **Kings Langley**, Excalibur Auctions, 02036 330913

9 DECEMBER

- **British Toy Auctions**, Runcorn, 01928 579032

10 DECEMBER

- **Newbury**, Special Auction Services, 01635 580595

11 DECEMBER

- **Sedgemoor**, Greenslade Taylor Hunt, 01823 332525
- **Newbury**, Special Auction Services, 01635 580595
- **Tooveys**, Washington, 01903 891955

13 DECEMBER

- **Bury St Edmunds**, Lacy Scott & Knight, 01284 748625

www.j-jwebbtoyfairs.com

J&J FAIRS **J&J FAIRS**

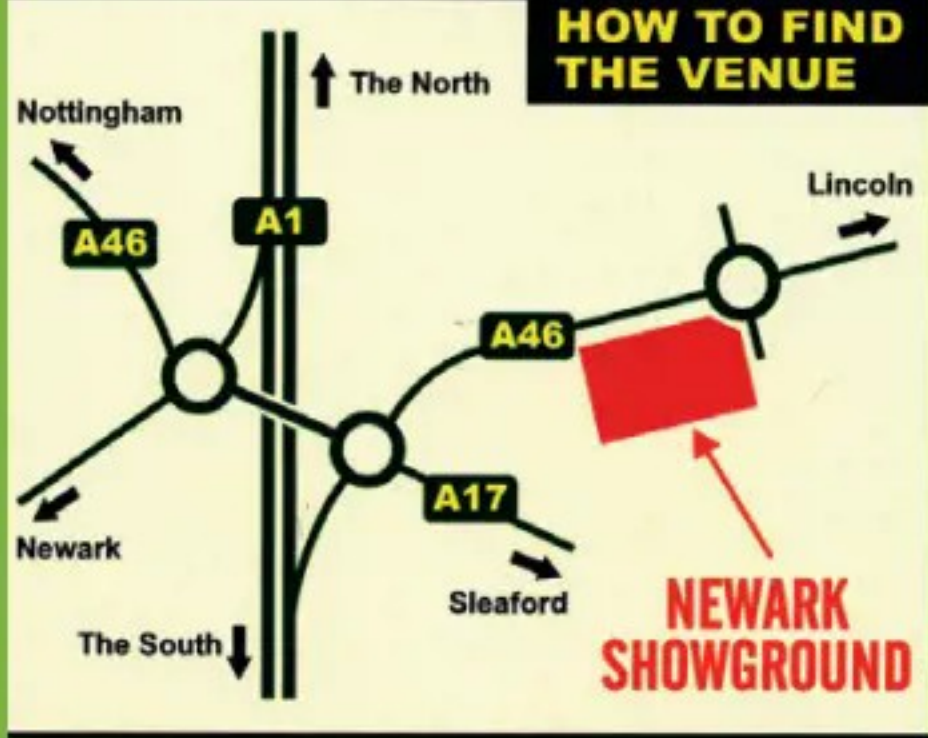
DON'T MISS THE ANNUAL EAST MIDLANDS (NEWARK) TOY & TRAIN COLLECTOR'S FAIR

to be held in THE LADY EASTWOOD CENTRE, NEWARK & NOTTS SHOWGROUND, WINTHORPE, NEWARK, NOTTS NG24 2NY (on the junction of A1/A46 towards Lincoln)

START OFF YOUR YEAR BY VISITING US ON NEW YEAR'S DAY WEDNESDAY 1ST JANUARY 2025

"Always an exciting date on the toy collecting calendar. This very large fair boasts an excellent selection of old and new toys, trains, models, collectables and much, much more. Held in The Lady Eastwood Centre which is well lit and spacious with indoor catering and masses of free parking."

HOW TO FIND THE VENUE



10am - 2.00pm

ADMISSION: 16+ £5 per person

STALLHOLDERS: Enter from 6.30am. Tables priced at £45 per 6ft

Approx 200 tables Bookings now being taken!

For more information about this Toy Fair, please contact Lorraine on 01522 880383 or jandjfairs@gmail.com

Benbros • Britains • Budgie • Chad Valley • Charbens • Corgi • Crescent

Ramsay's 18th EDITION AVAILABLE NOW

The diecast collectors' trusted guide for collecting and valuing since 1983!

A must for all diecast model collectors, Ramsay's Diecast Catalogue is the most comprehensive and up to date guide to diecast models.

SOLD OUT! 19th edition coming soon...

With over 350 pages of information, you by a thousand to date and prices.

Order today by calling 01778 392006 or visit ccofgb.uk/ramseys18

Simply scan me!



