

DIECAST COLLECTOR

Collectors Club

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ON PATROL

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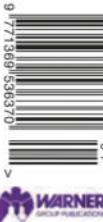
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Turn to page 3 to find out more! *T&Cs apply



ABOVE Leo, 10, and Reuben, 8, proudly show off their growing Lego collection.

That's a wrap!

EDITOR'S COLUMN



'Tis the season to collect! Christmas and the New Year are almost here, and this is our final issue on sale in 2025 before we head into an exciting 2026.

Welcome, Collectors! As this issue lands just before the end of the year, I want to wish you all a very merry Christmas and plenty of health, happiness, and great finds in the new year.

We hope the big guy in the red suit delivers some of the collectables you've had your eye on! And if not, why not treat yourself? After all, it's the season of giving, so give your collection a new addition!

Before we look ahead to 2026, I'd like to apologise to our readers, and particularly to Alan and Chris, for the mix-up on pages 36 and 37 of December's issue. Unfortunately, Alan's images were accidentally paired with the wrong text, but we've now put things right. I hope everyone enjoys the brilliant corrected feature on pages 44 and 45.

This month's issue also includes George's brilliant feature on the Millennium Falcon, which I'd like to dedicate to my nephews.

Leo is a Jedi Master when it comes to building Star Wars Lego, and Reuben is a wizard at putting Harry Potter sets together. The Force is strong with these brothers, and it's great to see them being so creative.

Looking ahead, there's lots to look forward to in 2026. We're keen to bring more variety to the models we feature, so we're excited for aircraft articles to return soon. Plus, we'll be shining a spotlight on our community of collectors and events, with the return of our popular 'toy fair reviews' and 'meet the club' series. We're also working on a brand-new restoration series, packed with practical tips and advice to help you bring your models back to life.

If there are any ideas or features you'd like to see in the coming year, please get in touch, we always love hearing from you at CollectingEditorial@warnersgroup.co.uk.

From all of us here at Diecast Collector and Collectors Gazette, thank you for your continued support. Here's to a bright year ahead, filled with exciting finds and more stories from the wonderful world of collecting.

Happy collecting,
Luke Moss
Content Editor

DIECAST COLLECTOR

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NEWS

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HOWZAT FOR A FIND

A remarkable discovery has been made in a loft, an extremely rare "Real Cricket in Miniature" set by Tulltoy (Phillip Segal Toys), dating from around 1947, has surfaced and is set to be auctioned at Vectis Auctions on 28th October with an estimate of £3,000–£5,000.

The vendor discovered the boxed set when they moved into their home and initially brought it to Vectis for valuation four years ago. After some deliberation, they

have now decided the time is right to sell, and collectors are already taking notice.

A true testament to post-war British craftsmanship and a dream find for collectors, this "Real Cricket in Miniature" set is expected to bowl over bidders when it goes under the hammer.

This auction will have happened when this magazine goes on sale! So, head over to www.vectis.co.uk to see the outcome of the auction. ■



PROPSTORE GEARS UP FOR £8M PROPS AND MEMORABILIA AUCTION

PROPSTORE, one of the world's leading film and television memorabilia auction houses, is once again unwrapping cinematic treasures this holiday season. Their Winter Entertainment Memorabilia Live Auction will take place from 5–7 December 2025, featuring more than 1,350 rare and extraordinary lots valued at a combined estimate of £8 million.

Just in time for the holiday season, this winter auction will be led by Buddy's (Will Ferrell) hero elf costume from *Elf* (2003). Screen-matched to the famous elevator scene in which Buddy pushes every button to see them light up, the costume originates from the film's producer Jon Berg. Capturing the warmth and humour of Jon Favreau's modern Christmas classic, this festive favourite is expected to achieve between £100,000 and £200,000.

Adding to the festive spirit is a poignant selection from the personal archive of the late Alan Rickman. Among the highlights are heavily annotated personal shooting scripts from *Die Hard* (1988) and *Love Actually* (2003). Both films have become enduring holiday favourites, showcasing Rickman's remarkable range from the suave villainy of Hans Gruber to the bittersweet romance of Harry. Each lot is estimated between £3,000 and £6,000, offering fans an intimate insight into the creative process of one of Britain's most cherished performers.

The final day will be dedicated to "The Day of Animation", showcasing more than 300 lots of animation artwork, original cels, and other highlights celebrating the artistry of animation in film and television. ■

NEW STORE TO OPEN

A store focusing on all things retro collectables is opening on Dartford Street, March in Cambridgeshire in the coming weeks. Co-founders Peter Ireland and Danno, David and Michaela Ellis teamed up after enquiring about the same premises and Collectors Realm was born.

Replacing a vape shop, the locals say they were very keen to have something outside of the usual nail bars and barbers. There has been a lot of intrigue about the opening, and it is set to be an amazing

opening week.

The Ellis family will be specialising in trading cards and pop cultural collectables while Mr Ireland will specialise in toys including Funko, Marvel and other franchises including *Nightmare Before Christmas* and *Stranger Things*.

As well as the store opening, they have also been organising Fenland Comic Con which will be on in the new year so keep your eyes peeled for more information on that soon. ■



£7,500 LEGO SET DRAWS CROWDS IN SHEFFIELD

RAILS of Sheffield Vintage Toy Shop has announced the arrival of an extraordinary Lego collection that has sent a surge of excitement through the toy collecting community. Acquired from a private Yorkshire collector, the full range includes over 100 Lego Star Wars sets, ALL in factory-sealed, as-new condition. Among them, the legendary and exceptionally rare 'Cloud City' (set no. 10123).

A COLLECTOR'S DREAM

The Yorkshire collection, now housed in Sheffield, spans the years 1999 to 2007, including the first 10 sets ever released under the LEGO Star Wars line. The entire collection went on display during a special "White Gloves" preview and sale event at Rails Vintage Toys and Trains, Chesterfield Road, Sheffield, on Saturday 8 November — and it proved to

be a major success.

A queue had already formed before Darth Vader officially opened the doors at 10 a.m., with visitors falling into two distinct groups: investors hunting for sealed sets and nostalgic fans eager just to see the incredible line-up. Nearly a quarter of the sets sold on the day, with some buyers planning to send them for grading, while one collector spent more than £200 simply to build a childhood favourite again.

Competition for certain sets was fierce — even leading to one sale being settled by a round of rock, paper, scissors!

As for the showpiece 'Cloud City' set, it drew plenty of admirers, countless photos, and plenty of speculation about what grade it might achieve. However, it remains available for £7,500, waiting for its next lucky owner. ■



MATRIX MG MIDGET SET FOR 2026 Q1 RELEASE

MATRIX has announced a new addition to its 1:43 scale range, the 1929–1932 MG M-Type Midget, set for release in the first quarter of 2026. This finely detailed model will be available in three colours: red (MX31305-021), blue (MX31305-022) and green (MX31305-023), with each limited to just 100 pieces.

The original MG M-Type was a landmark in British motoring history, an affordable sports car based on the Morris Minor chassis and powered by a 20–27bhp overhead-cam, four-cylinder engine. With its distinctive fabric-covered body and lively 65mph top speed, it became a defining success for MG in the early 1930s. ■



HOT WHEELS EXPANDS ITS FORMULA 1 GRID

HOT Wheels is adding new names to its ever-growing Formula 1 line-up, with the Scuderia Ferrari HP and Aston Martin Aramco Formula One Team joining the range later this year. The announcement comes as part of Hot Wheels' multi-year partnership with Formula 1, meaning that the 2025 series will feature all ten championship teams, each car finished in its official livery and available in both

core and premium 1:64-scale lines. The new models were unveiled at an exclusive Hot Wheels event held ahead of the Mexico City Grand Prix, hosted by driver Sergio Pérez, who returns to the grid next season with Cadillac F1 Team. Fans will soon be able to collect and display diecast replicas of every car from the 2025 season, including the Ferrari SF-25 and Aston Martin AMR25. ■

NEWS

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ONE of the auction house's recent sales threw up some eye-watering prices for the humble Lesney 1-75 range.

Take the (almost) legendary Dodge BP regular wheels Wreck Truck with reversed green and yellow colours: this example wasn't quite perfect but would have graced any collection nonetheless. Despite some discolouration to the decals and odd paint nibbles, it sold for £3,920 – and there wasn't even a box with it. In contrast, £2,817 was the winning bid on the Superfast 41a Ford GT40 Italian multi pack issue, with a rare yellow body with high arches, no bonnet label, clear windows, red interior and a gloss black base. It came in an excellent "New" type G box. Finally, an unboxed Superfast 69c Security Truck factory pre-production colour trial with a bright yellow body bearing a "Wells Fargo" tampo print, blue windows and a blue roof light, a white plastic roof and a silver painted base, realised £1,102.

Elsewhere, a sealed Lego



MORE MATCHBOX MARVELS AT VECTIS

10030 Star Wars – Ultimate Collector Series Imperial Star Destroyer, attracted many bids and sold for £915; over 60 items of Action Man, mostly clothing, relating to Deep Sea Diver, Space Explorer, Navy,

R.M. Exploration and other models, raised £660; and an Action Man 34074 Eagle Eyes, with gripping hands and wearing a Helicopter Pilot outfit, was billed as mint and sold for £610.

Lastly, rail buffs were interested in the O gauge kit built finescale LNER V3 2-6-2T. Featuring etched brass and nickel silver parts, it had been professionally built by Tower Models: it made £637. ■

BTS RIGHT ON TRACK

BRITISH Toy Auctions' last scale included one of those toys that, years ago, most boys could only dream of owning. The highly coveted Corgi Toys Gift Set 15 Silverstone Circuit Racing Set might have lacked its cars, but nonetheless it contained the layout mat, original instruction leaflet, enamel paints and a brush; the three sets of figures were also present (Racing Drivers and Pit Mechanics, Spectators and Race Track Officials); and it came with five

unmade Corgi kits. The figures were in mint condition and still attached to their sprues and even the box was in good shape. As a basis for improvement, it was simply perfect, as the cars would be much more easy to source than the buildings: it sold for £1,700.

Autoart model cars seem to be faring well in the auction scene these days: a boxed limited edition Jaguar D-Type Le Mans (the 1955 winner of Mike Hawthorn and Ivor Bueb) in

1/18 scale was predictably as clean as they come, having been only displayed. Complete with a numbered certificate, it sold for £260 plus commission.

As for dolls, a rare Sasha Doll from the 1960s lacking her philtrum (the cleft above your lips, if you have to ask!) and with vibrant red hair attracted much interest: although unclothed, she was contested to £800; and some Mattel Barbie and Skipper vintage clothing and accessories, showing signs of age and use, were described as fair to good overall: this lot was knocked down for £240. ■





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MGTHMG240 - 1/64 NISSAN SKYLINE GT-R (R34) KAIDO RACING V2



MGTHMG238 - 1/64 HONDA NSX TAMIYA X KAIDO HOUSE AVANTE V1

NEWS

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STAR WARS AUCTION SETS RECORD WITH £212,730 TOTAL

A Star Wars auction held by Vectis Auctions on the 21st of October has achieved a total of £212,730 (Inclusive of Buyers Premiums), making the highest figure ever realised for a single day Star Wars auction in the company's history, and confirming continued strong demand for memorabilia from the iconic film franchise.

The auction drew over 800 worldwide registered buyers and featured 609 lots of vintage Star Wars items, including unpunched carded figures, graded loose and carded figures, loose and boxed vehicles, creatures and playsets, plus detail

drawings, blueprints, paperwork and posters from Palitoy, Hasbro, Kenner, Lili Ledy, Sideshow, Gentle Giant, Disney and others.

In a sign of the market's strength, 36 individual lots in the auction realised over £1,000 each, with competitive online and phone bidding driving prices well above presale estimates.

"Interest in Star Wars memorabilia remains consistently high. We are seeing strong participation from both long-time collectors and new buyers entering the market. The success of this sale demonstrates the enduring appeal of these classic pieces." ■



NEXT MONTH

FEBRUARY
2026 Issue 340



Scaling up: Majorette hits the scene

Stepping into the 1:64 Premium arena for the first time, Majorette presents a confident lineup of castings. Can it truly compete with the big names?

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Launched in 1976, the Ford XC Falcon Hardtop represented the final chapter of Australia's great muscle coupe era. Evolving from the earlier XA and XB lines, the XC added a more refined yet still intimidating presence, making it an ideal fit for Highway Patrol duties at a time when Ford's V8 power was needed to keep pace with rapidly expanding road networks — and speeding motorists. Equipped with a choice of straight-six or the more serious 5.8-litre Cleveland V8, the Hardtop's combination of straight-line muscle, long-legged gearing and broad, purposeful stance gave it an undeniable authority on the road.

Bathurst success further cemented its legacy, with the XC platform carrying Ford to multiple 1000 victories and reinforcing its status as a true performance icon. Its later transformation into the famous XC Cobra only added to the mythology. By the time it finished frontline service, the two-door Falcon had become a cult hero — a rare sight, instantly recognisable, and forever associated with the golden age of Aussie motoring. Today, its motorsport pedigree and police heritage make it one of the most desirable and culturally significant Australian Fords ever produced.

Bruce Purves joined NSW Ambulance in 1976 and noted that the Highway Patrol had two or three XC Falcon Hardtops stationed there. Instantly drawn to the shape and looks, the opportunity to go for a spin in one left a lasting impression.

Forward to the 21st century, Bruce created Signal One Models to re-tell

New model of the month

Keith D'Souza picks a standout new release, the Signal One Models' NSW Police Highway Patrol XC Hardtop.

Signal One Models

NSW Police Highway Patrol XC Hardtop

SCALE: 1:43 PRICE: £66
PRODUCT REF: SKU: S1-P022

signal1modelcars.com

Australian Emergency Response vehicles through 1:43 resin castings, forging a niche reputation in documenting such vehicles across the ages. The FG Falcons and VE Commodores are heavily featured within the Signal One range, but one that really caught the Diecast Collector eye was the XC Falcon GT in NSW Police livery from 1977. Bruce's past admiration for the car makes it a nostalgic addition to an already impressive line-up.

As with many resin models, these are static display pieces, but there is a remarkable level of detail that goes beyond typical 1:43 fare. The haunch stance of the Falcon brings a near-utopian Mad Max vibe — unfettered power under the bonnet ready to outrun and outsmart the 'bad guys' on the roads. Beautiful accents of detail include neatly applied chrome-plated

brightwork, while the front windscreen sports a sunscreen visor. A full siren bar and communication antenna add convincing authenticity, showcasing the depth of research Signal One has invested into this model.

Model badging, police shield and Highway Patrol decals are all correctly placed on the body, while the NSW licence plate is font-correct. In addition, the clear light lenses bring freshness to the car, while the wing mirrors, finished with a touch of silver for the reflective surface, add a hint of class.

Whilst difficult to peer into the interior, glimpses reveal the infamous tan vinyl upholstery, along with a well-replicated steering wheel and dashboard. Generously, a portion of all sales proceeds supports NSW Police Legacy, a charitable organisation dedicated to assisting the families of officers who have fallen in the line of duty or been permanently injured — a fitting tribute built into every model.

A welcome salute to nostalgia, and a rare 1:43 Australian model outside the racing castings — this is a brilliant tribute to a much-loved police-issue Aussie icon. ■



OTTOMOBILE
Mini JCW GP2 R56 (2012)
Thunder Grey Metallic
SCALE: 1:18 PRICE: €69.90
PRODUCT NO: OT1497

otto-models.com

Thunder Grey paint, red accents, and GP badging highlight the 218 hp JCW GP2, a limited-edition Mini built for pure performance and track precision.



OTTOMOBILE
Alpina B6 2.8 (1992)
Alpina Blue Metallic
SCALE: 1:18 PRICE: €69.90
PRODUCT NO: OT1180

otto-models.com

Finished in Alpina Blue, the B6 2.8 combines 262 hp power, trademark striping, and understated bodywork, a refined evolution of BMW's E36 sporting saloon.



MAISTO
Lamborghini Countach LPI 800-4
(2022) White
SCALE: 1:18 PRICE: £40.00
PRODUCT NO: M31459

maisto.com

The Countach LPI 800-4 blends retro styling with modern performance, featuring opening parts, detailed interior, and bold lines celebrating Lamborghini's reborn icon.



SPARK
Porsche 911 S – #31 G. Larrousse
(1969) Monte Carlo Rally
SCALE: 1:43 PRICE: £69.99
PRODUCT NO: SPK5581

sparkmodel.com

This 911 S recreates Gérard Larrousse's second-place finisher from the 1969 Monte Carlo Rally, completing Porsche's memorable 1-2 sweep with Björn Waldegård.



SOLIDO
Honda Civic (EG6) (1991)
Cobalt Blue
SCALE: 1:18 PRICE: £54.99
PRODUCT NO: SL1810406

solido.com

The Civic EG6 stands out in Cobalt Blue with its sporty stance, gold alloys, and tuning potential, a cult favourite among 90s hot hatch fans.



MCG
Vauxhall Cavalier GL (1981)
Blue
SCALE: 1:18 PRICE: £72.99
PRODUCT NO: MCG18648

model-universe.com

This 1:18 Cavalier GL captures early 80s motoring charm with clean lines and subtle detailing, a faithful recreation of Vauxhall's badge-engineered Opel Ascona C.

Want to add one of these great models to your collection?

Check out our model shop online and find your favourite models from the magazine!



Simply scan this QR code with your phone's camera, then tap the link that appears to visit our online shop. Or turn to page 73 of this magazine.

Happy collecting!



SOLIDO
Peugeot 306 S16 (1994)
Onyx Black
SCALE: 1:43 PRICE: £27.99
PRODUCT NO: SL4311405

solido.com

The 306 S16 stands out in Onyx Black, powered by Peugeot's 16-valve XU engine with Magneti Marelli injection — a sleek and capable 90s hot hatch.

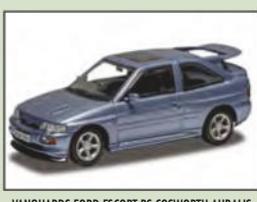
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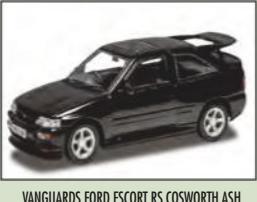
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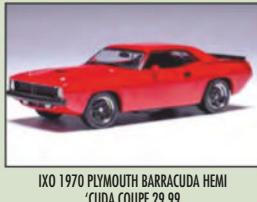
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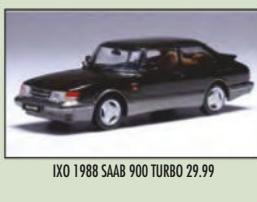
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IXO 2024 FIAT 500 ABARTH WHITE 43.99



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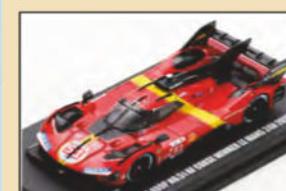


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NEW PADDINGTON ROUTEMASTER FROM CORGI

Corgi has released a fun Paddington New Routemaster, featuring a bright red livery with Paddington licking his lips at the sight of a huge stack of marmalade sandwiches!

The bus runs on route 32 to Windsor Gardens, a nice touch for fans of the famous bear who first appeared in A Bear Called Paddington back in October 1958. It may not have wing mirrors or a registration plate, but it's a cheerful model that'll stand out in any collection, especially for Paddington fans. ■

Corgi

Vehicle New Routemaster – Paddington (red)
Scale 1:76 **Price** £24.99
www.corgi.co.uk



NEW SUPERLOOP SL6 BUS MODEL FROM MBC

Model Buses Creations has confirmed the first release in its new Superloop series — the Superloop SL6 Enviro400 MMC, finished in Go-Ahead London's Superloop livery.

A pre-production sample was displayed at the Stagecoach London Catford Garage open day, where it drew plenty of attention from collectors. The model is fully licensed by Transport for London and depicts fleet number EH213 (YY67 UTN) operating on route SL6 to Russell Square.