Chad Valley • Charbens • Corgi • Crescent • Dinky • Hornby • Lone Star

CLASSIFIEDS

NORTH YORKSHIRE

MonkBar Model Shop
Established 1963

Find us by Monk Bar
Only 2 minutes from
York Minster

2 Goodramgate
York - YO1 7LQ
01904 659423
Open Monday - Saturday 9am - 5pm

**Diecast Planes - Diecast Cars & Buses
Model Railways - Plastic Kits - Scalextric**

MONK BAR MODEL SHOP LTD

Corgi AA32629
1:72 scale Lancaster B.III
RAF 617 Sqn
Now in stock

Stockists of Corgi Aviation, Collectables, Vanguard, OOC
Plus IXO Models, MCG, Oxford Diecast, W.Britain, Hobby Master, Siku & Britains

www.monkbarmodelshop.co.uk

Jaunty Jalopies of Hunmanby

6 Church Hill, Hunmanby, Nr Filey, YO14 0JU
Landline 01723 890060 Mobile 07889 286559

- Good stock of Corgi Classics, Vanguard, Modern Trucks
- Heavy Haulage, Plant & Construction, Farm, Classic Cars, Steam, Trackside, Aviation Archive
- Vintage Commercials, 1:76 Buses - EFE & Omnibus
 - Massive quantity of Herpa 1:87
- Huge Selection of Fire & Police Vehicles
- Lots more: Obsolete Corgi, Dinky, Spot-On
- Matchbox, Conrad, NZG, Joal, Britains, Minichamps, Universal Hobbies, 1:18 etc

Open every Wednesday! * Other days on demand!

Always ~ 150 "BUY IT NOW" Offers on eBay. Search using seller ID: jauntyjalopies
Shop can Open most days On Demand. Simply Arrive & Call for Access.
*If making a long journey call first to avoid disappointment.

**COLLECTIONS PURCHASED, Large & Small, New or Old
with Fairness, Discretion & Sensitivity. Will travel nationwide**

Email: info@jauntyjalopies.co.uk "Diecast is What we Do" www.jauntyjalopies.co.uk

HAMPSHIRE

CHURCH STREET MODELS

01256 358060

Diecast cars, commercials, WW2 tanks & planes from Base, Britbus, Classix, CMN, Corgi, Dragon, EFE, Minichamps, Oxford and more.

Use our secure online shop or visit in person.
Tel: 01256 358060

10A Church Street, Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 7QE
Closed Monday (May-Sept), Tuesday (not December), Sunday & Bank Holidays

www.churchstreetmodels.co.uk

WEST MIDLANDS

SPRINGHILL MODELS

Stockists of

- OXFORD • IXO • GREENLIGHT
- SCHUCO & others

4 Springhill Lane • Penn • Wolverhampton WV4 4SH
01902 341302
Thursday to Saturday 10am - 4pm
Email: pete@springhillmodels.co.uk
Web: www.springhillmodels.co.uk

HAMPSHIRE

WANTED

COLLECTIONS OF DINKY, Corgi and other diecast cars, lorries and tractors etc, any condition, large or small collections, anything considered.

Tel: 07860 629009

PRICE GUIDE: WE HELP PUT A VALUE ON YOUR COLLECTION!

TOY COLLECTORS PRICE GUIDE 2025

YOUR ESSENTIAL FIELD GUIDE TO CLASSIC TOY COLLECTABLES

£9.99 • www.ccofgb.co.uk

Produced in association with

COLLECTORS CLUB DIECAST Collectors Club

1300+ VINTAGE MODELS VALUED

Helping to put an estimate on your collection!

£320K WORTH OF
Diecast, Railways, Tinplate, TV & Film, and online sale results!



Vulcan Models 0 Gauge 0-6-0 tank loco BR lined Black Ternier No.32644.

INCLUDING...

» DIECAST DELIGHTS

■ Hundreds of models from Corgi, Dinky & many more

» ONLINE SALES

■ Star Wars, Scalextric, Timpo, LEGO, Meccano and Airfix!

» TOP TINPLATE

■ From Schuco and Mettoy to Chad Valley and Sutcliffe



£9.99

NEW 2025 EDITION

Put an estimate on your vintage toys with Toy Collectors Price Guide

Packed with nearly 100 pages featuring auction prices from the past year. Whether you're interested in diecast vehicles, model railways, tinplate, toy soldiers or film & TV memorabilia, you'll find dozens of results and models listed inside this essential price guide. Avoid overpaying, underselling or missing out on a good deal.

Order by calling 01778 392006 or go to ccofgb.co.uk/tcpg2025



A FEMALE PERSPECTIVE

Hazel Ralston considers the world of model collecting, through different eyes...

Christmas trees and model cars

One of my favourite things about Christmas is decorating the tree. This is always a bit of a trip down memory lane as the box of decorations still contains quite a few baubles and trinkets that have survived from my childhood. The oldest and simplest is a cheap and rather tired looking plastic horse which hangs on the tree by its reins. It probably came from a cowboy set and isn't even particularly festive, but for some reason I have a sentimental attachment to it.