MBC says the finished version will be produced to its usual high standards, complete with collector certificate, and limited to just 504 pieces. Pre-orders are due to open soon, with delivery expected autumn 2025. As the first Superloop release, this one's set to be a sell-out. ■

Model Buses Creations

Vehicle Enviro400 MMC – Superloop TfL (red/white)
Scale 1:76 **Price**: TBC
www.modelbusescreations.com



NEW HODGSONS COACHES DOUBLE-DECKER FROM BMC

Another great release from the Buckie Model Centre (BMC) is this VDL double-decker in 1:87 scale, featuring the eye-catching livery of Hodgsons Coaches from Barnard Castle, Darlington — one of only a few operators of this vehicle in the UK.

This limited-edition model, produced by Holland OTO exclusively for BMC, is limited to 200 pieces. It's an accurate and highly detailed version of the real coach, thanks to Hodgsons Coaches supplying the exact colour codes, fleet numbering, and reference drawings to ensure every detail is correct. ■



Buckie Model Centre / Holland OTO

Vehicle VDL Double Decker – Hodgsons Coaches (blue/white)
Scale 1:87 **Price** TBC
www.buckiemodelcentre.com

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1:24 Scale Diecast Cars

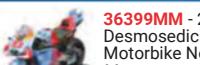


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1/76
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www.buckiemodelcentre.com or by calling 07487 899943

BELOW Matrix's Reliant Scimitar SE5A is available in three colours, orange, dark blue and white.



Reliant Motors is a brand of car which I am not aware of there being too many models having been produced. Oxford Diecast has given us the Scimitar GTE, the Regal Van and the Tri-Car in 1/76th scale, while a 1/8th scale Scimitar has appeared from Cult, and there is of course Pathfinder Models' Scimitar in whitemetal, plus another from Illustra. So to say that the UK's once second largest car producer is underrepresented is a bit of an understatement. That situation has changed a little lately, however, with two more Reliants becoming available during 2025.

Prolific resin model car producer Matrix Models has added the diminutive Reliant Robin Mk.I, which I am not aware of being modelled before, and another Scimitar, the GTE SE5a. But before we move on to the models, let us take a look at the full-size cars, the three-wheeled Robin first.

Most of us will associate Reliants with their three-wheeled vehicles, not exclusively because of Del Boy's "Trotters' Independent Trading Co" (I love that subtle and deliberate potential acronym) Regal van, but before the arrival of four-wheelers, the Reliants only had three wheels.

Nottingham company Raleigh, the well-known cycle company, decided in 1934 to discontinue production of their three-wheelers, as they considered there was no future in them. Raleigh's Works Director disagreed, and he and another former Raleigh employee decided to commence building their own three-wheel vans in the former's back garden in Tamworth, and so the Reliant Motor Company was born, the first Reliant van being delivered in June 1935.

A tale of two Reliants

As Matrix adds two Reliants to its line-up — the Robin and Scimitar SE5a, **Mike Coupe** takes a look.



ABOVE Matrix's dark blue Scimitar displays the registration plate of Princess Anne's car.

Fast-forward 10 or so years, Reliant resumed production after the war, and in 1950 the company introduced the 10cwt Regent van, and two years later, the four-passenger Regal was exhibited at the Earl's Court Motor Show. The Regal was continually improved upon until 1960.

These early Reliants had an aluminium body attached to an ash frame. In 1962 this all changed with the Regal 3/25, which had a unitary construction body of reinforced

fibreglass. This was to set the pattern for future Reliants.

In 1973 Reliant introduced perhaps the most famous British three-wheeler of all time, the Reliant Robin. This vehicle, powered by the 750cc four-cylinder in-line engine, showed completely different styling and was available as a standard or Super Robin Saloon, an Estate and a van. These first Mk.IIs were produced until 1975, when the Robin received more minor changes and a larger 850cc engine with an S.U. carburettor and had a top speed of 85mph with this engine. An average fuel consumption of up to 70mpg was claimed, but it is more typically in the lower 40s, and it would have set you back between £600 and £750 in 1973, depending on which variant you preferred. The Robin was saddled with the unfortunate nickname of "Plastic Pig".

Produced concurrently with the Robin was the larger and totally different Scimitar. Reliant's Managing Director was looking for a replacement for the now dated-looking Sabre 6. He found the replacement

BELOW Matrix's Reliant Robin Saloon is available in red, green and yellow ochre.



BELOW A rear view of Matrix's Reliant Robin Saloon in its characteristic yellow ochre.



Two fine Reliant models – from the diminutive three-wheeled Robin to the much larger and more powerful Scimitar – representing the extremes of Reliant's output.

Famous owners of the GTE SE5a other than Princess Anne include TV and radio presenter Noel Edmonds (the white Matrix model), wrestler Mick McManus, sports presenter Dickie Davies and William Roach (Ken Barlow of *Coronation Street*).

The Matrix Scimitar is produced in three colours, two of which are based on the real cars. The dark blue Scimitar, probably the most well known, is a representation of the second Scimitar owned by Princess Anne and carries the authentic registration mentioned earlier. Other details unique to the Royal Scimitar are the two wing mirrors and the two badges on the badge bar. She went on to own another eight Scimitars.

Similarly, with Noel Edmonds' Everest White Scimitar, it carries the correct

at the 1962 Motor Show, the Ogle SX250, a car based on the Daimler Dart SP250 chassis and running gear, and commissioned by a managing director of the Helena Rubinstein Company, the perfume people. He commissioned another for his girlfriend. Daimler didn't use the design, so Reliant approached Ogle and bought the rights to it. The first Scimitar, the GT SE4, was launched at the 1964 Motor Show. Production continued until 1968.

In 1967 Reliant was looking to extend the GT to make it a true four-seater, and Ogle Design was approached to come up with some ideas. The prototype was finished by February 1968, and by October was ready for full production, and the Scimitar GTE (Grand Touring Estate) went on display at the Earls Court Motor Show of that year. The GTE was the world's first sporting estate.

The GTE retained the GT's Ford 3-litre V6 Essex engine, which generated 138bhp, enabling a top speed of 120mph. Princess Anne received this car as a combined 20th Birthday and Christmas present from mum and dad. It was coloured Airforce Blue and received the registration plate 1420 H, recognising her position of Colonel-in-Chief of the 14th/20th Hussars. It was the first of nine Scimitars owned by the Princess Royal.

In October 1971 the SE5 was given a facelift and was now termed the SE5a, the subject of the Matrix model. The SE5a was replaced by the SE6 in 1976, itself being replaced by the SE6a. By 1968 the Essex engine was ageing, and it was replaced by the new German Cologne engine, and so the SE6b was introduced. A convertible Scimitar termed the GTC (Grand Touring Convertible) SE8b was available in 1980, production continuing until November 1986. A total of 5105 SE5a Reliants were produced. The average overall petrol consumption was 18.5mpg. The price of a Scimitar in 1973 was £2,429 for the manual car.

registration, MOY292L, but only one door mirror, on the driver's side, as does the orange (April Yellow) version.

As is usual with many resin models, the Scimitar is full of added detail. The "chrome" window and screen surrounds are replicated by etched brass components, along with body and sill trim. Windscreen wipers are present on both the front and rear screens. The twin headlights have lenses, as do the front indicators located beneath the bumper. The spotlights, also located below the bumpers, appear to have been modelled with the covers on. The rear lights have three elements: indicators, rear/brake lights, then reversing lights, all with lenses. The tailgate is further adorned with the correct badging of SCIMITAR on the nearside and GTE on the offside, with the lock sat in the middle. Below the lock is the petrol filler cap, whilst peeping out from beneath the body are the twin exhausts. Back to the front, the SCIMITAR is repeated on the front of the bonnet, with the Reliant badge located a little further back. The Reliant badging is also correctly applied to the front wings, and projecting from the roof is an extremely fine radio aerial. The wheels also appear to be an exact rendition of those on the SE5a.

The interior is equally resplendent in detail: the oft-omitted rear-view mirror, correct pattern seats, gear lever and handbrake, winder, and detailed instrument panel and fascia. The steering wheel on each model is black with silver spokes.

The interiors of the models are grey, with a darker grey dashboard on the blue model, all black on the white car, and orange-brown on the orange model.

On to the Scimitar's smaller stablemate, the Robin, which Matrix have produced in three colours: orange, green and beige, described by Matrix as yellow, all with brown interiors. Exterior detail is common to all three models: headlights, below-bumper indicators and two spotlights, all with lenses. Indicators are also present on the front wings. The rear lens is a single cluster incorporating brake lights and indicators, appropriately coloured. Other external details are a pair of windscreen wipers, door handles, door mirrors, overriders with "rubber" inserts to the body-coloured bumpers, radiator grille, hinges to the rear screen, retracted radio aerial and petrol filler cap at the offside rear, plus the exhaust pipe protruding prominently. The external appearance is completed with the bonnet-mounted Reliant badge and a black coachline, and of course the rear-view mirror, which is always visible from the outside. The interior is represented correctly with the correct pattern seats and instrument panel.

In both cases, production is limited to 100 models of each colour. ■



CONRAD
Sennebogen 850G Hybrid mobile material handler
SCALE: 1:50 PRICE: £TBA
PRODUCT NO: 2238/0

www.sennebogen.com/shop

A second version of the Sennebogen 850G from Conrad is a traditional looking material handler with working outriggers, hydraulic cab riser and conventional straight boom with scrap handling grab.



TAKEUCHI
TL12v2 tracked loader
SCALE: 1:24
PRICE: £TBA
PRODUCT NO: NA

www.takeuchi-mfg.co.uk

Takeuchi have commissioned an accurate scale model of the TL12v2 tracked loader, featuring a modelled cabin interior, working loader arms, tipping bucket and detailed track frames.



YANMAR
SV8e Midi Tracked excavator
SCALE: 1:32
PRICE: €70.80
PRODUCT NO: NA

shop.yanmar-compact-equipment-europe.com

This 1:32nd scale tracked excavator has some nice features. A working dozer blade, individually linked metal tracks, opening cabin door and replicated hydraulic lines are the highlights.



REPLICARS
Hitachi ZX350-7G tracked excavator
SCALE: 1:50
PRICE: £TBA
PRODUCT NO: NA

www.hcmewebshop.com

The ZX350-7G, a highly detailed release featuring an opening cabin door, replicated interior, raised hydraulic lines and excellent movement of the digging equipment.



WSI MODELS
Volvo FH5 globetrotter with broshuis 3-axle trailer
SCALE: 1:50 PRICE: £165.00
PRODUCT NO: 01-4628

www.dmbmodels.co.uk

A Volvo FH5 Globetrotter XXL sleeper cabin tractor configured as a 6x2 twin-steer has been paired with a Broshuis 3-axle semi low loader trailer in the colours of Klaas Kuiper Transport.



CONRAD
MAN F8 26.280 tipper with meiller 3-way body
SCALE: 1:50 PRICE: €119.80
PRODUCT NO: 10610/0

www.man-shop.eu

This MAN F8 has been fitted with a Meiller three-way tipper body, having the ability to tip to either side with hinged side panels, or conventional rear tipping with a pivoting tailgate.



DIECAST MASTERS
Caterpillar AP655 tracked paver "modern hex design"
SCALE: 1:50 PRICE: £122.99
PRODUCT NO: 85590MH

www.diecastconstruction.co.uk

Caterpillar's modern Hex design has finally reached the road construction equipment, like this AP655 tracked machine which accurately models the features of the original.



DIECAST MASTERS
Caterpillar PM622 cold planer "modern hex design"
SCALE: 1:50 PRICE: £192.99
PRODUCT NO: 85587MH

www.diecastconstruction.co.uk

Another model in the new Caterpillar modern Hex design is the PM622 cold planer, the unusual looking machine is the ideal solution for road repair, and the model is full of detail and functionality.

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John Deere WA-17 Tractor

PRICE: around £100.00 **SCALE:** 1/32 **PRODUCT NO:** 4459770TP
During the early 1950s in North America Wagner pioneered articulated tractor development. Alongside selling its tractors under their own name they also entered an agreement with John Deere to sell its tractor under their branding. Last year for the annual National Farm Toy Show held each November in Dyersville, Iowa Ertl released a limited-edition model of the Wagner WA-17 tractor. Now, Ertl has re-issued this model in John Deere branding for the wider market. The largely metal model is well built and finished. It has painted lights and an accurately detailed engine under the bonnet. There's

a silver exhaust and mounted on the right-hand front mudguard a black plastic air cleaner and filter. The fully glazed cab has a large silver wiper on the front screen, patterned access platforms with handrails and on roof panel an air-conditioning unit. Although the cab doors, they have silver handles, do not open there's good levels of detailing inside the cab visible through the windows.

On the rear of the cab there are work lights and hydraulic control block with black flexible pipes to the tractor rear. The two steering rams hidden under the cab provide the tractor with a realistically tight turn circle. Like North American tractors of the period the model is not provided with a three-point linkage but a simple clevis drawbar for attaching trailed equipment.

www.Ertl.com



UNIVERSAL HOBBIES

Joskin Terraflex XXL 7125/19SHK2 Arable Injector
PRICE: around £56.00 **SCALE:** 1/32
PRODUCT NO: J2098760629 (UH6788)

www.joskin.com

Metal framed folding injector with 19 spring tine injectors and 12-tine straw harrow. It's supplied with stands and linkage adaptor for tractors with two-point linkages.



UNIVERSAL HOBBIES

Joskin Trans KTP 27/65 Triple-Axle Trailer - Green Edition
PRICE: around £60.00 **SCALE:** 1/32
PRODUCT NO: J2098760551 (UH6815)

www.joskin.com

Beautifully engineered, largely metal and detailed trailer. It features a folding stand, steerable front and rear axles, a six-stage tipping ram and rams to open the rear door.



BRITAINS

Fendt 826 Vario Tractor
PRICE: £39.99 **SCALE:** 1/32
PRODUCT NO: 43432

www.britainsfarmtoys.co.uk

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PRICE: £11.50 **SCALE:** 1/32
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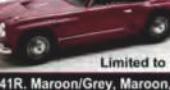
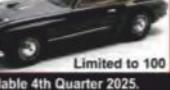
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Trof u and Ixo released a few Ford Escort MKIIs sponsored by "Diabolique" in the last few years. Altaya brought the name back recently in their rally service vans series. In that collection – that we've published a story about, not long ago – you can find two versions of Ford Transit from the same era, painted in the "Diabolique" colours, white, gold and red. As this Altaya collection is an invitation to find the matching rally cars, you may have already done some "research" about this potential collection theme. That's if you are a rally fan, of course.

In fact, as a title sponsor, "Diabolique" (diabolical, in French) became the name of a perfume, made in northern Portugal, near the city of Porto. The interesting part of the story is that the name "Diabolique" meant nothing at the beginning of "Diabolique Motorsport", a team best known for entering cars in Portuguese National rallies and a few international events. At the start, it was just a name, designed in an appropriate devilish font, and a group of colours, to make the team's cars look good. It was a master class in Marketing, in particular when the team started winning rallies and championships. Return on investment was great, more so because nobody knew what "Diabolique" really was. The story was a little mysterious, but everybody knew who was behind the

Rally perfume

You may have seen some 1/43 scale model cars with "Diabolique" as the title sponsor, probably not knowing exactly what it meant. **Francisco Mota** tells the story of one of the biggest privateer rally teams in Europe of the 1980s.

team, supporting all the investment.

Like many other privateer rally teams around Europe in the 1980s, someone who was a rally fan since an early age founded "Diabolique Motorsport". His name was Miguel Oliveira, best known as Dr Miguel Oliveira, due to his academic degree in economics.

He was born in 1938 within a family of means from Porto. His first big motorsport

event was the first edition of Rally Portugal in 1967. At the time, he still found it more engaging holding the steering wheel of his Mini Cooper, but soon enough, he realised his best contribution to the sport would be organising a new team and managing it. To keep adrenaline pumping, he kept a place inside his rally cars as a co-driver. "Diabolique Motorsport" appeared for the first time



ABOVE From left to right, three of the earlier rally cars from Diabolique Motorsport: 1991 Ford Escort RS 2.0 Gr.1 (Troféu), 1980 Porsche 911 SC (Altaya code 3) and 1983 Ford Escort RS 1.8 GR.4 (Troféu).

in 1980, with a car meticulously painted in a scheme close to the first "Rothmans" livery, obviously with different colours. The car was a spectacular looking Porsche 911 SC, bought from another local team and prepared in the new "Diabolique Motorsport" workshop. Soon, it became clear that this was not the ideal car for racing in a championship that featured events on both gravel and tarmac.

ONLY FORD CARS

The connections Oliveira had in the UK led him to try an international event at the end of 1980, no less than the RAC rally. He hired a Ford Escort MKII from specialist rally Fords, David Sutton, and signed the Spanish driver, Rafael Cid. The car had a simple white livery with blue stripes and stickers "Diabolique" around the body, still in a generic font. They finished 19th, not bad for a first-time rally, considering that, at the time, drivers could not recce.

For the following season, a definitive decision was taken that would rule Diabolique Motorsport until they left the rally world: to bet entirely on Ford material. Dr Oliveira decided to buy a Ford Escort RS 1.8 MKII from Sutton, a



ABOVE 1980 Ford Escort MKII as entered by the Team in the 1980 RAC rally, model by Troféu.



ABOVE Narrow wheels and mud flaps makes for an Escort MKII gravel specification version.



LEFT One of the first rallies Diabolique Motorsport entered was the WRC 1980 RAC, no less. This was a chance to test the Escort MKII in "real life" conditions. Even if the slippery stages in the UK were different from what the team would be facing in their own national championship. Doctor Oliveira hired a MKII Gr.4 from David Sutton, a well-known Ford rally cars specialist and someone close to the Ford works team. He also hired Sutton's services of maintenance and repairs during the event. To drive the car Oliveira signed Spanish driver Rafael Cid, an experienced and reliable rally driver. Troféu made an excellent 1:43 scale model of this car, featuring all the smaller technical sponsors, plus a detailed cabin with racing seats, roll-cage and complete instrument panel.

car used the previous season in the WRC. The team painted the MKII in Diabolique colours, following the Rothmans early scheme. The car received a Portuguese license plate, and the mechanics in the workshop began working on it, disassembling everything before replacing all the necessary parts and fine-tuning the car. One thing that Oliveira always ensured was that the team used only the best available parts from the best specialists in the UK.

After the RAC experience, Oliveira and Diabolique Motorsport concentrated on the national Championship, where the team had several rivals, mostly using similar machinery. The difference was that

he had the budget to invest in everything needed, building one of the best privateer rally teams in Europe. Due to the support of the local Ford importer, he even had some access to the works Ford rally team, receiving advice and more when he bought successive rally cars.

Oliveira hired some of the best drivers in the Iberian Peninsula for his multiple-car team. His preference was for Joaquim Santos, a self-taught amateur rally driver who had previously driven only humble cars. However, Santos adapted quickly to the MKII and soon he became a specialist in driving this type of car. Together, Santos and Oliveira gained back-to-back national championships in 1982, 1983 and 1984.



LEFT. The first car used by Diabolique was this Porsche 911 SC Gr.4. The scale model is a Code 3 based on an Altaya release.

THE 1:43 SCALE MODELS

After a preliminary search, it was clear that there were more diecast models to build a “Diabolique” collection than one could imagine. The first one is the 1980 RAC entered Ford Escort RS 1.8 MKII. Trofém makes a scale model that features extremely correct shapes and details. It has grey Minilite gravel wheel rims with mud flaps at the rear and four spotlights with white covers. Obviously, the white and blue livery was not the official Diabolique one; most probably, it was the colours on the car Sutton had available to hire. It looks interesting in a collection like this.

The second scale model is the Porsche 911 SC from the same 1980 season. It was entered in several legs of the national championship. The scale model is a Code 3, based on an Ixo model. It received the first genuine Diabolique livery, but still with a generic font. The model features the correct Fuchs wheel rims painted black and aluminium, and a tall aerial on the left wheel arch. It also features a single rearview mirror on the left side and a

complete roll cage inside. The base model has good proportions and fine details, so this transformation works well and closes a loop in the collection. The driver and co-driver were Gonçalves/Bessa, as Oliveira was presumably busy organising the team.

For the first pair, we have two Ford Escort MKII, already with the complete “Diabolique” livery, including the special font for the name of the team. These are two 1981 MKII Escorts; however, they are of very different performance. Rally number #22 is an Escort 2.0 RS Gr.1, near-standard car, featuring a narrow body, four mud-flaps, four spot-lights and a roof aerial. The car with race number 32 is an Escort 1.8 RS Gr.4, a fully prepared rally machine. It has much wider wheel arches to cover wider tracks, front and rear. In this case, there are only two spotlights, and both feature a very similar livery, with “SG” as a secondary sponsor, a local cigarette brand. This is a good pair to examine the differences between Gr.1 and Gr.4 Escort MK2s. Both cars entered the 1981 Rally Portugal; #22 finished 12th, driven by Mário Silva, and

#32 finished 7th, driven by Cid and co-driven by Oliveira.

LIKE A WORKS TEAM

The next pair is a special one, featuring another Trofém Ford Escort 1.8 RS Gr.4. This time, it's the car Santos and Oliveira drove in the 1982 Rally Portugal, where they did not finish due to transmission problems. The scale model is similar to the car from the previous season, with some adjustments to the secondary sponsors. It is prepared for daylight gravel stages, with narrow tyres and four mud flaps, but no spotlights. When positioned on a double-track single-car trailer and pulled by a Ford Transit MKII, it looks very close to the moment it was taken back to the workshop, after retirement from the rally. The Transit is an Altaya by Ixo release, painted with the same livery as the rally cars. The shape and general proportions are correct to the 1:43 scale and fit perfectly with the Ixo trailer and Trofém Escort. There are a surprising amount of details, for a part work model, like four mud flaps, two big mirrors, a pair



ABOVE. From left to right: three Ford Escort MKII Gr.4 versions: the first two are the cars driven by Santos and Souto in 1983 Rally Portugal (troféu). The third is a ModelHeart Code 3 based on an Altaya by Ixo release featuring the 1984 Rally Portugal car driven by Santos



ABOVE. Altaya released a short wheelbase Transit van with the exact 1981/1982 Diabolique livery. Ixo has a double track trailer on sale and Troféu released this 1982 rally Portugal Ford Escort MKII.

of spotlights and two square blue signs. The one under the front grille reads “Porto” and locates where this commercial vehicle was registered. The second on the roof has a yellow triangle, which means the Transit pulls a trailer. There’s also a fully reproduced interior, at least on the cabin side. Obviously, the best looking detail is the roof rack made of black plastic and perfectly fixed to the roof. It carries golden Minilite wheels with gravel tyres. In total, there are four rows, each with seven wheels. Just a few words about the trailer from Ixo. It looks very realistic and comes with a pair of ramps to load the car onto the trailer. The wheel arches feature taillights and mandatory small reflective triangles.

For the last group of three cars, we left the second livery, used from 1983. This time, it was an original design, no longer a copy of the works team. It retained the three original colours, red, gold, and white, in a very simple and nice scheme.

“DIABOLIQUE LE PARFUM”

We have two suppliers for this trio. Cars with racing numbers #15 and #24 are Troféu scale models that represent the two-car strong “Diabolique Motorsport” entry in the 1983 Rally Portugal. Obviously, they are made from the same set of parts; however, with small differences. Car #15, driven by Santos/Oliveira, has four spotlights and slick tarmac tyres. Car number #24 has no spotlights and features narrow gravel tyres. Both have four mud flaps and photoetched wipers. Santos’ car features a single mirror, while Souto’s car has two. Both cars have fasteners for the rear hood and roof aerial. Santos/Oliveira finished 9th, and Souto/Cid did not finish due to engine trouble.

The third car, with race number #14, is the Santos/Oliveira car, entered in the 1984 Rally Portugal, where they also did not finish the rally due to engine troubles. It is another Code 3, based on an Altaya by Ixo with new decals applied and a set of

four spotlights. Troféu also released this scale model.

Since 1983, the new livery of the team’s cars read “Diabolique Le parfum”, and the mystery was over: Diabolique, a name born without a product behind it, was given to a perfume. It was made in one of the companies owned by Oliveira’s family. The small bottle featured the name written in the same font as the cars and had the same colours. In 1984, a second version of the perfume, called Extra Jeune (extra young, in French), was also publicised in the car. The other new sponsor was “Onde está o Ás” (which means, ‘Where is the ace?’ in Portuguese). This was an initiative aimed at young people who had their driving permit and wanted to go rallying, but had no money. ■

In Part 2 of “Diabolique Motorsport”, we’ll follow the story through the Group B era and Group A, until Doctor Oliveira decides to pull the plug. Don’t miss it.

BELOW Corgi's first two releases of their Mk2 Fiesta are the basic Popular Plus and sporty XR2. Hopefully we will see a Ghia version too.



When Corgi announced that the Mk2 Fiesta was (finally) joining the Vanguards range during the second part of 2025, there was much excitement and discussion on social media about which versions would be modelled, how accurate would they be, and how soon would they be available. This excitement was reignited upon the first deliveries. My first two cars were a Mk1 and Mk2 Fiesta, so consequently I naturally developed an interest in models of them. My first published writing about model cars was all about my collection of these early Fiestas. While there have been plenty of Mk1 Fiesta models released in the last 10-15 years, there have only been a sprinkling of, arguably the more successful in sales terms, Mk2 Fiesta. While this article is not designed as a catalogue of these models (I'm saving that for an anniversary piece later in 2026 – watch these pages!), I will draw some comparisons with a similar model, namely the red Neo 1:43 XR2, but we shall begin with an in-depth look at Corgi's latest Ford offerings.

After a strong and steady sales record, the Mk1 Fiesta was in need of a replacement as it was losing out to the Austin Metro by the end of 1981. That replacement came in August 1983. At first glance, the Mk2 appears to be just a cosmetic facelift; a more rounded and aerodynamic front end, larger 13-inch wheels, a new tailgate, moulded plastic bumpers on some models and a much revised interior. Dig a little deeper, and more significant changes become apparent; for example, the roof was re-profiled slightly to improve airflow. Mechanical changes included new engines,

Corgi's Fiesta Mk2 finally breaks cover

Steve Coles examines the Popular and XR2 versions in detail and weighs them up against Neo's resin rival.



ABOVE The later XR2s had the tilt/remove sunroof as standard and Corgi have captured the shape of it well.

the availability of a 5-speed gearbox and revised suspension. These major revisions kept the Fiesta selling well up to the introduction of the Mk3 in April 1989. Although the age of the original design was beginning to show by then, there was still no five-door variation.

First impressions of Corgi's new Fiesta are good. The initial releases are modelled on cars from Ford's own Heritage Collection and represent a Popular Plus from the lower end of the range and, as you would perhaps expect from Corgi, a top-of-the-range XR2. We shall begin with the blue Popular Plus. The Maritime Blue paint is

nicely applied and is typical of one of the solid paint colours Ford offered on the more basic Fiestas. By 1988, the bumpers on the Popular and Popular Plus were painted in body colour and fitted with narrow plastic bump strips, giving them a smart appearance and a little more visual appeal despite being quite basic inside. Corgi have done a superb job of these front and back, the rear one also carrying the small number plate light. The separate wipers fitted at the front sit nice and flush with the windscreens.

The wheels of the Popular, Popular Plus and 'L' were silver painted steel with black or silver centre caps. Corgi have done a stunning job of these wheels and have the correct black centre cap. The door mirrors are the correct shape and have the right matte black finish to them. The final standout feature for me is the badging on the rear. Bright red lettering proudly telling you this Popular Plus has the more powerful 1.1 engine (50bhp compared to just 45 from the 950cc engine).

There are a few small gripes with this model, which, whilst perhaps are no big issues, do detract from an otherwise superb looking model. The number plates; what is going on here? If they were scaled up to



BELOW Corgi's new XR2 (left) and the older Neo release both capture the spirit of the Mk2 XR2 well.

1:1, they'd be about 3 inches thick. The rear wiper looks upside down, and the silver finished exhaust is a solid cylinder rather than having the appearance of a pipe. Inside, we can forgive Corgi for only tooling up one dashboard type (the lower spec Fiestas had a different dash to the higher spec ones) but the seats are terrible. They sit too high in the car and the 'A'-frame head restraints are the wrong shape (which is a shame as Corgi got them right in the Mk1 Fiestas). Like I said, they are small gripes but nevertheless noteworthy.

Moving on to the XR2. While much of the general comment from the Popular Plus also apply to this model too, it is worth recognising this is a different version of the tooling as it not only has a sunroof, but also larger wheel arches which have been finished in matt dark grey-black to represent the wheel arch extensions characteristic of the XR2. In fact, the whole body kit looks really neat and well finished, as do the bumpers. These differ from the painted Popular Plus ones being coated in the same plastic finish as the endcaps and contain the 'go faster' red stripe. Being the XR2, there is also the spoiler that surrounds the tailgate. So far, so good then. Moving inside, the interior has the correct 'Monaco' seat fabric, complete with pale red and blue stripes. It also has the sporty two spoke steering wheel Ford fitted to the XR2.

The gripes with the number plates on the Popular Plus are also relevant here too. Sadly, the exhaust is the same solid silver cylinder, and not the bigger bore exhaust Ford fitted to the XR2. The taillights also look a little odd from the side; the red and orange colouring is only really visible from the rear. Looking side on, and it almost appears the edge of the lights has been smashed off.



ABOVE LEFT The rear of the Popular Plus has accurate badging as well as the body coloured bumper.



BELOW LEFT The Mk2 XR2 had a spoiler that framed the tailgate which Corgi have done well. The black around the side windows is, however, the wrong shape.

second release of the Mk2 XR2 in white appear to show the same wheels.

Being released in Rosso Red, I naturally wanted to compare it with my Neo XR2, also in red, which was released a number of years ago. Sit both models together, and the first thing that strikes you is how much larger the Neo example is, despite being claimed to be the same 1:43 scale. In reality, its sits at 1:42/1:41. Being manufactured in resin as opposed to die-cast and therefore marketed at a higher price point, the Neo is perhaps ahead in terms of finer detailing; the lights and in particular the additional front spot lights are superb. Neo also made a much better job of the black paint treatment around the side windows. This model is based on the earlier XR2, so instead of the 'Monaco' seat fabric Corgi have replicated, Neo used the much darker 'Rainbow' fabric. There is much better detailing on the dashboard too. With the outer holes being larger, the wheels are also better than Corgi's attempts, although not by a lot... they still look odd! This one does have a decent looking big bore exhaust – Ford made the XR2 sound good, and I can still remember the sound these exhausts made when the XR2 was new.

Which XR2 is the best? It is a close call. The Neo is superbly detailed but in an unusual shade of red. Both have their flaws, some of which are really quite noticeable. For me, if I had to have just one, I'd take the Corgi. ■



Driven to collect

Keith D'Souza chats with **Aaron Butler**, whose passion for diecast began with simple Matchbox cars and has grown into a premium collection celebrating quality, craftsmanship and detail.

What got you into scale model collecting?

One of the earliest memories I have is from when I was a child in the late 70's / early 80's and my Mum and Nana would come home from the shops with a Matchbox car. I can remember the excitement of ripping open the box to reveal what was inside, looking and admiring the car and then pretending that I was driving it. The one car that sticks in my mind is MB74 Matchbox Cougar Villager in green. I don't know why exactly but it became a firm favourite of mine. Sadly, none of my childhood cars survived but I made sure I bought a green

Cougar Villager when I started to collect diecast again. Fast forward to a birthday in 2010 and my wife bought me a Matchbox Lesney Edition '68 Mercury Cougar as a gag gift. This car started my "addiction" collecting these tiny toy cars and as I like to remind my wife 'it's her fault that I started the collection'.

What do you collect?

I collect because I love cars. While I can't own full-size versions of all the cars I admire, I can appreciate them in small scale, valuing the craftsmanship that goes into shrinking them down. My collection likely

LEFT Mini GT has currently a fantastic catalogue of road and race cars, but for me, this is what they do best: race cars. And this is – imho – is their best one to date. Detail is off the scale and pin sharp accurate.

numbers between 1,500 and 2,000 cars. I started with Matchbox, fondly recalling my childhood favourites, but I quickly grew frustrated with poor distribution. I expanded to Hot Wheels, only to find the "Blue Brand" equally frustrating due to scalpers removing the best models from the shelves. About three years ago, I almost gave up collecting entirely, but instead I shifted my focus to premium brands like Tomica, Mini GT, and the Kaido House editions. I now prioritise quality over quantity. While I occasionally find a Matchbox or Hot Wheels I like, I prefer the realism and detail of the premium models.

What are your hints and tips about collecting?

My main tip would be, simply, buy what you like. If you like what you're collecting the hobby will remain enjoyable. Do keep a track of what you have in your collection so you're not buying doubles by mistake. I use Instagram (@kiwidiecastcollector) to share my collection and also use an app called MyCollections to keep track of what I have. Start tracking your collection early on as possible, as it's a daunting task when it grows, which then becomes a bit of a nightmare keeping tabs on everything.

What is the Holy Grail that is missing from your collection?

One of the cars missing from my collection is a McLaren MP4-4 in 1:64 scale. As a huge F1 fan, I consider this is my all-time favourite F1 car and I'm a huge fan of Ayrton Senna, so for too long it's been a glaring omission within the hobby. Thankfully Mini GT are releasing one in the near future as part of their Senna Collection, so this one is definitely going to make it into my collection, pride of place duly reserved. ■



The cars that started Aaron's love for Matchbox: the Matchbox and Mattel Cougars.



The first non-Japanese car from the garage of Kaido House and it looks gorgeous.

What we reckon

Like most of us of a certain vintage, it started with a Matchbox, picked from a peg in a shop — and that was the hook. It's great to see how Aaron has changed tack to keep his collection alive by turning to premium 1:64 scale models in moments of frustration. They may cost more, but they give so much back in terms of detail and quality. His philosophy of "buy what you like" is spot on, as it's easy to go down a rabbit hole by focusing on a single brand and miss out on the brilliance of castings available within our hobby. **Keith D'Souza**

On one of my recent visits to Richard Sanders & Co, a Peugeot dealer in Kettering, Northants, my son, who works there, drew my attention to the replica lion mascots dating from 1923 to the present day.

As early as 1912, the pioneer Peugeot family had been successful in voiturette (small car) races with their Lion-Peugeots, named after their trademark 'The Lion of Belfort'. Their 1912 Grand Prix car won the two-day French GP in that year.

In the early seventies, I also worked for a Peugeot dealership, Hanson & Co of Rushden, Northants. At that time, Peugeot were just beginning to come into England from France. I had no idea then that my son, now aged 45, would in 2025 be working for the same brand 50 years on.

From time to time, the French firm of Norev produce a model for Peugeot, and when they arrive in the showroom, my son gets one for me. They usually celebrate a significant milestone in the company's history, such as the 1937 P302 sports car and the P504 Coupe and Cabriolet set (1968 – 2018) 50 years.

The first 202 saloon car was produced in 1937 and reappeared after the war in 1945.

The Peugeot family made itself famous at first for its cycles, tools and other household items, before building its first car in 1892 in small quantities, and just four-door saloons in 1937.

I still have some old brochures from the seventies, a price list, and a model range from 1978. What a shame that brochures are not available for modern cars – everything is 'online'.

When saloon cars ceased to be made in any range, such as the 404 & 504, they continued for many years as commercial vehicles, i.e., pick-ups and station wagons. Hanson & Co. was part of a 20+ group of companies, and they supplied the group with cars, etc., so Peugeot had a captive market.

They found the vehicles to be tough and reliable, both petrol and diesel engines. I had



The lion goes from strength to strength

From the showroom to the display cabinet, **John Tailby** looks back on his lifetime connection with Peugeot.

a 504 T1 auto, which towed a caravan, and my wife had a 104 hatchback, and I now have a 108. This model is no longer made and has given way to larger electric-powered models such as the E2008GT, which is my latest diecast model acquisition in 1/43 scale.

Whilst the 104 evolved into the 108, the 504 evolved into the 508 in 2018, and Peugeot reproduced an article from 'Auto Express', comparing the two cars with 50 years progress between them. The cars look very different, but the 508 shares some aspects of the 504 in styling references. The name badge at the front of both, plus the look of the nose. The older car has a reputation as an automotive diehard, building its legacy on tough terrain and high mileage, away from its European birthplace. This was demonstrated when the 504 featured in the 007 film, *For Your Eyes Only*.

There was a Norev 1/43 scale diecast model of this in black, with driver and two passengers, in a clear plastic case with a scenic background. From the same maker and in the same scale, I have collected a blue 504 (1969) and a black 1962 404. From Solido, A Century of Cars series, a gold 504, and a gold 403.

It is not surprising that the Meccano factory in France produced Dinky toys of Peugeots from the time when the actual cars were made. In my collection, I found an old pre-war French Dinky. Research revealed that it was made between 1937 and 1939 and was no. 24K.

It has a silver diecast body with no base, a tin-plate front bumper, and smooth diecast wheels with rubber tyres. Details are cast into the underside of the roof as follows: 'Meccano. Dinky Toys. FAB EN FRANCE PEUGEOT 402'

There is no sign of metal fatigue, but the rubber tyres have distorted through age, although it is still possible to see 'DUNLOP' on them.

Such original models are rare, but some have been reproduced by Atlas Editions. They look very attractive with their boxes and remind me of the classic Peugeots that I once drove. ■



ABOVE Replicas by Atlas Editions of the Peugeot 404 'Commerciale', the Peugeot 204 and the Peugeot Pininfarina Cabriolet.

LEFT A 1/43 model of the classic Peugeot 504, from the popular Hachette/Norev 'A Century of Cars' series.



Prior to the launch of the mighty Escort RS Cosworth in 1992, Ford spent many years trying to develop the Sierra Sapphire Cosworth into a successful rally car. Although it never won the World Rally Championship, in its final season at top level rallying in 1992, it did have two second and two third place finishes. The livery on the works cars in 1992 was a smart white and blue one with prominent sponsorship from Ford, Mobil 1 and Autoglass. The three models here are all wearing registration number A9FMC, driven by Frenchman François Delecour on the 1992 season-opening Monte Carlo Rally.

We'll start, as always, with the smallest of the pair. This tiny marvel, which is to 1:64 scale, comes from the CMS 'Rally Car Collection'. I know very little about CMS, other than they appear to be a Japanese company that make a large range of (mainly Japanese car brands) rally cars to a consistent 1:64 scale. These have been produced under car manufacturers' headings; so the Sierra featured here is from their Ford Collection (SS.16) that contains six cars in total; the others being an RS200, Escort Cosworths from 1993 and 1996, and Escort WRC and a Focus WRC. Despite their small size, these are highly detailed collector models from before a time when 1:64 exploded globally. This Sierra boasts an impressive host of tiny interior details, right down to the correct patterned safety belts.

Outside, the rear badging is present, the tiny driver and co-driver details are there, as is the smaller front number plate used by Ford on their rally cars at that time.

Sierra style at Monte Carlo

For This month's 'Little and Large', **Steve Coles** dons his wellies and bobble hat and heads to Monte Carlo.

The rear spoiler is a nice separate part, and the roof-mounted aerial is supplied on a spruce to fit. Although once fitted, the car no longer fits in the packaging, hence why mine is not fitted. The wheels are an off-white, almost cream, 8-spoke design. Almost all the photos of the real car on the Monte Carlo Rally show the more usual large diameter O.Z. Racing disc-type wheels used on the fast tarmac stages. One of the challenges of the Monte is the mix of fast tarmac and the potential for snow. The wheels fitted to this model are the ones used on the snow stages. Finally, the headlights are the correct quad round headlamps Ford fitted to the rally cars, although curiously the inner two are incorrectly finished in red on this model (they should be blue for Delecour's car). All in all, a small but highly detailed model, and one not often seen for sale now.