Many adult collectors will be hoping to find some model cars under the tree this Christmas, just as they did as children in bygone years. But there are some cars designed to go on the tree and not just under it and the company that has probably exploited this theme to the fullest extent is Hallmark. This American company, founded in 1910 by J. C. Hall, is of course mainly associated with greetings cards and it is still the case (in the USA, at any rate) that more than half the greetings cards sold every year are made by Hallmark.

Any product with a seasonal connection has sales potential so, in 1973, Hallmark developed a line of 'Keepsake' ornaments for use as Christmas tree decorations. By the 1990s sales of miniature cars aimed at adult collectors were outpacing traditional sales of toy cars to children, and Hallmark cleverly merged this trend with their Keepsake decorations with the launch of a new series of classic American cars in 1991. Like all good ideas, it was basically quite simple: a toy car moulded in plastic to make it light enough to hang on the tree and fitted with a hook on the top of the windshield or roof. Some detailed accessories in the form of a miniature Christmas tree on the passenger seat or a pile of wrapped gifts on the luggage rack were enough to give the model a festive touch.

It must be about fifteen years ago when I found the Hallmark 1957 Chevrolet Corvette

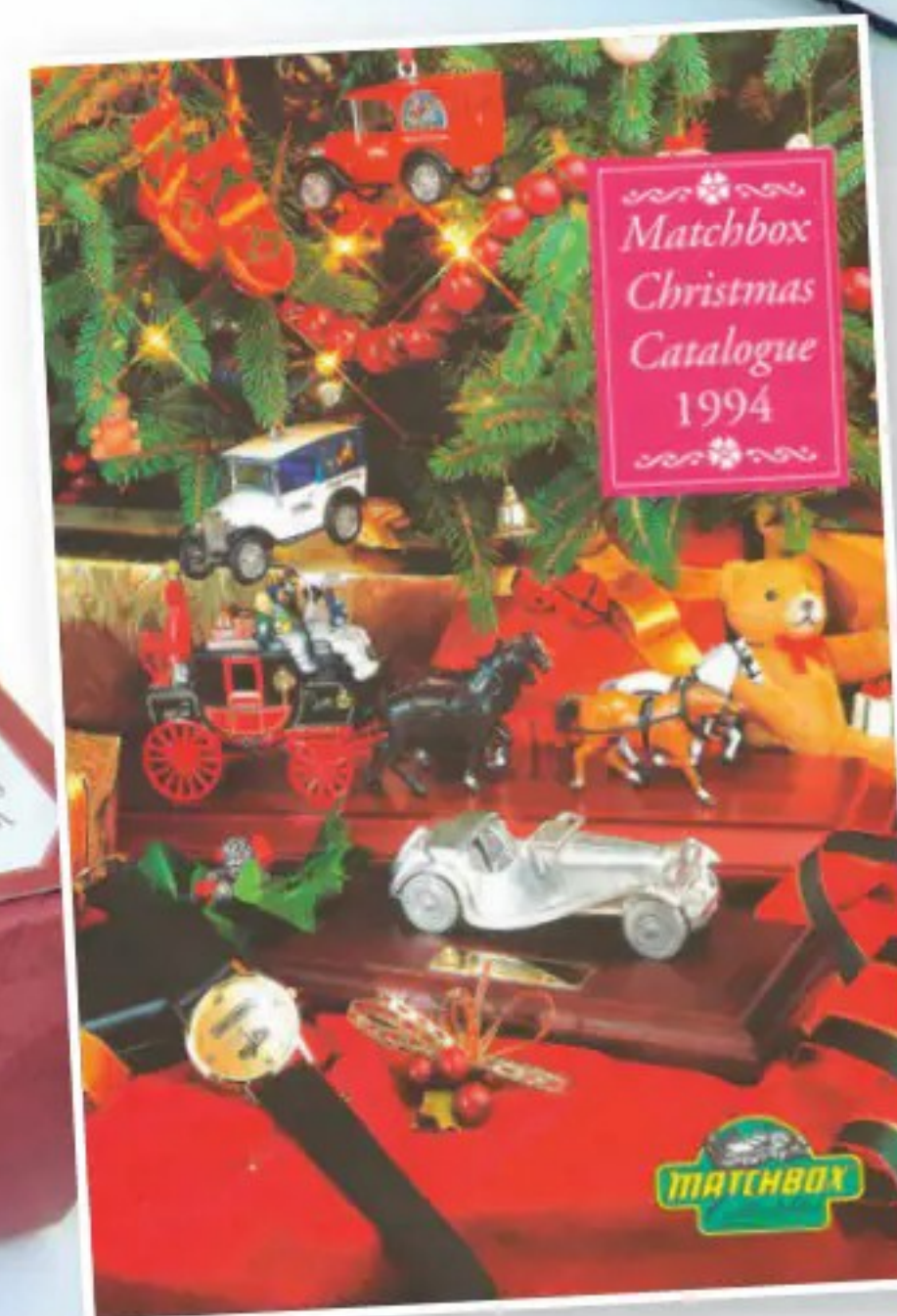


ABOVE
Hallmark's plastic Chevrolet Corvette was the first of many 'Keepsake' cars designed for the Christmas tree.