Next up is a pair of 1:43 models. The first was made by Vitesse back in the late 1990s. Although the basic shape of the Sierra Sapphire has been well captured, Vitesse cannot claim the credit for this. Their tooling for the Sapphire Cosworth

actually came from Schabak. However, the tooling wasn't even that of a Cosworth. Look carefully at the boot lid and under the 'Carglass' decal, you can still clearly see Sierra 2.0i Ghia cast into it (it is much more obvious on the road car versions). Schabak never made a 1:43 Cosworth version of their Sierra Sapphire, only 'GL' and 'Ghia' versions, which also explains why the front of the bonnet and grille area are incorrect for the Cosworth. Vitesse simply added a boot spoiler and bonnet vents decals to create their Cosworth. Although overly obvious on the road car versions, the rally versions hide the humble origins much better. A number of different liveries were produced, including Delecour's 1992 Monte Carlo car (model 718). As with many of Vitesse's models produced around this time, the decals are very fragile and, as can be seen on my example, do become brittle over time. This situation isn't helped by the models opening doors; a throwback to Schabak marketing their original models as 'high end'/detailed toys. The decals themselves are reasonably accurate, and in terms of



detail, they look good. Like the smaller CMS model, this one wears the 8-spoke 'snow' wheels also finished in cream.

Vitesse/IXO updated their casting with new tooling and supplied the Sapphire Cosworth to Altaya for their part work '1992 Rallye Monte Carlo' series. This is a much improved casting over the original in terms of detail. At the very least, it's got the correct (and it has to be said, highly detailed) rally spec interior as opposed to the original release's road car interior. Also improved over the previous road car casting is the correct Cosworth front bumper, grille and the correct quad round headlamps used, with the inner two having the correct blue covers. The one detail which makes this car stand out from the previous two is the wheels. This Altaya release has the white O.Z. Racing wheels complete with 'turbofan' discs on the front wheels, a feature of high-speed tarmac rallies during this period of the World Rally Championship. The final point to note with this model is the 'weathering' details. This is something that model rail and bus enthusiasts have been using for years, but it is still a relatively unused technique within the model car world, certainly on models 'as bought'. The dusting of white along the models lower half and wheels represents the snow, so often seen during the Monte Carlo rally. A really lovely detail, especially on a part-work model, but one that sits slightly at odds with the tarmac stage wheels; perhaps this should have had the cream 8-spokes too? ■



FACING PAGE Left to Right: Altaya 1:43, CMS 1:64 and Vitesse 1:43. Note the incorrect front grille on the Vitesse; a throwback to its Schabak Ghia origins.

TOP Despite the age of the Vitesse (right) the decals are equally as detailed as the much newer models. Only the shape of the bonnet vents is a little more crude.

ABOVE LEFT Both the older Vitesse and newer CMS wear the wheels used on the snow stages of the Monte Carlo Rally.

ABOVE RIGHT Both of the newer pair wear the quad round headlights Ford fitted to the rally cars. The CMS makes do with a decal over the standard headlights though.

ABOVE Rear detailing is almost identical on all three Sierras, right down to the decals on the rear window.



No.
66

Superfast 1969-1982

Charting the evolution of the Matchbox Superfast range during the Lesney years.

GREYHOUND COACH

Production: 1970-72

Catalogue: 1971-72

Box Styles: F, G

Yet another classic regular wheels that made the transition to Superfast but it took a fair while for this to take place and when it did, the model didn't last in the range for very long, sadly.

Nothing changed visually apart from the wheels until the model is turned over. In terms of variations it was all about the base - dark yellow, pale yellow, pink or black (the latter with a red front axle clip).

All models had the same body in the same colour with the same labels, plus a white interior and an amber window unit, although the opacity of this varies.

MAZDA RX 500

Production: 1972-75

Catalogue: 1973-75

Box Styles: I

The real Mazda RX500 was a concept sports car with a mid-mounted rotary

engine and butterfly-wing doors that first appeared at the 1970 Tokyo Motor Show. The real car was painted yellow with a black underside, but the model is in orange with a white base, purple tinted windows, and a chrome interior! The whole rear panel was hinged, and could lift up to reveal the rotary power plant. The model was notable for being the first Japanese car in the 1-75 series.

TYRONE MALONE "SUPERBOSS"

Production: 1982

Catalogue: 1982

Box Styles: L

Based on "Super Boss", a heavily modified Kenworth Conventional raced by American showman Tyrone Malone, during the 1980s, Super Boss was quite famous in drag racing circles, and it also set a land speed record for diesel trucks.

The model was finished in white, with red and blue stripes. The base, grille, side pipes and fifth-wheel coupling were in chrome plastic while the windows were

tinted green. The large aerofoil was in white plastic and early versions had Tyrone Malone's name and some stripes printed on the spoiler.

FORD TRANSIT

Production: 1977-81

Catalogue: 1978-81

Box Styles: L

Given that the Ford Transit had been around since 1965 and was a very common sight on British roads, it was rather surprising that Matchbox waited until 1978 to make one. The version modelled was a Mk I dropside truck, with one side permanently open. Loaded in the back was a brown plastic crate on a pallet, with a paper label marked "Fragile - Spares". This could be loaded and unloaded using Sambron Jacklift.

The body was painted orange, with a bare metal base and white interior and the glazing was usually green-tinted, although amber has been found. In 1981 the colour scheme was changed, although the difference was very subtle. It was now a lighter yellow-orange with a black base and grille. The model was deleted at the end of 1981, just like the real Mk I Transit.

MAZDA RX 500

Range: Streakers

Production: 1975-77

Catalogue: 1976-77

Box Styles: J

When it was drafted into the Streakers range, Mazda RX 500 changed from orange to red, but retained its white lower half. The hinged rear panel was kept too. Now sporting lime green and white graphics, it also has the number 77 to the front. ■

FOR COLLECTORS, BY COLLECTORS
INSIGHT, STORIES, DISCOVERIES, AND MORE

COLLECTORS GAZETTE

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Collecting the Man of Steel

How Superman's story became a true collectable classic



+ STEAMPUNK ON THE TRACKS

How Hornby turned classic railways into something eccentric

+ RARE SCI-FI MOVIE TREASURES

Original film props and costumes from Batman, Bond, and beyond

» AROUND THE WORLD

From Japan to the USA – discover fascinating collectable trends from all around the globe

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GOING THE DISTANCE...

Whether you are looking to sell one item or a collection, Lacy Scott and Knight have the experience, ability and flexibility to arrange collections countrywide.

Located at Moyses Hall, Bury St Edmunds, this exhibition offers a unique opportunity to see some amazing examples, like the Princess Diana 'Revenge' dress from The Crown, Batman's Cowl, and the Witch King of Angmar's helmet from Peter Jackson's The Lord of the Rings.

All the exhibits come from Kudos Memorabilia, a Cambridge-based company that specialises in sourcing rare and authentic film collectables, props, vintage costumes, posters and photography. The result is an exhibition that evokes memories of key productions from both TV and cinema. Many of the items are production-made props, such as the iconic DH-17 blasters used by rebel soldiers at the Battle of Hoth in The Empire Strikes Back.

Looking at LOTR memorabilia amid the medieval stone walls of Moyses Hall, with its subdued lighting, is intensely atmospheric – especially when the voice of Gollum whispers about his 'precious.' A giant dragon rears out of a corner, while the black helmet of the Witch King of Angmar stands out against a fiery backdrop of Sauron's mountain. There are swords and daggers, as well as the Witch King's massive flail and chain, all of which are authentic prop replicas made by the same people in New Zealand who created the original items for the film.

Equally eye-catching is a prop replica of Gandalf's iconic floppy grey hat, made from grey felted fabric and hand-stitched in New Zealand by the original creators, and the large, bulky Red Book of West March.

Artwork adorns the walls, such as the classic 1976 Athena poster by Jimmy Cauty, as well as 'The Godfather of Fantasy art' Frank Rantella's image of the Orcs marching to War. One of the most unusual pieces of artwork is the first print of a fabric banner, dating back to 1979, which was devised by Tolkien Enterprises.

Heading upstairs for the remainder of the exhibition, visitors are greeted by the sight of a Jurassic Park Velociraptor posed among the vegetation. Not far away is memorabilia from another classic monster – Jaws. Among the rare items are a capsule of used blood and a blood spot, both of which were used in the film production, and a shark tooth cast from the 1976 original. Keen-eyed film viewers may remember actors with cans of Narragansett Lager Beer from Martha's Vineyard, and an example of those original cans is on display.

Both Jaws and Jurassic Park resulted in a vast array of merchandise and screen-accurate replicas being created. Some of these are displayed here, such as the Jaws popcorn bucket and a 1975 Jaws toy requiring players to try to retrieve debris from the shark's mouth before the jaws snap shut.

Iconic film memorabilia

Angela Youngman visits the new sci-fi and cinema art exhibition, showcasing stunning and collectable pieces from film history.



Numerous examples of toys, mechanoids, and moulded figures that have become extremely collectable over the years, such as Wall-E, the Iron Giant and even a Cadbury's Smash Martian robot. Other unusual memorabilia include the 'golden Chachapoyen' fertility idol from Indiana Jones and Raiders of the Lost Ark. Interestingly, it is actually based on an original item which is located in a US museum and known as the Dumbarton Oaks Birthing Figure.

Poster art is very much in evidence throughout the exhibition. Typical examples include Drew Struzen's Return of the Jedi, Blade Runner, and Empire Strikes Back posters.

Film costumes have become increasingly collectable, and there are some excellent examples on display, such as costumes from Terminator and clothing worn by Kevin Costner during the filming of Yellowstone. In 2021, actress Ana de Armas took on the role of Bond's female lead in No Time to Die and can be seen in the promotional poster wearing a long, elegant black dress. Adjacent to the poster is the actual dress that she wore in the Cuban fight sequence.

It is hard to miss the iconic Princess Diana's 'Revenge' dress from The Crown, which was purchased by Kudos at the

Above Remove the debris before the jaws snap shut collective game.

official 2024 Bonham's Production Auction. Regarded as a symbol of empowerment and independence, the detail on what seems, at first sight, to be a classic black dress is incredible, as it features countless small horizontal pleats throughout the design.

Perhaps the rarest of all the objects in the exhibition are two original items from the Batman franchise. These show the evolution of the central character and how Batman was envisaged. In 1987, artist Vin Burnham sculpted a concept bust of Batman's Cowl in preparation for Tim Burton's 1989 Batman film. Among filmgoers, Batman enthusiasts and film historians, this first bust has become a pivotal piece in Batman's costume development.

Directly opposite, facing this sculptural bust, is an official production made Batman Cowl, made two years later, using foam latex. It represents the final, approved design, complete with signature pointed ears, that was used in the film. ■

Sci-fi & Action – The Art of the Cinema
Moyses Hall, Bury St Edmunds,
until 22nd February 2026



LEGO is establishing itself as a valuable item in the collector's space. In part, that's because there are just so many unusual products from the company's history, many of which are now out of circulation and difficult to locate. Adult-focused sets are selling especially well, and hobbyists are diving back into the archives to check out builds they might have missed. But what would make LEGO even more valuable? *Star Wars*, of course!

Star Wars items, including toys and memorabilia, have become mainstay collectables. It's perhaps not that surprising, therefore, that one of the most expensive and valuable LEGO sets ever produced is from the *Star Wars* range. The Millennium Falcon is a ship without equal in the galaxy far, far away and an item of equal worth in the LEGO universe. Perhaps it's because everyone wants to have their very own modified Corellian YT-1300 light freighter, fulfilling a childhood dream. I know I did. Or maybe it's because LEGO's Millennium Falcon sets are some of the biggest and most intricate that the company has created. Every version of the design can be considered a piece of architectural art and a beautiful display item for collectors to covet.

THE MINI MILLENNIUMS

Before diving into the history of the Millennium Falcon in LEGO form, it's

The ultimate LEGO collectable

George Chrysostomou takes a deep dive into the unusual history of the Star Wars galaxy's most beloved ship... in brick form!

important to note that the brick-built brand has released a couple of unusual, yet still rare, versions of the ship. The Mini Millennium Falcon (#4488) released in 2003 is a relatively unseen variation that included additional bricks to transform the ship into a Y-Wing! This cute alternative was followed up with the Midi-scale Millennium Falcon (#7778) in 2009, a set carefully curated for display purposes at an all-new scale and a sought-after collectors' item as a relatively short-lived set.

Nonetheless, it didn't quite measure up to the big builds, and neither did the 2014 Millennium Falcon Microfighter (#75030), a robustly designed version that could just about sit a Han Solo minifigure in the cockpit and was widely known for its boxy styling. An even tinier Millennium Falcon

Microfighter (#75295) was released in 2021, followed by a small display variant in 2024, simply titled Millennium Falcon (#75375), which was accompanied by a 25th anniversary plinth. 2025 saw the release of yet another Mini-Build Millennium Falcon (#30708), a slimmed-down 74-piece item that received such ravenous interest that it is now sold out! There's clearly a lot of love for these often hard-to-find sets, which scale down the details, but what of the bigger builds?

A HYPERSPEED HISTORY

The very first Millennium Falcon set that LEGO launched was the 2000 Millennium Falcon (#7190), which consisted of 659 pieces and featured a relatively basic design without the ship's classic panels. It's not the

FACING PAGE The 2007 LEGO Millennium Falcon, a collector's edition of great detail.



RIGHT The 2017 LEGO UCS Millennium Falcon, one of the largest builds in company history.

standout collector's piece and failed to boast the intricacy of later installments. Regardless, it's a piece of history and has been valued as high as £500. Just four years later, the Millennium Falcon (#4504) would get a redesign, inspired by the scenes on Hoth from *The Empire Strikes Back*. Consisting of 985 pieces, this was a valiant upgrade that set the bar high for future attempts, although it was limited by a clunky aesthetic. Sealed editions have sold for upwards of £700, representing a turning point for the series.

Then, something special happened in 2007, because the Ultimate Collector's Millennium Falcon (#10179) entered the market. It was an unprecedented first as one of the largest sets LEGO had ever released, standing at 5,197 pieces and 90cm in length. The set was initially retailed at around the £350 mark, but it has since become the most valuable LEGO set of all time. Unopened versions can sell for easily over £2000, and that price point is only going to keep rising in the coming years. The 2011 Millennium Falcon (#7965) and 2015 Millennium Falcon (#75105) would follow, although neither would match the ambition of their predecessor. Largely sold as play sets, the latter of which was inspired by *The Force Awakens*, these interpretations are slightly easier to come across and have often been sold at less than retail value!

The same cannot be said for the UCS Millennium Falcon from 2017 (#75192). This prized product, which is still on sale today, retails at £734.99. Consisting of 7,541 pieces, it's another immense set to behold and a collector's item that is already being sold at far above the original value, with some pieces surpassing £1,000. While it's not a rare find right now, as soon as the product is taken out of the LEGO sale's cycle, its status will jump up. The *Solo* inspired Kessel



The 2014 LEGO Millennium Falcon Microfighter, part of a unique line of smaller builds.

Run Millennium Falcon (#75212) of 2018 and *Rise of Skywalker* Millennium Falcon (#75257) of 2019 would complete the run, although neither can hold a candle to the work that went into those two major collector's editions. What some fans may be interested in learning is a unique Dark Falcon (#75389) is currently on sale, inspired by the animated show *Rebuild the Galaxy*, and may well become one of those unusual finds down the line.

GALACTIC ARTIFACTS

So the 2007 Ultimate Collector's Millennium Falcon (#10179) and the 2017 UCS Millennium Falcon (#75192) maintain their status at the top of the pile. They are still being snapped up by LEGO collectors at a great pace, largely due to

their scale accuracy and dedication to the nuances of the ship. These aren't just LEGO sets designed for younger fans to recreate iconic movie moments with. They have been carefully considered as works of art, recreating every panel, dial and greeble. Each is accompanied by classic minifigures, but while the former features an extendable ramp and rotating dish, the latter goes a step further with a detachable canopy and moving landing legs.

The evolution of this product is a suitable representation of how quickly LEGO has progressed as a company dedicated, in part, to collectors, and the Millennium Falcon has quickly built up a cult following across that period. There are few other LEGO sets that encounter the same enthusiasm from fans, and although the Death Star range is just as mighty and impressive, there's something simply magical about having one of these Millennium Falcons in your home.

LEGO's strategy of continuing to release new models of the Falcon has ensured that the item maintains its relevance, as hobbyists track the new features added to the model and anticipate potential changes in future editions. But aside from the connection it has made with the *Star Wars* community, which is well known for poring over the smaller details of the brand's world-building, these LEGO sets are also master builds for those who seek out LEGO's most complex structures. They are genuine engineering feats that demonstrate just what LEGO can achieve in the modern age. Compare these standout releases to the very first version of the Millennium Falcon, and it's clear to see why many non-*Star Wars* fans respect the talent behind these builds. The Millennium Falcon will forever be a best-seller for good reason! ■

Bunk; a narrow bed. Dunk; what you do with a biscuit. Funk; heavily syncopated pop, which is actually quite annoying. Gunk; a smelly product for degreasing engines. Junk; the contents of your shed.

What does that leave? Ah yes; Punk. Whether being used by Shakespeare, Clint Eastwood or the Sex Pistols, I must confess it's a word I've never really liked. So it was with slight misgiving that I first encountered the eccentric fashion and accoutrements of what they call 'Steampunk'. But, like the beards and moustaches which can form part of the steampunk aesthetic, it's grown on me.

WHAT IS IT?

Steampunk is a genre which looks at a Victorian or old-time world where elegance and steam methods of transportation are combined. It originated in literature, but is now associated with jewellery, artefacts and costumes; a world of mad science, eco-warriors, lizards, and automata. Not that far from reality, really.

The aesthetic is polished brass, nickel, copper piping, mahogany, and riveted metal. The technology; steam, electricity, gearing, and valves; the magic of the machine age. The ethos of steampunk is very much a celebration of human ingenuity.

So, how does steampunk walk among us? Elements are there in bicycles, acoustic musical instruments and, err, spectacles. Yep, if you wear glasses, you're already on the steampunk spectrum.

WHY BASSETT-LOWKE?

In 2020, Hornby announced a raft of innovative retrospective products for their 100th anniversary. The news about the steampunk range was enough to pop the monocle out of my eye! Always keen to recruit new enthusiasts, Hornby had considered various large hobby markets, including superheroes, manga and cosplay. After careful research, they felt that steampunk was the most fitting for their tooling, expertise and customer base.

Although purists decry the BL brand being used for a modern commercial toy, it's



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Anyone for steampunk?

What sort of trains did Bassett-Lowke make? All sorts! **Mark Nolan** promises to lay off the dad jokes in this overview of Hornby's venture into the wacky world of steampunk trains.

actually rather appropriate. Before the word 'steampunk' existed, Bassett-Lowke Ltd of Northampton (founded 1899) was already creating the sort of miniature machinery that the genre later came to idolise. Their output, from clockwork and live steam locomotives to ship models, was precision craftsmanship with a flourish of Art Nouveau and Edwardian pride.

If you own a brand with that kind of heritage, it would be perverse not to use it. Whether Hornby's execution hit the mark or missed by a mile, it would always be collectable. The brand is, quite simply, unbreakable.

RECEPTION

According to Hornby, there was strong interest from those who follow steampunk. However, a crossover of the two is something that did prove to be very niche. The models are now pretty much sold out, but there is no plan to extend the run or add any new models to the range.

The result is a small, distinctive sub-range of highly idiosyncratic and collectable trains. We are talking about three locomotives, two coaches, four wagons and six buildings. There are also figures, tea chests, packs of cogs and paints for detailing.

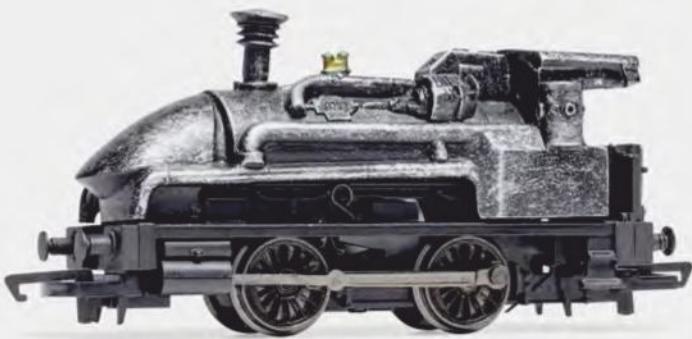
The packaging is distinctive and tasteful, with rivets, cogs and gears. The models include a card with some backstory, and you are encouraged to "create your own steampunk story, where dinosaurs roam the land, and the world's biggest currency is tea."

THE THREE LOCOS

So, what did this curious fusion of Victoriana and OO gauge actually look like on the track? The modeller and TV contestant Laurie Calvert had been



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gaining traction with his steampunk model railways at exhibitions for several years. Being approached by Hornby to help design a new range must be a bit like Paul McCartney asking you to advise on his new album.

Resin casts were made from Laurie's prototypes. There are two steam locos and one diesel. They were priced at £39.99, about a fiver more than the usual Hornby 0-4-0. As the bodies are cast in resin, they are much heavier than the usual plastic bodies. 'Smokey Joe' has become 'Smoking Joseph' in steampunk parlance.

Each model is individually painted with silver highlights. The handmade feel is increased by features like the wonky cab on 'Leander'. 'Fearless' is an homage to Gresley's streamlined A4 pacifics.

ROLLING STOCK

Although they run on OO gauge track, the bodies are slightly larger, partly due to the resin, which is inherently thicker. The result is a solid product which will withstand handling as toy trains should. The coaches and wagons are also resin-bodied, using traditional Hornby chassis.

There was less room for manoeuvre with the buildings. Most have gears and outside piping added to differentiate them from existing Hornby buildings. "The steampunk world is very forgiving. You can't do it wrong," says Laurie, who also featured on TV's 'Great Model Railway Challenge'.

1. BL2003 'Rogue' diesel loco "designed by committee as a slow-moving armoured vehicle".
2. BL8011 Standing Passengers.
3. BL2002 loco 'Fearless' echoes the designer's love of Gresley's streamlined A4 pacifics.
4. BL2001 loco 'Leander'. This modified design originally had more pipes.
5. BL4001 Thermopile Impulsion Tea Coach.
6. BL6003 Dinosaur Hatchery Wagon.
7. BL8006 Indicator Box
8. BL8009 Tea Chests

It's very different from anything which Hornby has done before. Or is it? There are parallels with Tri-ang Hornby's 1960s Battle Space range. Modellers hated it at the time, but it's now highly regarded.

The steampunk range includes two sets of unpainted metal figures. These were scanned from real people in steampunk attire. Even in OO scale, they look realistic.

Purists in the steampunk community can be scathing when companies attempt to make steampunk for them. True steampunk, they argue, must be handmade, repurposed and improvised, not mass-produced with a few token cogs stuck on. And they have a point. But Hornby's approach, while commercial, carried a sense of fun rather than exploitation. After all, as one wag observed, "it's not really possible to steampunk a steam engine."

GENTLE REBELLION

What the Bassett-Lowke steampunk range represents is more than a novelty. It's a



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metaphor for the 21st-century model hobby itself, caught between nostalgia and reinvention, tradition and playfulness. These models were never about rivet-counting accuracy. They were about the imagination that lies at the heart of modelmaking.

So before you decry the exploitation of Saint Bassett of Lowke, or criticise the whimsy of the products, ask yourself this: would you really prefer a world where our hobby manufacturers never take chances?

Me? I'll take those crazy steampunk trains all day, thanks. ■

UNITED KINGDOM

The leisure time and disposable income required for a thriving collectable market was a consequence of the Industrial Revolution. As well as the UK being first out of the blocks in industrialisation, our long history as a trading nation meant we had early and abundant access to a huge variety of products, many of which have become today's collectables. There is no nation with the variety and depth of interests.

There are stalls, streets and districts set aside in our villages, towns and cities that cater to the antique and vintage collectables bug. 18th-century lead toy soldiers from Germany, name plates off steam locomotives from the Midlands, and 1970s diecast American muscle cars... the variety of items collected is bound only by the interests of the British public. The nations below have their own collectables markets, but you can be sure the British will make an offer.

JAPAN

In Japan, collectables range from antique ceramics and Samurai swords to consumer electronics and anime figures and comics.

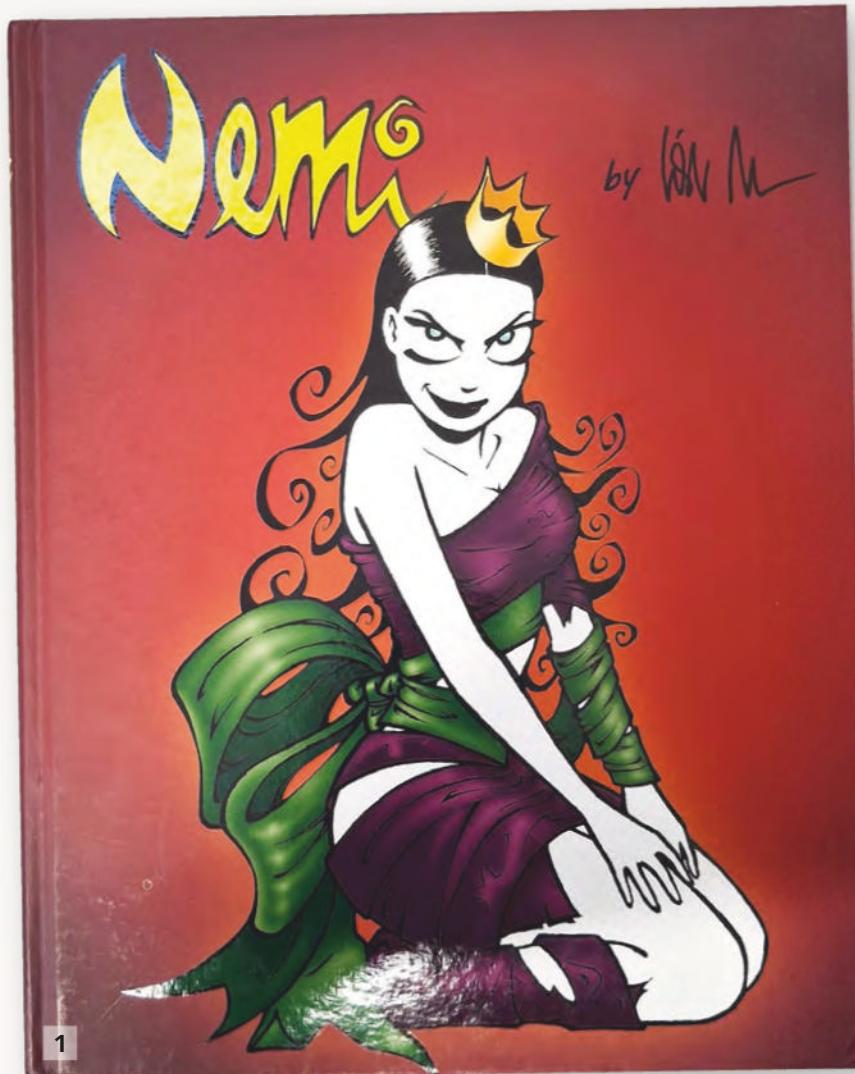
For example, collectors of delicate Edo period porcelains (approx. 1603–1867) will specialise in sub-periods and makers, while Meiji era (approx. 1868–1912) will wax lyrical about golden glazes and vibrant colours. In the last 40 years in particular, they have often found their prizes in the UK, as much of the porcelain was made for export to British tables over the last four centuries.

As with all things, condition, age, size, and quality will dictate the cost of the piece, but you can start collecting late period porcelain for as little as £10 a plate. And then work your way up to the £100,000 Arita ware pear-form bottle.

This reverence for skill, beauty, and the ancient feels right for the Japanese, yet Japan is also home to the most modern of collectables, brands, and toys. And their comforts to the collector go beyond feeding nostalgia.

For example, according to the Wall Street Journal, collectors of Pokémon cards (cardboard trading cards) have had a more than 3000% return on investment since 2004. This is a return significantly greater than that enjoyed by the Nikkei 225, FTSE 100 and S&P 500.

The Pokémon brand launched in Japan in 1996 (1999 in the UK) on handheld Game Boy consoles (very collectable) and quickly developed into a TV cartoon, a trading card game, and a film, with all the attendant merchandise this entails. There is a mountain of plastic, all of which has its admirers, but nothing compares to the



Worldwide Collectables

Richard Bevan explores how our personal collections reflect who we are, and how national collecting trends reveal a country's character.

international reach of the Pokémon cards.

The contrast of a Shinto temple sand garden and the neon delights of the Kabukicho district. A Satsuma porcelain bowl and an anime comic book. Collecting shows both the ancient and modern faces of Japan.

GERMANY

If there is any doubt about the relative youth of Germany as an entity, you only have to look at their collectable's tradition. London had been running its

underground trains for 8 years before the various principalities and nations pulled together to form Germany, so items of any real age tend to be regional. But German collectables are more than Black Forest carved bears (actually Swiss), beer steins, and nutcrackers.

Toys are the one genre in which Germany excels above all other nations. For over 500 years, Nuremberg was the toy capital of the world. Expressive porcelain-faced dolls, ingenious automatons, sturdy tin plate vehicles, and adorable stuffed

animals were created and sent out into the world. And now they are making their way back home to German collectors.

There is also a large militaria collectables market. Imperial memorabilia has a strong following, and then, there is a controversial market for Nazi memorabilia. Anything touched by the Nazi regime must not be displayed by law in Germany. But who would want to collect something they can't show their friends and family? People best avoided, that's who.

While Germany struggles with problematic militaria and its lack of ancient pottery, it more than makes up for it with a vibrant vintage market of collectables. It has only been thirty-five years since its collapse, but already consumer goods, tinned foods, cars, toys, pottery and art from the communist East German Democratic Republic (1949-1990) are being sought and collected by both people too young to remember the Berlin Wall, and those looking for a touch of nostalgia in a faster-moving world. The propaganda posters are incredible.

USA

In America, a young person's first introduction to collecting and trading is baseball cards. This is a rite of passage, as American as apple pie (If your 8-year-old isn't sporty...there's stamp collecting.)

High-value collectables such as art, coins, jewellery, wine, and classic cars rule the roost. As a relatively young society with a high GDP, many Americans see collecting as an investment before a passion. Except for sport. Sports memorabilia in the USA is driven by the same baffling emotions as the most avid of Yorkshire milk bottle collectors.

What we would consider "vintage" is often seen as "used" and doesn't hold the same allure to the American collector. But being such a huge and diverse place means there is a market for everything. After all, when you're "one in a million" in America, there are 400 people exactly like you.

What sets the USA apart is that collectables often reflect the consumerist society and "can-do" spirit stereotype. So, Coca-Cola bottles, McDonald's Happy Meal toys, and promotional memorabilia from long-defunct brands are all fair game. The packaging is often as prized as the product.

And with all rules, exceptions exist. In this case, Outsider Art in the USA is phenomenal. Created by self-taught artists outside the mainstream, these works are raw, expressive, and deeply personal. "Art school? Who has time for that? Give me a brush." Collectors of Outsider Art are often drawn to the story as much as the piece



because of their reverence for American individualism.

Then there's the Americana genre: Route 66 signage, Civil War relics, vintage advertising, and even early Apple computers. The collectables of the USA are a mirror of its mythology of entrepreneurship, nostalgia, and a readiness to scale.

CHINA

In the early 1990s, economic policy changed, and capitalism was allowed to play a part in China's incredible expansion. Over the following 30 years, private property became encouraged, and new opportunities and wealth were created with the attendant nationalism and pride. The Chinese new rich began "buying back" their heritage.

In the early days, it wasn't just 16th-century Jingdezhen porcelain that was snapped up. Granny's 19th-century Canton teapot also had a shot at a quiet retirement on a Chinese salaryman's hutch. But clearly, the country responsible for developing porcelain is now the centre of trade, with the highest prices paid and the most discerning experts.

But it's not just porcelain. While the country has a millennia-old tradition of collecting calligraphy, scrolls, jade, and ceramics, the modern Chinese collector is just as likely to be hunting for stuffed toys as for Song dynasty vases.

The collectable toy market in China alone is projected to exceed £15.5 billion by 2025, growing at 35% annually. Pop Mart, the brand behind the wildly popular Labubu figurines, has turned "ugly-cute" into a billion-dollar aesthetic. These

toys aren't playthings. They're lifestyle statements, social media stars, and emotional companions. I'm getting a heavy "pet rock" vibe here.

The most interesting thing about this is the demographic. Young urban women, especially Gen Z, dominate this sector, drawn by nostalgia, design, and the thrill of the hunt. Collecting in China is increasingly social: fan clubs, unboxing videos, and group chats strategise limited-edition releases. It's not just about owning, it's about belonging and community.

Traditional collectables still hold sway. Art and antiques remain the largest revenue-generating category, with trading cards now the fastest-growing segment. And with the nationalism, there's a rising enthusiasm for items rooted in Chinese culture, be they figurines inspired by folklore, dynastic fashion, or mythical beasts.

In China, the art of collecting bridges the ancient and the ultra-modern. A Tang dynasty inkstone and a neon-lit Labubu figurine might sit side by side on the same shelf. It's a market shaped by emotion, aesthetics, and a deep cultural memory recently given free rein.

These were just a sampling of what the world has to offer. But it is clear that there is no collectable in the world that does not have a corresponding enthusiast in the UK.

Much like sports we invent only to be outperformed at later, Britain has often created the original collectable, established the market for it, and fostered the passion behind it from the start. This, too, is woven into our character. ■

The latest Superman movie has turned into a blockbuster and relaunched the DC Comics universe, but when did it all start? Your first answer might be June 1938 with the launch of Action Comics #1, but this is wrong. The first Superman story was published in a fan magazine in early 1933, and surprisingly, Superman was actually a villain! The two co-founders of the Superman saga, Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster, soon realised he would be far better as a hero and set about creating the scripts and drawing the story. This was not looked upon favourably by quite a few publishers, and the concept languished for several years. The breakthrough came in late 1937, when the fledgling DC Comics company needed a new strip for its upcoming comic book, Action Comics. Superman appeared on the front cover in the classic pose of throwing a car. This proved to be an enormous success, but because it takes time to assess sales figures, this was not known until issue number four was published. Superman did not reappear on the cover of Action Comics until issue #7. He became the regular cover feature from #19. Such was his success that four of the earlier tales were reprinted in Superman #1 in summer 1939 to satisfy the demand from those who had missed the early Action Comics issues.

Needless to say, these early comics have not only become true collector's items but have assumed a status no one could have forecast. Action Comics #1 has fetched colossal sums; figures of \$5 or \$6 million have been mentioned. Superman #1 is worth less as it came later. There are probably only 100 to 120 copies of Action Comics #1 still surviving. Many were pulped during the war in paper drives. Condition really matters too. Only the tiny handful left in excellent or better condition achieve these high prices, but even coverless copies sell for large sums, and recently, just a cover, without the comic, made impressive money too.

It is not just the first issues that command good prices. Many early or key issues featuring Superman are in demand. There is a British angle to this, too. Some of the very early Superman stories were reprinted here, sometimes with alternative artwork by British artist John McCail, in a comic called *Triumph*. Two continuing series were issued. The first one in August 1939 for twenty issues, four of which had Superman on the front cover, and a second series in 1940 over eight issues. The war intervened and ended this series in Britain. In fact, Superman only resurfaced in a standard British comic, *Radio Fun*, from 1958 to 1961. There were, however, British/Australian reprints of many



Supermania

Gerald Edwards delves into the history of Superman memorabilia collecting from its outset, uncovering some fascinating facts and rare items.

Superman stories from both Action Comics and Superman comics throughout the 1950s and early 60s, published by Atlas Comics, which were taken directly from their US counterparts. All of these comics are scarce or rare due to low print runs and ageing.

The Superman story has undergone many changes over the years, often due to parallel universes where the narrative could be changed. One event stands out, which was the death of Superman in 1993 at the hands of Doomsday. His death did not last long, but the comic still sold six million copies, as it had really captured the public's imagination!

It was not just comics that were produced. Given the success of Superman, a movie was made in the 1940s, TV shows in the 1950s, and cartoons in the 1960s. This was followed up by toys, games, gum cards and so on. Most of the early merchandise was made in America, for America, so little or none showed up here. Gradually, however, some items did filter through or had British equivalents. One of the very first items made in the UK was a sweet packet made by Kane Products. This featured a set of TV stars, and one showed George Reeves as Superman from the US TV series. A similar picture of Superman also featured



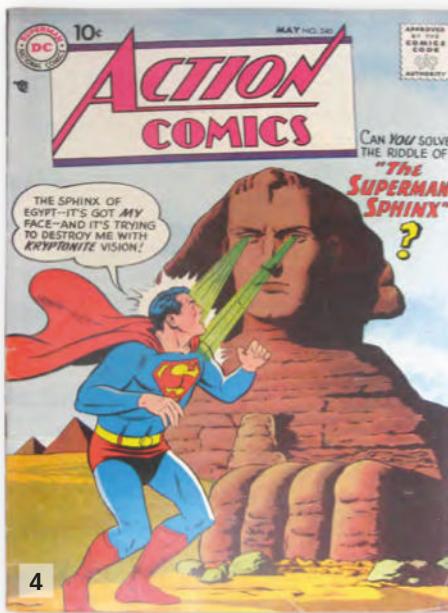
2



BUT AS YOU PONDER YOUR OWN ANSWERS TO CLARK'S BAFFLING PROBLEM, READER...



3



4

in the UK bubble gum set "Snap cards". Both of these were issued in 1958. In 1968, A&BC bubble gum cards issued a set called Superman in the Jungle. This was a complete set of full-colour adventures of Superman. There had been an earlier gum card set, in black and white, which is quite rare. Primrose sweets also issued a small set of fifty Superman cards in their sweet cigarette range first in 1968 and then reissued in 1972.

In 1982, Leaf bubble gum issued a set of transfers, given free in each pack. This was not just Superman, but also seven other DC comic superheroes. Each had their own specific wrapper. Superman was often linked to other characters in the DC Comics line. He was also a member of the Justice Society of America, which appeared in All Star Comics in the 1940s, and this idea was revived in the 1960s as the Justice League of America. Superman took a bit of a back seat in both organisations to avoid overshadowing the other members.

Superman's main hero companion was Batman, particularly in World's Finest Comics.

Apart from comics, toys were a mainstay. Again, most of the early toys were made for America only. There was really nothing available here for many years. With the arrival of action figures, this finally changed, but these were, again, made really for the American market; thankfully, some appeared on our shores too. Mego did a range of superheroes in the 1970s, both large and small. Some were sold here. The big breakthrough came in 1984 when Kenner released a set of Super Powers figures through their UK distributor, Palitoy. A set of twelve was issued, including Superman. There were accessories and play-sets too. A later addition was Clark Kent, Superman's secret identity, but the UK distribution stopped after the first series, so he was never on sale here. This set started the ball rolling, and later issues of superheroes did arrive here. Toy Biz released a Superman figure

1. An early Superman cover.
2. Original Superman art by Curt Swan.
3. A Superman cover from 1945.
4. An intriguing cover concept from 1958

in 1989, and Kenner, now under Hasbro's ownership, returned with Superman: Man of Steel and Superman Animated figures in 1995. Some of the later figures in this series were issued only in Europe, as interest in the US market had cooled. In 2005, Mattel released a large collection of DC heroes, including Superman, in its Justice League series. Right now, McFarlane Toys are issuing DC heroes, some of the packaging harking back to the original Super Powers line.

There are many other Superman items for the keen collector. Numerous trading card sets were issued in the 1990s with ever-increasing desirable special features such as holograms, foil cards, and cards with pop-up actions. KFC issued a nice set of Superman toys with their kids' meals in 2000, and even cereals got into the act with a Justice League pencil topper set, including Superman. Even the cereal box itself is collectable. Right now, Kinder Eggs have a set of small Playmobil figures based on the Justice League, and Superman still features on current sweet wrappers and boxes, too.