ABOVE
Later Hallmark ornaments, like this 1949 Cadillac, were diecast metal.

at a toy fair and I later discovered that it was the first model in the series. Annual issues gave these Keepsake cars additional appeal to collectors who like to build up a series and the Corvette was duly followed in 1992 by a 1966 Mustang convertible, in 1993 by a 1956 Ford Thunderbird coupe and many other subsequent issues. The same concept gave rise to other Hallmark ranges of vehicles for tree decoration, such as Vintage Roadsters, All-American Trucks and Fire Engines. Most of them carry the trademark pile of gifts or



LEFT Model cars under the Christmas tree... and on it too: the cover of the 1994 Matchbox Christmas catalogue shows two of the vintage Austin vans produced as tree ornaments.

miniature Christmas tree or sometimes both.

In 1994 Matchbox took a similar approach with the 'Christmas Treasures' set of four Austin 7 vans. At the time vast numbers of vintage van models were being churned out decorated with non-period styles of logos and these vans with messages like 'Peace on Earth' and 'Happy Holidays', together with the date 1994, don't feel very authentic. Yet people must have bought the 'Christmas Treasures' for a second set appeared for 1995. Whether they have retained their 'treasure' status thirty years later is another matter...

Many of the Hallmark Christmas tree models were moulded in plastic but others were diecast, as were the Matchboxes, so don't hang too many of them on the Christmas tree or it might topple over! ■

SELLING YOUR DIECAST MODELS?

Warwick and Warwick have an expanding requirement for early to modern collections of British and foreign diecast models and diecast models of individual value. Our customer base is increasing dramatically and we need an ever larger supply of quality material to keep pace with demand. The market has never been stronger and if you are considering the sale of your collection, now is the time to act.

FREE VALUATIONS

We will provide a free, professional and without obligation valuation of your collection. Either we will make you a fair, binding private treaty offer, or we will recommend inclusion of your property in our next specialist public auction.

FREE TRANSPORTATION

We can arrange insured transportation of your collection to our Warwick offices completely free of charge. If you decline our offer, we ask you to cover the return carriage costs only.

FREE VISITS

Visits by our valuers are possible anywhere in the country or abroad, in order to assess more valuable collections. Please phone for details.

ADVISORY DAYS

We will be visiting all areas of the United Kingdom, please visit our website or telephone for details.

EXCELLENT PRICES

Because of the strength of our customer base we are in a position to offer prices that we feel sure will exceed your expectations.

Live Bidding

Available on www.easyliveauction.com

ACT NOW

Telephone or email
Richard Beale today with
details of your property.



Warwick & Warwick Ltd.
Auctioneers and Valuers
Chalon House, Scar Bank, Millers Road,
Warwick CV34 5DB

Tel: 01926 499031 Fax: 01926 491906
E-mail: richard.beale@warwickandwarwick.com
www.warwickandwarwick.com



Warwick & Warwick



ixo
Hyundai i20 N Rally1, 2024, 1:18
Nr. 272067 72.95 €



ixo
Lada 2105 VFTS, 1987, 1:18
Nr. 270997 72.95 €



MODEL CAR GROUP
Land Rover Series I, 1957, 1:18
Nr. 272193 64.95 €



MODEL CAR GROUP
Ford Ranger Raptor, 2023, 1:18
Nr. 268625 64.95 €



ixo
Ford Mustang Boss 302, 1970, 1:43
Nr. 271096 24.95 €



ixo
Ford Gran Torino Sport, 1972, 1:43
Nr. 270790 24.95 €



ixo
Porsche 935/77A, 1978, 1:43
Nr. 269256 39.95 €



ixo
Mack Serie F, 1977, 1:43
Nr. 271219 32.95 €



Premium ClassiXXs
Faun Koloss, 1:43
Nr. 236601 149.95 €



WHITEBOX
Moskwitsch 408, 1966, 1:24
Nr. 272738 27.95 €



WHITEBOX
Ford Escort MK II RS 2000, 1977, 1:24
Nr. 272736 27.95 €



TARMAC WORKS
Toyota GR Yaris Pandem, 1:64
Nr. 271396 28.95 €



www.ModelCarWorld.com

Entdecken Sie die
ganze Vielfalt in unserem Webshop