From a slow beginning, Superman collectables have soared. The early items command big money. Many of the comics demand huge sums of money. If you really want something special, there is always the chance to buy original Superman comic art. Every piece is unique, and these are the ultimate collectable, but you need deep pockets for most of them. The internal pages are dear, and the covers even more so, but these are truly special collectables. Early pages are almost nonexistent. Those from the Silver Age are very scarce, and only relatively new pages are more common. It is up, up and away for Superman collectors! ■

Alan Redfearn was fortunate to experience the heyday of the old toy collectors' field. For over forty years, he has been involved in the market (without a break), and he still feels excited about attending the next auction, toy fair, or boot market today. He says, "Post-Covid, sadly, the field has not been the same. The market changed after that and, in my view, for the worse."

An old toy collector since his late twenties, he later attended his first fair at Kempton Park in the mid-1980s. Sandown and Windsor soon followed. The aim was to buy what he liked. As his collection grew, the next step was to be a stallholder and sell off surplus items.

Unfortunately, Alan was afflicted by rheumatoid arthritis in his late thirties and taking a stall and lugging his merchandise around became an increasingly painful experience, so after a while he changed tack. Alan explains, "I was in Emsworth, Hampshire, one day and walked into an antiques shop, where I asked the owner if there was a cabinet to rent. He had a small vacant one in the corner, so I took it." To his great delight, this new enterprise soon took off, and before long, he was renting a larger unit to satisfy the growing demand.

Due to this success, Alan was soon hiring two further cabinets at the same time, located at Sussex collectors' shops in Pulborough and Storrington, followed later by Bridge Antiques in Arundel, where he rented a fourth. "Those were great days," enthuses Alan. "On occasions, I would turn up and find the units half empty. My problem was finding fresh stock to fill the constant gaps on the shelves." He continues, "I then knocked the first three on the head due to various reasons, including regular shop flooding, hit and miss sales and premise closure. I have remained in Arundel now for well over 10 years."

His merchandise, under the name 'A.R. Vintage Toys,' covers all aspects of old toys, from diecast and tinplate to plastic figures and Star Wars. Underneath his rented large cabinet (5 x 4.2 ft) lies the popular 'bag of bits', which are cheap and cheerful, and aimed primarily for children. His partner, Carole, also rents a unit close by where she sells Wade and Beswick figurines. Alan has a further shelf there for his overflowing merchandise.

He's had various jobs in the past, from being a bus driver to working at Mercedes-Benz in Brentford for 20 years as a body fitter, repairing crashed vehicles; but as his physical affliction worsened, which affects his hands, arms and shoulders, Alan took early retirement.



Collecting champions

Chris Stonor continues his series focusing on people who are keeping the old toy collectable market alive and thriving. This month, he meets up with Alan Redfearn.

Now aged 76, he and new technologies don't get along. Alan has no email address and struggles with a basic mobile phone. "I am not online and don't have a computer. I am too old for this new technology. There is far too much to learn." He smiles, "I am happy as I am."

Once a month, Alan drives 45 minutes from his home to Arundel, where he picks

up his sales money, pays the cabinet rent, and replenishes his stock. All other stallholders are emailed a weekly sales list, and the money earned is bank-transferred. "I don't do this for the money. I do it for the love of old toys," he points out. "Post Covid, my monthly sales are down by over 50% and any money I do make is ploughed back into my personal Dinky and Corgi collection."

1. Alan Redfearn.
2. Part of Alan's large 5 x 4.2 ft Cabinet at Bridge Antiques.
3. TV/Film-related models for sale in Alan's unit.
4. Dinky and Corgi diecast for sale.
5. Tinplate military models.
6. Alan's merchandise overflow shelf, in Carole's cabinet.

Alan continues, "Renting a unit is far more challenging today. In the past, I recommended the practice to other traders, but I don't now. With cabinets, you must give it three to six months before you decide to stay or go. Some people expect to make money straight away, but that is not realistic, and why a fair number never last long." Adding, "Also, start off small and if the venture becomes successful, then move on to a larger unit."

He explains that business varies from year to year, where there is no rhyme or reason for sales. "On occasions, I have done really well in January. Although when the Arundel Castle and gardens are open to the public between April and November, this attracts more visitors and helps my turnover."

There has been only one week when Alan has made no sales, but due to the recent rise in the cost of living, this has forced some outlets to increase their rent, and any profits are being squeezed even further.

What does become apparent is that Arundel is now the leading hub in the South of England for old toys. Within 100 yards of Bridge Antiques, there is the Arundel Antique Centre, The Cabinet Rooms across the road, and a quarter of a mile away in Tarrant Street, the Nineveh. There are several hundred stalls and cabinets, selling collectors' items, some of which include old toys.

Entering both the Arundel Antiques Centre and The Cabinet Rooms, for example, there are large units by the door offering classic examples either in M/B or clean condition. There are other showcases in the same outlets that sell similar items. Even one of the country's leading militaria shops lies nearby, offering some military-related models.

Alan says, "The town has seen a rise in the number of collectors' shops since I have been here. I love going around antique centres to see what's up for sale. For me, this is an enjoyable day out. How can you equate this to staring at a computer screen all day?"

So, we move on to that "E" word. The Covid lockdown made people explore internet-based auction houses like eBay, and this has had a detrimental effect on the high street as people are now used to sourcing what they want online. So, it is



inspiring to discover Arundel has remained steadfast.

Alan laments, "Also, since lockdown ended, fewer people leave their phone numbers at the shop desk, offering me collections for sale. In fact, I have had just two calls since. Before, I was spoilt for choice." Meanwhile, the market is ever changing as certain collectable toy fields go out of fashion and newer ones take over, while former collectors have either died or moved on.

He beams, "Renting cabinets over the last 20 years has been such an enjoyable pastime. I have met so many lovely people

along the way, where some are simply addicted to collecting. My partner has been a fantastic support too."

Alan laughs, "I must accept that old age will eventually get the better of me and I'll need to give up the business." Yet, with a twinkle in his eye, "Until then, I'll keep battlin' on!"

Editor's note: Apologies to Alan and Chris for the mix-up in December's issue. Alan's photos appeared alongside the wrong article text. We're pleased to publish the correct story here, and sorry to our readers for the confusion.



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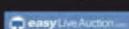
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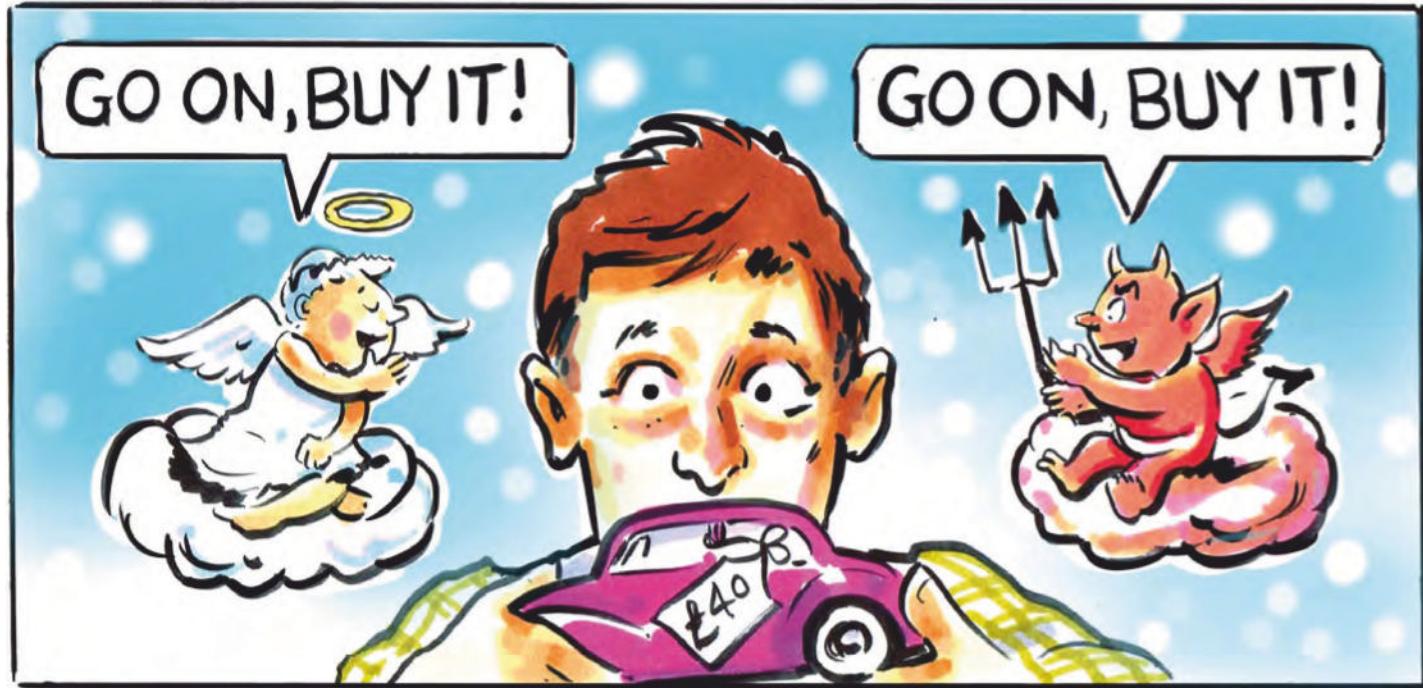
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Hi, my name is Ed and I'm a collectorholic. There, I've said it, which must mean I've taken the first step to facing up to my problem and recognising it for what it is. Of course, the real problem is my propensity to buy and sell stuff. Whether it's upgrading, simply making space for other things or just for the pleasure of owning them briefly, it's a problem. I'm ashamed to say that the turnaround has gotten faster and faster over the years. Indeed, I've been known to buy models just to quickly flip them to make a profit. This is shameful I know but in my defence the profits were ploughed straight back into more toys.

It all started when I helped a professional toy dealer many moons ago. I did a bit of restoration work and assisted at toy fairs, soon I was selling a few bits on the table too. He did warn me that the worst thing about being a dealer was that everything would have a price on it. A prize possession in your collection? A childhood toy you'd never sell? A gift from the past? Yup, for the right money they could all be prised away for a quick buck. He said it could

The Buying spree

Ed Karswell ponders the world of model collecting.

become an addiction and how right he was. All was not lost as I was able to learn early on that some things, either it be for rarity or condition, were probably irreplaceable, so they have always been at the back of the cabinet!

Recently I went through my sold list on eBay. Some of it I had clearly forgotten as once it popped into view my first thought was, wow, that's nice, I should buy it. Some models I obviously hadn't appreciated enough at the time. I don't regret selling them as what's done is done. I do however hope I've learned lessons from the process. The first one being that there's patently something wrong with me... Now the number of items that have passed through my hands must run into the thousands. Then there's the sheer volume of models I've restored too, which number well into the hundreds. Then there's the cost which we won't discuss. I'm sure there are many collectors who try not to look too

closely into that one. I also never baulked at using them as an asset and several collections have been sold over the years to pay for house moves etc. I was glad to be able to turn them into ready funds as there are many who can't.

I recently caught an episode of the TV show 'Bangers and cash'. For those who haven't seen it, it centres on the business of a family run classic car auction house in North Yorkshire, namely Mathewson's. Derek, the proprietor often remarks that the collecting of cars, automobilia and the like is an illness, with tongue firmly in cheek I might add. It's nice to see that the condition is publicly recognised. So, what of the future? Well even I am a getting weary of the buying and selling and prefer enjoying what I've already accumulated. I still enjoy restoring stuff so I can't see that side stopping.

So, is there a cure for all this? I have to say, poverty aside, I'm not sure that there is. Some lose interest when they've exhausted all the avenues. Many sell up to go on a world cruise or buy something nice for the garden. A few go to auction, knowing their offspring have no interest in taking on that collection of old stuff upstairs. As for me I'm a little resigned to the fact so I've thoroughly enjoyed this addiction, idiosyncrasy or eccentricity, call it what you will and will strive to carry on as an abject lesson to others. ■

'A prize possession in your collection? A childhood toy you'd never sell? A gift from the past? Yup, for the right money they could all be prised away for a quick buck.'



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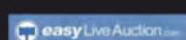
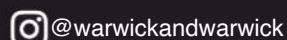
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I was always intrigued by the many lorries I saw delivering a variety of goods and driving around Sheffield. There were many Fords, Bedfords, and Austins, but every so often a Foden was seen making its way up one of the many steep hills in the city. These Fodens were usually four-wheel versions, and I cannot remember any eight-wheel models. However, these Fodens were impressive due to their large scale. Once again, toy manufacturers produced a variety of Foden models, and, of course, so did Dinky Toys in the Supertoys range.

The Dinky Supertoys Foden Flat Truck with Chains, number 505, was first seen in the 1951 Dinky Toys catalogue as a Dinky Toy, and was the first Foden cab version. The model was based on the Foden Flat Truck number 502, but is now adapted with stanchions and chains on the back. It came with a maroon cab and back or a green cab and back and had the first style cab with a silver radiator and bumper. This model with the first type cab is shown in the 1951 Dinky Toys catalogue. The models came in blue card lift-off lid boxes and were given the new FG cabs with the new style radiator painted in silver, as seen in the Dinky Toys catalogues of 1952 and 1953, and here the illustration is of the green model. This model is shown as a black and white advert in the Meccano Magazine of March 1955. It also appears that no reviews of the model were given in the Meccano Magazine.

In 1954, the model was designated as number 905. The model is in green in the Dinky Toys catalogues and became a Dinky Supertoys in the 1955 edition. In the 1957 catalogue, it is shown with a red cab, red wheels, and a grey back. A slightly less common version comes in light blue with the grey back and blue wheels. There are also some of these models with yellow wheels. However, the last red models had

BELOW Foden Flat Trucks with Chains in Maroon, Green, red with grey back and light blue with grey back and with the new radiators these are now as Dinky Supertoys no 905.



ABOVE Dinky Toys Foden Flat Truck with Chains no 505 with its box.

Foden Flat Truck with Chains

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

red plastic wheels. All these models were sold in the blue and white striped card lift off lid boxes, and the model was deleted in 1964. After this, the back was used on the Leyland Octopus Flat Truck with Chains, number 935, for a further two years.

The real Fodens were seen on British roads and were often used by brewing companies and, of course, other haulage companies. The Foden DG was produced between 1935 and 1948 and was the basis for the first Dinky Supertoys Foden. The next Foden modelled by Dinky Toys was the Foden FG, which went into production in

1948 and was available until the late 1950s, and it had a stylised chrome radiator grill. The company was founded in 1856 using the name of Hancock and Foden. The business was in engineering, and they then moved into agricultural machinery and later steam traction engines. This led to steam lorries followed by diesel lorries.

The Dinky Supertoys Foden's with their various backs have always been popular with collectors. They do feature in The Dinky Toys Collectors' Association Journal on occasions with illustrations. You can find out more or join by visiting the www.dtcawebsite.com. ■





ABOVE 20 cm long Berliet Shell tanker has a plastic cab and chassis by Minialuxe and a lithographed tinplate body by Mont Blanc.

Collaborating in style

We've all heard the old joke that a camel is a horse designed by a committee — the point being that when

several parties have input into a design, the end result is an awkward compromise rather than something harmonious. So, what would happen if two different companies with different areas of expertise got together to design a toy vehicle? This 'hybrid' model of a Berliet Shell petrol tanker, made in France in the 1950s, is proof that collaborative efforts can pay off.

Toy companies, like all other industrial producers, tend to specialise in a particular type of manufacturing process. Older firms, like Meccano or Wells-Brimtoy, were equipped to make tinplate toys such as clockwork trains, while newer ones, such as Airfix, developed skills in plastic moulding. During the 1950s, tin toys fell out of fashion, partly because they had sharp edges, which led to safety concerns and partly because the techniques of plastic moulding had made great strides during the wartime years and were now being applied to toy production in innovative ways. To change suddenly from tinplate to plastic would have been a major

Andrew Ralston explores how Minialuxe and Mont Blanc joined forces to blend metal and plastic in the 1950s, creating the distinctive Berliet 'Shell' tanker.

step, so in the fifties there were quite a few 'transitional' toys combining both materials; the best known in the UK was the range of gyro-powered Bedford trucks by Brimtoy, with a plastic chassis and a lithographed tin body. A French equivalent of these was the Sesame range, many of them based on Renault Estafette vans with brightly printed superstructures carrying different advertising logos.

There were two ways for established tin toy makers to manage the transition from metal to plastic: make a considerable investment in new plastic moulding equipment or, alternatively, work in collaboration with a company already experienced in this field. This second course was taken by Jouets Mont Blanc, a trademark registered in 1947 by Joseph Vullierme, whose factory was in Rumilly in the Haute-Savoie region of France. Mont Blanc made many metal toys, including some impressive large-scale trucks (about fifteen inches long) based on a Berliet GLR chassis. These

were sophisticated and expensive toys, and some even incorporated features like battery-operated headlights. Seeking to offer something along the same lines but at a more affordable price, Mont Blanc co-operated with another firm, Minialuxe, situated in the town of Oyonnax in the Rhône-Alpes region. Oyonnax was, and still is, the home of the French plastics industry, and Minialuxe is known to collectors as the maker of a large range of plastic cars similar in style to those by Norev.

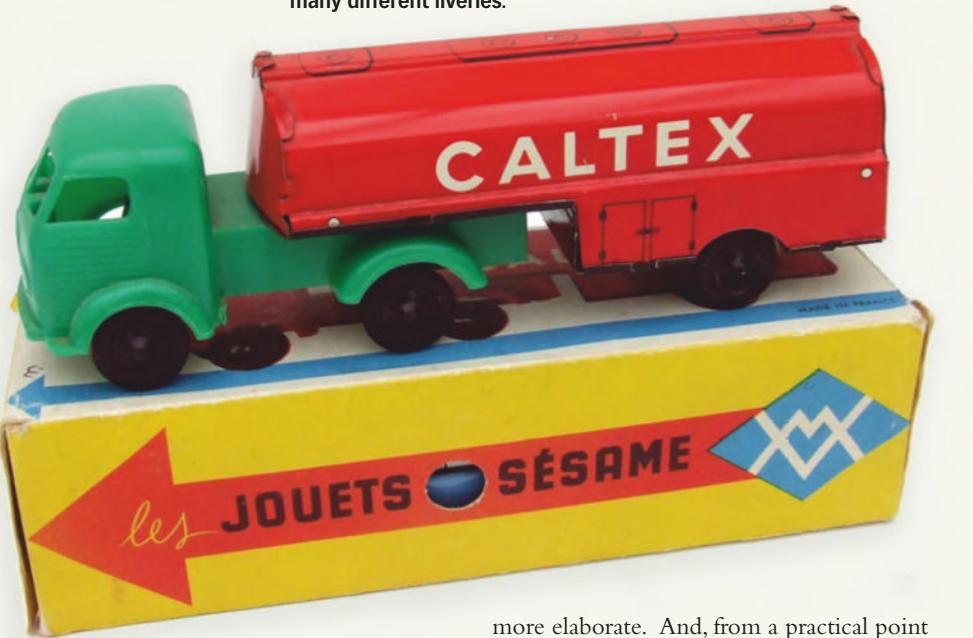
It made sense to use plastic to achieve a more accurate rendering of the rounded lines of the Berliet cab (a shape difficult to press out of a flat metal sheet) and to stick to the traditional lithographic printing method on a thin metal sheet to produce the details of the Shell tanker body. There's no maker's name on the chassis, but the diamond-shaped logo on the side of the tanker carries the letters 'JMB' for Jouets Mont Blanc. Another subtle clue is the number plate at the front, which includes not only the same three letters



ABOVE In the UK, the Brimtoy Pocketoy series used the same combination of plastic and tinplate construction.

LEFT Note the letters 'JMB' on the number plate, standing for 'Jouets Mont Blanc'.

BELOW The French equivalent of the Pocketoys range was Sesame. This example has a Simca tractor unit pulling a 'Caltex' tanker. Unlike the Minialuxe/Mont Blanc tanker, the Sesame came in many different liveries.



Naturally, the Berliet GLR was much modelled by French Dinky and CIJ, among others. However, the Minialuxe/Mont Blanc version is fairly unusual as diecast trucks like Dinky Toys tended to be in a smaller scale (around 1/50) than the cars, whereas the Minialuxe is stated to be in 1/43 scale (though at 20 cm in length it is probably nearer to 1/40). The plastic and tin production makes it lighter than a diecast, and it was therefore suited to being friction-driven.

The Mont Blanc/Minialuxe collaboration seems to have been a one-off. The toy wasn't quite in the style of other Mont Blanc products, which tended to be bigger and

but the digits 74, the number of the French *département* where Rumilly is situated. It's not known for certain who approached whom, but the initiative may have come from Mont Blanc, as their initials appear not only on the metal tanker body but on the bumper of the plastic cab. The very attractive picture box makes it clear this is a joint effort, as it features the Minialuxe logo on one end flap and the Mont Blanc logo on the other. It would have been quite easy for Mont Blanc to offer other petrol company liveries on this tanker, but the only known variation on the model is a flat truck with sides, illustrated on one face of the box, indicating that the same packaging was used for both. The very colourful artwork is by Noël Dufourt, a well-known illustrator of packaging and children's books of the era, whose work also appears on various other Minialuxe boxes.

As for the prototype, the Berliet GLR was familiar on French roads for decades. Launched in 1949, it was powered by various diesel or petrol engines and was available with tipper, flatbed, tanker, and other bodies. Initially recognisable by its long bonnet, rounded nose and two-piece windscreens, the GLR's appearance was updated over the years, but in essence the range continued in production until 1977, by which time something like 100,000 had been built.

more elaborate. And, from a practical point of view, there were presumably transport considerations with the need to deliver the metal bodies made in Rumilly to Oyonnax, a distance of 85 km. In the longer term, Mont Blanc successfully managed the transition to plastic moulding and went on to specialise in remote-control plastic cars, their 1/12 scale Citroen SM of 1970 being one of the most desirable.

As such, the Berliet GLR Shell Tanker represents a brief intermediate stage in the transition from tin toys to plastic, which was probably the most significant technological change in the toy industry in the post-war era. If Mont Blanc had not adapted to this trend, they would not have survived as long as they did. ■

BELOW This more elaborate 15 inch Berliet GLR was more typical of Mont Blanc products. It is all metal and features electric lights. The 'Lait [milk] Mont Blanc' decoration recalls the geography of the area where the toys were made. (Photo courtesy of artstoysanddesign.com)





I had such a great time writing last month's article – and taking the photos for it – that I couldn't resist keeping the momentum going and I decided to carry on photographing my small but much-loved collection of cars and trains.

However, I quickly ran into a snag. My trusty homemade lightbox, while handy, just wasn't giving me the consistent lighting I needed. As the autumn days grew darker, I found myself battling dim light and uneven shadows. Taking decent photos was becoming more of a challenge than I'd hoped.

So, I did what any self-respecting enthusiast would do: I went trawling through the internet for a solution. Before long, I realised that the best way forward was to invest in a proper lightbox – ideally one with built-in lighting.

That's when I came across a compact little model by Puluz. At just £12, the 23cm version seemed perfect for my Matchbox cars and Tri-ang trains, and it's turned out to be an excellent addition to my setup. The Puluz lightbox comes with a built-in LED strip containing 72 lights, which gives a lovely even glow and removes harsh shadows and reflections. It also allows you to

ABOVE Tri-ang's Nellie and Polly look good together and the three-quarter front shot gives a suggestion of the weight and presence of the real thing.

RIGHT & FAR RIGHT Opening the doors and bonnets of these Matchbox Superfast Mazda and Monteverdi models gives their photos a bit more life.

Lights, camera & some action

Mike, our designer, takes his budget photography a step further by purchasing a cheap lightbox.

shoot from different angles, either through the front or the top, which makes it easy to adjust for each subject. Best of all, it folds up neatly, and when packed away in its very neat carrier bag – it's no bigger than an A4 sheet of paper – I can store it anywhere without cluttering my workspace.

It's an extremely simple piece of kit, but it's made a huge difference to the consistency of my photography. Proof, really, that you don't need expensive equipment to get satisfying results.

EXTRA LIGHTING

While the lightbox gives great diffused lighting from above, it's sometimes useful to have a second light source from the side of the front. For this I still use my trusty old Anglepoise lamp with a sheet (or sometimes two) of copier paper taped in front of the bulb to diffuse the light a little. You will see the effect of this in the photo above. The fronts of the boilers of Nellie and Polly were originally a little dark, and a little extra lighting from the front has picked out the otherwise handles and handrails. To keep this lighting subtle though, I had to place the lamp about six feet away from the models.

MAKING DYNAMIC PHOTOS

Lighting's all very well, but something else that can bring your models to life is dynamic photography, combining creative angles, dramatic lighting, and thoughtful composition. With a few key techniques, you can give small-scale subjects much more impact and make them visually compelling.





ABOVE Placing this Tri-ang Brake Van on top of its box and shooting it from a low angle turns this quite simple subject into something a bit more monumental.

CAMERA ANGLES AND PERSPECTIVE

Shooting from a low angle – at the model's 'eye level' – is a great way to create a sense of realism and dynamism, mimicking how we view life-sized objects. On the other hand, why not try a photo from a higher viewpoint. You can also experiment with extreme or tilted angles (often called 'Dutch angles') to add movement and tension. Getting close or using a macro lens can reveal the fine details.

LIGHTING CAN CREATE IMPACT

Lighting shapes the mood and depth of your photos. Use directional light from the side to cast natural shadows and highlight form. Remember to always try to diffuse harsh light to prevent sharp contrasts. Reflectors or white boards can bounce light into darker areas to reveal detail. Mixing natural and artificial light can add warmth and complexity, while small in-scale LEDs in a diorama enhance atmosphere and realism.

COMPOSITION AND STAGING

Strong composition turns a good photo into a great one. Use leading lines – like roads, rails, or structures – to guide the viewer's eye toward the model. Incorporate simple props or scenery to suggest a story or context, while keeping the background clean and uncluttered to maintain focus. For balance you could even consider dividing your photo into nine equal parts using two equally spaced horizontal lines



RIGHT Shooting this Matchbox Superfast Hellraiser at eye level gives it a bit of presence, lacking in more familiar viewpoints.

and two equally spaced vertical lines. Perhaps this could be the subject of a future article, who knows!

Finally, a big thank you to my very good friend Diane for allowing me to photograph some of her wonderful collection of Tri-ang trains this month. The rather tatty Matchbox Superfast cars are my own! ■



Using a lightbox for photographing models



ABOVE The Puluz 23cm lightbox gives very good and consistent lighting and costing just £12, it might make the perfect Xmas gift!

KEY BENEFITS

Soft, diffused lighting

The translucent walls of a lightbox scatter light evenly, minimizing highlights and shadows that can obscure fine details. This ensures accurate colours and a balanced presentation.

Reduced reflections

Diffusion helps control glare on glossy or metallic finishes, allowing the true surface texture and paintwork to show through clearly.

Consistent environment

A lightbox provides a controlled space that eliminates external light interference, making it easier to produce repeatable results across different sessions.

Seamless backgrounds

Built-in or curved backdrops create a smooth transition behind the model, removing visual distractions and giving photos a polished, studio-style appearance.

Professional and efficient

Lightboxes simplify setup compared to complex lighting rigs, streamlining your workflow while maintaining professional-quality results.

When to use one

Lightboxes are especially useful for glossy or metallic models, where glare can ruin photos. They also excel in product photography, ensuring consistency across listings or portfolios, and for build logs, where clear documentation of progress is essential.

Considerations

Because diffusion softens light, exposure may require brighter lamps or longer shutter speeds.

Conclusion

A lightbox is a simple yet powerful tool that helps collectors capture clean, consistent, and professional images. With even lighting and minimal setup, it enhances presentation quality while revealing every intricate detail of your collection.

PRICE GUIDE

Rounding up the latest toy sales from across the country, with a brief visit to specialist auction rooms.



▲ A boxed Limited Edition Brooklin BRK151x 1/43 scale 1956 Pontiac Pathfinder Sedan Delivery. The CTCS Special 2012 model in 'Harvest Orange'. **Sold for £50, British Toy Auctions, October**



▲ Corgi Toys - Corgi #271 James Bond Aston Martin. This rare issue model in flat silver features an off-white / beige interior, and comes with two unpainted blue figures attached to sprue. The model appears to be in Mint condition and gives the impression it has never been removed from its box. **Sold for £170, British Toy Auctions, October**



▲ Corgi Toys - A boxed Corgi Toys #342 'The Professionals' Ford Capri. Mint condition, and comes with three plastic figures which also appear Mint. **Sold for £160, British Toy Auctions, October**



▲ Dinky Toys 981 Horse Box "British Railways Express Horse Box Hire Service". Maroon, red supertoy hubs and silver trim - Good Plus to Excellent lovely bright example. **Sold for £60, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ A boxed Brooklin BRK89A 1/43 scale 1949 Checker New York 'Yellow' Cab. The model in blue metallic appears to be in Mint condition. **Sold for £50, British Toy Auctions, October**



▲ Corgi Toys - Corgi #292 Starsky & Hutch Ford Torino. The model in red with white stripes, features 4 spoke wheels, and appears to be in Mint condition - it gives the impression that it has been removed from its box. The model also comes complete with original figures which also appear to be in Mint condition. **Sold for £170, British Toy Auctions, October**



▲ Corgi Toys - A boxed Corgi Toys #290 Kojak Buick. The iconic model in metallic bronze appears to be in Mint condition, and comes with Kojak figure and Crocker figures. **Sold for £150, British Toy Auctions, October**



▲ Dinky Toys 522 Beg Bedford Lorry. Maroon cab and chassis, dark tan open back and supertoy hubs, silver trim and with tow hook. **Sold for £70, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ A boxed Brooklin BRK80 1/43 scale 1937 Pierce-Arrow Travelodge. The model in blue metallic appears to be in Mint condition. **Sold for £40, British Toy Auctions, October**



▲ Corgi - A boxed Corgi #260 'Superman' Metropolis Police Car. Mint condition - the model gives the impression that it has never been removed from its box! The model is housed in a Very Near Mint illustrated striped window box. **Sold for £95, British Toy Auctions, October**



▲ Corgi Toys - A boxed Corgi Toys #269 James Bond Lotus Esprit Turbo. The model in white appears to be in Mint condition. **Sold for £75, British Toy Auctions, October**



▲ Dinky Toys Pre-war 43 "RAC" Set To Include - Motorcycle and side car. Blue, black, white solid wheels; Tinplate Hut and 2 X figures - Overall condition is Good to Good Plus. **Sold for £180, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Dinky Toys 419 Leyland Cement Wagon "Ferrocrete/Portland Cement" Yellow including supertoy hubs with grey tyres - Good Plus. Picture box. **Sold for £60, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Dinky Toys Pre-war 42 "Police" Set To Include - Motorcycle and side car. Green, black including solid wheels with "Police" Telephone Box and 2 X Figures - Overall condition is Good Plus. **Sold for £180, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Brooklin BRK89B 1/43 scale Checker New York Taxicab 'National Transportation'. The model which comes with two bags of accessories, appears to be in Mint condition. **Sold for £60, British Toy Auctions, October**



▲ Dinky Toys Pre-war 44 "AA" Set To Include - Motorcycle and side car. Yellow, black, with white solid wheels; Tinplate Hut and 2 X Figures - Overall condition is Good to Good Plus (light rusting to Hut), inner pictorial carded tray is Good Plus, with a Fair to Good blue lift-off lid box. **Sold for £200, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Dinky Toys 465 Morris Commercial "Have a Capstan" Good Plus to Excellent (Minor box wear marks to sides), still a superb example in a Good Plus yellow and red carded picture box **Sold for £90, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Dinky Toys Military 660 Mighty Antar Tank Transporter RARE Issue With Detachable Back. Good Plus still a bright example of a harder to find issue with a Good blue and yellow lift off lid picture box. **Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Dinky Toys 503 Foden (Type 2) Flat Truck with Tailboard. Condition is Excellent, lovely bright example in a Good Plus blue lift off lid box with paper label. **Sold for £130, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Dinky Toys 918 Guy (Type 2) "Ever Ready Batteries for Life". Blue cab, chassis and back, silver trim, and red supertoys hubs - Condition appears to be Good Plus, still a lovely bright example in a Good to Good Plus blue and white striped lift-off lid box. **Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Dinky Toys 454 Trojan "Drink Cydrax Sweet Sparkling". Mid-green body and ridged hubs, silver trim - Excellent Plus, lovely bright example in a Good Plus yellow and red carded picture box. **Sold for £70, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Dinky Toys Military 666 Missile Erector Vehicle With Corporal Missile On Launching Platform. Excellent Plus with a Good Plus white and black missile in a Good Plus displays well blue and white striped lift off lid box with inner pack piece. **Sold for £80, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Dinky Toys 501 Foden (Type 1) 8-Wheel Diesel Wagon. Excellent (couple of very small marks on wheel arches) in a Good to Good Plus blue lift-off lid box. **Sold for £560, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Dinky Toys 923 Big Bedford "Heinz 57 Varieties". Red cab and chassis, yellow back and supertoys hubs with grey tyres, silver trim - Condition is Good Plus (some small chips on rear door hinges) in a Fair to Good blue and white striped lift-off lid box. **Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Dinky Toys 273 Mini "RAC Road Service" Van. Condition is Excellent (couple of small marks on side protruding edge) in a Good Plus yellow and red carded picture box. **Sold for £90, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Dinky Toys Military 665 Honest John Missile Launcher. Excellent in a Good Plus later issue red and yellow lift off lid box with detailed picture and folded instruction leaflet. **Sold for £70, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Dinky Toys 511 Guy (Type 1) 4-Ton Lorry - Two-tone. Good Plus, still a beautiful example in a Good to Good Plus blue lift-off lid box with paper label. **Sold for £160, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Dinky Toys 986 Mighty Antar Low Loader with Propeller Load. Overall condition is Good Plus, nice bright example in a Fair blue and white striped Lift-off lid box with inner packing pieces and ring. **Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Dinky Toys 274 Mini "AA Patrol Service". Yellow body, roof, opening plastic doors and headboard, blue interior, silver base and trim, spun hubs - Good Plus, bright example in a Good yellow and red carded picture box. **Sold for £70, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ French Dinky Toys Military 809 GMC Covered Truck. Near Mint in a Good to Good Plus red and yellow carded picture box with inner carded tray. **Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Dinky Toys 513 Guy (Type 1) Flat Truck with Tailboard. Excellent, lovely bright example including blue lift-off lid box with paper label. **Sold for £220, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ French Dinky Toys Military 884 Brockway. Drab green including concave hubs with correct load - Near Mint with inner packing piece. **Sold for £110, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Dinky Toys 451 Johnston (Ford) Road Sweeper. RARE Yellow cab and rear tanker, Excellent Plus lovely example in a Good bubble pack. **Sold for £320, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Dinky Toys South African Issue 194 Bentley Coupe. Good Plus still a lovely bright example of a hard to find issue with a Good Plus correct yellow and red carded picture box "Arthur E Harris" South African text. **Sold for £800, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Triang Spot On 404 Morris Mini Van. Excellent Plus Beautiful bright example in a Fair window box, inner carded tray is Good Plus with ladder and loose figure. **Sold for £700, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ CMC, a boxed 1:18 scale M-083 Bugatti Type 57 SC Atlantic Coupe Chassis-Nr 57.591 (R.B. Pope) 1938. conditions generally appear Good Plus to Excellent although the rear spare wheel cover appears to have a broken hinge, in a generally Excellent box with internal Polystyrene. **Sold for £180, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ CMC, a boxed 1:18 Scale M-179 Talbot Lago Coupe T150 C-SS. ("Teardrop" Figoni and Falaschi, 1937 - 1939, Memory Edition). conditions generally appear Near Mint to Mint in a generally Near Mint box with internal polystyrene. **Sold for £180, Vectis Auctions, October**



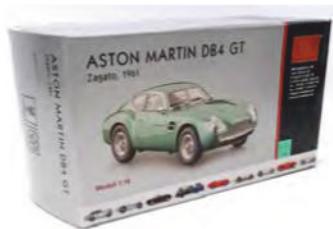
▲ Dinky Toys South African Issue 198 Rolls Royce Phantom V. Lime green body with red interior, chrome trim and spun hubs with white tyres. **Sold for £620, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Matchbox Regular Wheels 22c Pontiac GP Coupe. Excellent (small chip on rear wheel arch) in a Good Plus RARE and hard to Find Type F colour picture box. **Sold for £800, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Original Classics, a boxed 1:24 scale Bedford Duple OB Coach (Southdown Version). Condition appears Good although it may have been on display and would benefit from a further clean in Good box. **Sold for £80, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ CMC, a boxed 1:18 Scale M-132 Aston Martin DB4 GT Zagato 1961. conditions generally appear Near Mint to Mint in a generally Near Mint box with internal Polystyrene. **Sold for £220, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Dinky Toys 504 Foden (Type 2) Tanker Two-Tone Red cab. Good Plus bright example including blue lift off lid box with paper label. **Sold for £360, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Gilbow, a boxed 99102 1:24 Scale, London's Daimler DMS Bus. London Transport "Norbiton Garage Route 131, 213, 213A and 285". Although unchecked for completeness condition generally appears to be Near Mint in a generally Excellent to Near Mint box with internal packaging. **Sold for £240, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ CMC, a boxed 1:18 Scale M-154 Ferrari 250 GTO "Red" 1962. conditions generally appear Near Mint to Mint in a generally Near Mint box with internal packaging. **Sold for £300, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Carlton Product Enterprise, a boxed Gerry Anderson Diecast Classics Fireball XLS World Space Patrol. completeness conditions generally appear Near Mint in a generally Excellent box. **Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Dinky Toys 920 Guy Warrior "Heinz 57 Varieties". Excellent overall, lovely bright example of a harder to find issue in a Good, correct issue plain blue and white striped box. **Sold for £1,500, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Sun Star, a boxed 1:12 Scale 4792 1960 Morris Traveller. Although not checked for completeness conditions generally appear Good in a generally Good box with retail stickers and internal polystyrene. **Sold for £110, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Sunstar, a boxed 1:24 scale London Transport Routemaster Bus - No.2922. Condition appears Good although it may have been on display and would benefit from a further clean in Good box. **Sold for £120, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Dinky Toys Pre-war 28b (type 1) Delivery Van "Pickfords". Blue body, tinplate grille surround and fitted with smooth black hubs, white tyres - Fair overall. **Sold for £620, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Autoart (Millennium) series, a boxed 1:18 scale MGB GT Coupe Mk.II. in Red with Black interior, Chrome trim and wire wheels. Condition appears Excellent to Near Mint in generally Good box with old price sticker and Good inner Polystyrene. **Sold for £120, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Kyosho - A boxed Limited Edition Kyosho TSM11811 1976 Tyrrell P34 #4 'Japanese Grand Prix' 1/18 scale diecast model. the model appears to be in Mint condition. Both polystyrene inner box, and card outer box appear to be in Mint condition. The model comes with tool and assembly instruction sheet. **Sold for £85, British Toy Auctions, October**



▲ CMC - A boxed CMC M-068 Ferrari Dino 156 F1, 1961 'Sharknose' Italian GP 'Phil Hill' 1/18 scale diecast model. appears to be in Excellent overall condition which would be enhanced with a sympathetic clean. The model comes with CMC instruction sheet, leaflet, plus tool. The model sits in a Mint polystyrene inner box, and is contained within a Very Good - Excellent card outer box with some minor wear. **Sold for £190, British Toy Auctions, October**



▲ Lansdowne Models - A boxed Lansdowne Models LDM75 1/43 scale 1930 Bentley 8-Litre Chassis No. YF5002 Coachwork by HJ Mulliner. The model in black appears to have some light dusty signs of display otherwise appears to be in Mint condition, and comes housed within an Excellent lift off lid box. **Sold for £40, British Toy Auctions, October**



▲ Corgi Aviation Archive 1:32 Scale De Havilland Mosquito. boxed, AA34604, Mosquito FBV1, RNZAF 487 Sqdn Group Captain PC Pickard, Amiens Raid 1944, appears undisplayed, with certificate, stand and packaged accessories, very good condition. **Sold for £70, Special Auction Services, October**



▲ Minichamps - A boxed Limited Edition Minichamps #537841808 McLaren TAG MP4/2 'N.Lauda' World Champion Portuguese GP 1984, 1/18 scale resin model. appears to be in Mint condition, and sits within an Excellent inner polystyrene box, housed within a Mint outer box. **Sold for £100, British Toy Auctions, October**



▲ Brooklin Models - A boxed Limited Edition Brooklin Models RE22x Special 1/43 scale 1961 Volvo P1800 'The Saint'. appears to be in Mint condition, and comes housed within an Excellent box. **Sold for £65, British Toy Auctions, October**



▲ Norev - A boxed Norev #182760 Aston Martin LMP1 'Le Mans 2009' 1/18 scale diecast model. The model appears to be in Mint condition, and sits within a Fair Plus window box with some general storage related wear. **Sold for £60, British Toy Auctions, October**



▲ Corgi Aviation Archive 1:32 Scale De Havilland Mosquito. boxed, AA34602, NS502, 544 Sqdn RAF Benson 1944, appears undisplayed with accessories and certificated stand, very good. **Sold for £60, Special Auction Services, October**



▲ Hot Wheels - A boxed Hot Wheels 'Elite' BLY40 Ferrari 312 T2 #1 'Niki Lauda' Monaco GP 1976 1/18 scale diecast model. The model appears to be in Mint condition, sitting within Mint polystyrene inner, housed within an Excellent card box. **Sold for £100, British Toy Auctions, October**



▲ Brooklin Models - A boxed Brooklin Models BRK16 1/43 scale 1931 Marmon Sixteen 4-Door Convertible Sedan 'Top-Up'. appears to be in Mint condition, and comes housed within an Good - Very Good box with some general wear. **Sold for £22, British Toy Auctions, October**



▲ AutoArt - A boxed Limited Edition AutoArt #85586 Jaguar D-Type Le Mans 1955 Winner #6 'J.M.Hawthorn / I.L.Bueb' 1/18 scale diecast model. The model exhibits some dull signs of display, otherwise appears to be in Mint condition, and comes with certificate which numbers the model 1759. **Sold for £260, British Toy Auctions, October**



▲ Corgi Aviation Archive 1:48 Scale McDonnell Douglas F4 Phantom. boxed, AA27902, XV592/L RAF 111 Sqdn, Leuchars, 1970s, undisplayed, with packaged accessories, stand and certificate, excellent. **Sold for £60, Special Auction Services, October**



▲ CMC - A boxed CMC M-100-B-002 Bugatti Typ 35 GP Nation Colour Project 'Great Britain' 1/18 scale diecast model. appears to be in Mint condition, and comes with CMC leaflet, plus tool. **Sold for £160, British Toy Auctions, October**



▲ Brooklin Models - A boxed Brooklin Models BRK81 1/43 scale 1936 Pierce Arrow 1601 Sedan. appears to be in Mint condition, and comes with a bag containing accessories. The model is housed within an Very Good box with some general wear. **Sold for £28, British Toy Auctions, October**



▲ Sunstar 1:24 Scale RT Series TTL501 poorly replaced/repaired front grill and rear interior dividing panel, minus some small components, Poor-Fair, box very good. **Sold for £80, Special Auction Services, October**



▲ Corgi Aviation Archive 1:72 Scale Avro Vulcan. appears undisplayed with stand, packaged accessories and certificate, excellent. **Sold for £80, Special Auction Services, October**



▲ Autoart (Millennium) series, a boxed 1:18 scale MGB GT Coupe Mk.II. Excellent to Near Mint in generally Good box with old price sticker and Good inner Polystyrene. **Sold for £120, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Cult Scale Models, a boxed CML068-1 Triumph Vitesse Mk.2 DHC. White with Red seats, Black folded hood and chrome trim. Condition appears Excellent in Good box. **Sold for £110, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Tekno 915 Ford D Series Open Back Truck. Red cab, black chassis with green and red back, grey plastic hubs - Excellent Plus in a Excellent. **Sold for £110, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Hornby R3003,m B17 class, Barnsley. 61669, green, late crest, excellent condition, storage wear to box. **Sold for £45, Warrington & Northwich Auction, October**



▲ CMC, a boxed 1:24 scale Horch 853 (1937), with numbered certificate. Condition appears to be Good to Excellent in Good box (with scuffs) and Good inner Polystyrene. **Sold for £90, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Cult Scale Models, a boxed CML048-1 1970 Ford Cortina 1600 E. Gold Metallic with Tan interior, Chrome wheels and trim. Condition appears Excellent in Good box. **Sold for £190, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Tekno 445 Scania Vabis Turntable Ladder Fire Engine. Red body with chrome ladders, cast hubs - Excellent overall (small chip on platform side) in a Excellent carded picture box. **Sold for £90, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Hornby R30238 TXS class 66 diesel. 06523, King Charles III, Coronation purple livery, limited edition 0216/1000, fitted sound, boxed. **Sold for £100, Warrington & Northwich Auction, October**



▲ Paragon Models, a boxed 1:18 scale 2011004 Jaguar XJ6 4.2 (1968) Series 1. appears Excellent in generally Good box and Good inner Polystyrene. Slight dusty therefore would benefit from a further clean possibly due to being on display. **Sold for £120, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Tekno, a boxed "The British Collection" No.71 Articulated Truck & Trailer "Richards & Son Ltd". conditions generally appear Near Mint in a generally Excellent box with retail sticker. **Sold for £40, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Tekno 915 Ford D Series Open Back Truck. Red cab, black chassis with green and red back, grey plastic hubs - Excellent Plus in a Excellent carded picture box. **Sold for £110, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Hornby R3244 TTS, class 8, Duke of Gloucester. 71000, fitted sound, boxed. **Sold for £85, Warrington & Northwich Auction, October**



▲ Danbury Mint, a boxed "James Bond" Aston Martin DB5 1:24 Scale. appear Good in a generally Good box internal polystyrene. Please note the model appears to have slight damage to one seat causing the ejector seat not to connect back to its original set location. **Sold for £130, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ AutoArt 72811 1/18th scale Ford Mustang. dark green with black interior - Steve McQueen as "Bullitt" - Mint in Good Plus box. **Sold for £110, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Matchbox Superfast 22a Pontiac GP. Metallic purple body without silver trim, grey interior and tow hook, gloss black base, narrow wheels - Excellent Excellent lovely example in a Good (slightly crushed) Type G colour picture box "New" type G box. **Sold for £130, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Hornby R3841 class W1, Hush-Hush. 10000, LNER grey, British Enterprise, boxed. **Sold for £110, Warrington & Northwich Auction, October**



▲ Corgi "The Aviation Archive", a boxed 1:72 Scale AA37201 HP Halifax B.Mk.II Series 1 35 Sqn. Near Mint in a Generally Near Mint box with internal packaging and a generally Good outer sleeve. **Sold for £90, Vectis Auctions, October**



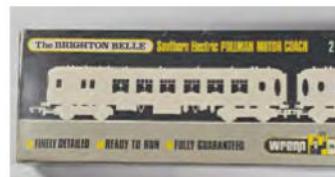
▲ Corgi Toys 268 "The Green Hornet" Black Beauty. Gloss black body, green windows, spun hubs Excellent in a Good Plus to Excellent blue and yellow carded box with inner pictorial stand. **Sold for £170, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ A fine Fleischmann HO gauge limited edition 4 car electric multiple unit set. Zugset 2000 in light grey livery with many advertising logos on each car. Presented in a plush lined wood presentation box. Minor wear, contents Mint. **Sold for £140, Wallis & Wallis Auctions, October**



▲ Hornby OO Train Pack 'Bournemouth Belle' R.2300. Comprising BR SR Merchant Navy class locomotive, New Zealand Line 35021. Together with 3 Pullman Cars, Car No.62, Rosemary and Car No.169. Boxed, minor wear. Mint. **Sold for £120, Wallis & Wallis Auctions, October**



▲ A Wrenn Railways Brighton Belle 2 Car Set. W3006/7. In chocolate and cream livery. Boxed, some wear. Contents Very Good. **Sold for £70, Wallis & Wallis Auctions, October**



▲ LADY MARGUERITE' A 1 INCH SCALE LIVE STEAM MODEL OF A 'MINNIE' AGRICULTURAL TRACTION ENGINE. built during the 1990's and has been constructed and finished to a very good standard with all the expected fittings. **Sold for £2,800, Richard Winterton Auctioneers, October**



▲ 5 inch gauge well engineered LMS locomotive. in maroon livery, live steam, full metal construction with plaque by the Apprentice of Ransomes and Rapier. **Sold for £560, Maxwells, October**



▲ Hornby OO Train Set 'Gloucester City Pullman' R.1177. Comprising BR Duke of Gloucester locomotive, 3 Pullman cars plus a quantity of track and a few accessories. Boxed as new. **Sold for £50, Wallis & Wallis Auctions, October**



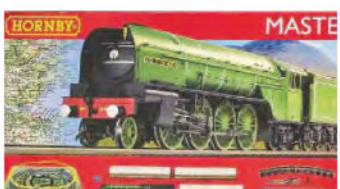
▲ A Sonic Models OO LNER class AS/1. (Ex GCR 9N) 4-6-2 passenger tank locomotive. 5045. Boxed, as new. **Sold for £70, Wallis & Wallis Auctions, October**



▲ A BOXED HORNBY RAILWAYS OO GAUGE THE WORLD OF THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE DEVIOUS DIESEL TRAIN SET. all appear in fairly good condition, box base in fairly good condition, lid with damage and wear. **Sold for £45, Richard Winterton Auctioneers, October**



▲ A Mamod Steam Tractor and a similar stationary steam engine. All pieces require some attention, fair condition, unboxed. **Sold for £90, Maxwells, October**



▲ Hornby OO Train Set 'Master of The Glen's R.1183. Comprising LNER Cock O The North locomotive, 3 teak finish passenger coaches, plus a quantity of track and a few accessories. Boxed as new. **Sold for £50, Wallis & Wallis Auctions, October**



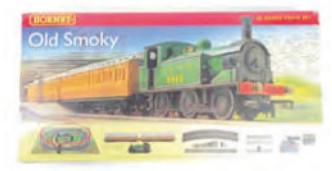
▲ A scarce brass finish Mamod Live Steam Roadster. A 2 seater open topped car with black plastic seat covers. complete with spare wheel mounted to rear. Complete, with burner tray. Good condition, minor wear. **Sold for £130, Wallis & Wallis Auctions, October**



▲ A BOXED SANCHENG O GAUGE GREAT WESTERN CLASS 45XX PRAIRIE TANK LOCOMOTIVE. appears in very good condition, fitted with crew figures and coal to tender, box complete with interior packing but has some minor damage and wear. **Sold for £280, Richard Winterton Auctioneers, October**



▲ A Hornby O Gauge clockwork No 2 Locomotive 'Great Western' green livery. Great condition, unboxed. **Sold for £40, Maxwells, October**



▲ 3 Hornby OO Train Sets. 'Blue Rapier'. All boxed, minor wear. Contents Mint. **Sold for £90, Wallis & Wallis Auctions, October**



▲ A BOXED MAMOD LIVE STEAM WAGON. appears complete and in good condition, with only very minor paint loss and wear. **Sold for £140, Richard Winterton Auctioneers, October**



▲ A BOXED SANCHENG FOR TOWER MODELS O GAUGE L.M.S. CLASS 3F 'JINTY' TANK LOCOMOTIVE. appears in very good condition with very minor wear, fitted with crew figures and coal to tender, box complete with interior packing but has some minor damage and wear. **Sold for £200, Richard Winterton Auctioneers, October**



▲ A Bachmann Branchline OO class 450 Four Car EMU 450127. in South West Trains weathered livery, 31-041. Boxed, contents Mint. **Sold for £240, Wallis & Wallis Auctions, October**



▲ A BOXED MAMOD LIVE STEAM TRACTION ENGINE. appears complete and in good condition, has some minor paint loss, marking and wear. **Sold for £100, Richard Winterton Auctioneers, October**



▲ A Boxed Wilesco D36MS steam tractor and boiler carriage. Great condition, unboxed. **Sold for £110, Maxwells, October**



▲ Bachmann OO Gauge 30-600 Virgin Trains Class 220 Virgin Voyager DEMU Train Set. containing 3-Car Class 220 DMU along with a controller. Condition is Good in Excellent box. **Sold for £90, Vectis Auctions, October**

DIECAST RESULTS



▲ Bachmann Spectrum On30 Gauge reference 25662 2-Truck Shay Locomotive. in Colorado Mining Co livery. Conditions: Generally Excellent to Excellent Plus in Mostly Good box. **Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Hornby (China) R2896XS 4-6-2 LNER Blue A4 Class Locomotive No. 4466. "Herring Gull" with Digital Sound. Condition is Good to Excellent in Good box and outer sleeve. Fading to box and outer sleeve due to storage. **Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Bachmann OO Gauge 31-760NRM GNR Green Gresley C1 Atlantic 4-4-2 No. 251. Produced exclusively for the National Railway Museum. Condition is Excellent Plus in Good box and outer sleeve. Some fading to box and outer sleeve. **Sold for £110, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Hornby (China) R2894XS 4-6-2 BR Maroon Princess Coronation Class Locomotive No. 46240. "City of Coventry" with Digital Sound. Condition is Excellent in Good box and outer sleeve. Fading to box and outer sleeve due to storage. **Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Hornby (China) R2990XS 4-6-2 BR Maroon Princess Royal Class Locomotive No. 46208. "Princess Helena Victoria" with Digital Sound. Condition is Excellent in Good box and outer sleeve. Fading to box and outer sleeve due to storage. **Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Hornby (China) R3370TTS 4-6-0 BR Express Blue King Class Locomotive No. 6021. "King Richard II" with TTS Sound. Condition is Excellent in Good box and outer sleeve. Box and outer sleeve affected due to storage. **Sold for £140, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Hornby (China) R2896XS 4-6-2 BR Green A4 Class Locomotive No. 60001. "Sir Ronald Matthews" with Digital Sound. Condition is Excellent in Good box and outer sleeve. Fading to box and outer sleeve due to storage. **Sold for £110, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Lima (Modified) O Gauge 2-Rail Finescale 0-6-0 LMS Black Fowler 4F. Chassis appears to be built from a Kit or Scratchbuilt to a Finescale Standard. Condition is generally Good to Good Plus but noted as having an electrical fault. **Sold for £70, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Marklin 3-Rail AC HO Scale Ref. 37050 4-6-4 Deutsche Reichsbahn Red (Epoch III) BR 05 No. 05 001. with Streamline Casing and DCC Sound Fitted. Condition is Excellent in Good Plus box and outer sleeve. **Sold for £120, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Marklin 3-Rail AC HO Scale Ref. 37050 4-6-4T Deutsche Bundesbahn (Epoch III) BR 61 No. 61 001. with Streamline Casing, Display Plinth and DCC Sound Fitted. Condition is Excellent in Good Plus box. **Sold for £120, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Roco HOe Narrow Gauge 33267 Mh.3, of the Salzburger Lokalbahn (SLB). Conditions: Appears Good Plus to Excellent Plus in Good Plus box. **Sold for £90, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Roco HOe Narrow Gauge 33230 0-6-0 DR black livery Class 99 Loco and Tender No. 994652. Conditions: Excellent Plus in Excellent Plus box. **Sold for £80, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Marklin (Insider Club) 3-Rail AC HO Scale Ref. 39662 4-8-4 Deutsche Reichsbahn (Epoch II) DRB 06 locomotive No. 06 001. with DCC Sound Fitted. Condition is Excellent Plus in Good box and outer sleeve. Box affected due to storage. **Sold for £280, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Trix HO Scale Ref. 22915 4-6-4 Deutsche Reichsbahn Red (Epoch II) BR 05 No. 05 003. With Streamline Casing and DCC Sound Fitted. Condition is Excellent in Good Plus box and outer sleeve. **Sold for £140, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Hornby Dublo 2-Rail Unboxed 2235 4-6-2 BR Green "Barnstaple" West Country Class Loco 34005. Condition: Good to Good Plus. **Sold for £80, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Marklin 3-Rail AC HO Scale Ref. 37777 Deutsch Reichsbahn Silver (Epoch II) Rail Zeppelin with DCC Sound Fitted. Condition is Excellent in Good box and outer sleeve. Box affected due to storage. **Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Hornby, OO gauge, R2812 First Great Western Class 43 two-car HST. DCC-ready, (boxed, with sleeve), good condition. **Sold for £160, Eldreds Auctioneers & Valuers, October**



▲ Bachmann, OO gauge, 32-781DS Class 37/0 diesel locomotive. "Viking" RN37057, DCC sound, (boxed), good condition. **Sold for £90, Eldreds Auctioneers & Valuers, October**



▲ Bachmann OO Gauge Ref. 35-162Z LMS Crimson 2-4-0 Improved President Class Locomotive No. 5036 "Novelty". Condition is Near Mint in Excellent Box and Outer Sleeve. **Sold for £110, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Hornby R30268 (Limited Edition) 4-6-2 LNER A4 Class Steam Locomotive No. 4468 "Mallard". **Sold for £140, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Star Wars: a vintage Palitoy Return of the Jedi X-Wing Fighter. Model appears complete and hardly used, with age related marks in places. Housed in a clear acrylic display box, in original 'La Guerre' bi-logo box. **Sold for £110, Dawsons Auctioneers, October**



▲ Hornby, O gauge, no.3C 4-4-2 locomotive and tender. "Royal Scot" RN6100, (clockwork). **Sold for £65, Eldreds Auctioneers & Valuers, October**



▲ Aristocraft Trains, Rio Grande G Scale Dash-9 Diesel Locomotive. (in incorrect box), in good condition. **Sold for £220, Eldreds Auctioneers & Valuers, October**



▲ Hornby (China) R1234 "Harry Potter" Train Set. Condition is Near Mint to Mint in Fair to Good box. **Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, October**



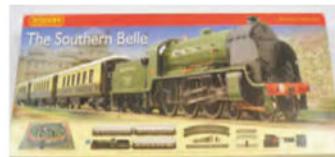
▲ Hornby (China) R30231 (Limited Edition) 4-6-2 HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee West Country Class Steam Locomotive No. 70 "Elizabeth II". complete with Certicate No. 1974 of 2500 produced. Condition is generally Good with some damaged and parts missing in Fair to Excellent box and outer sleeve. **Sold for £160, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Star Wars: a Kenner Land Speeder Vehicle. Appears in good, clean order, with no cracks or damage. Some wear to the card box, but all intact. Sellotape residue and shop price sticker attached. **Sold for £120, Dawsons Auctioneers, October**



▲ Bachmann Class 47 BR Scotrail Highland Rail Diesel Locomotive No. 47612. Vendor states DCC Sound is fitted. Condition is Excellent Plus in Good box and outer sleeve (incorrect box). **Sold for £90, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Hornby (China) R1118 (Limited Edition) "The Southern Belle" Train Set. Contents are still factory tissue wrapped so assumed Mint in Good to Good Plus box. **Sold for £90, Vectis Auctions, October**



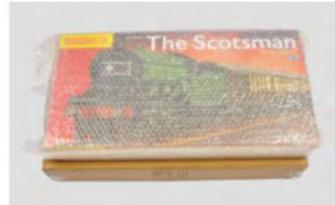
▲ Realtrack OO Gauge RT144-112 2-car Class 144 Northern Trains DMU Pacer No. 144 012. Conditions are Excellent Plus to Near Mint in Good to Good Plus box. **Sold for £160, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Star Wars: a vintage Empire Strikes Back Dagobah Action Playset. Playset appears in good order. Hardly used. No interior packing to the box, and wear to the outer box throughout. All flaps intact. Sellotape in several places. Housed in a bespoke outer acrylic case for protection. **Sold for £150, Dawsons Auctioneers, October**



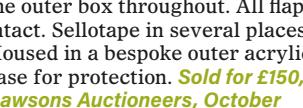
▲ Bachmann OO Gauge 32-727DS Class 66 GBRF Diesel Locomotive No. 66702. Blue Lightning DCC Sound Fitted, condition Excellent Plus in Good Plus box. **Sold for £130, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Hornby (China) TT Gauge TT1001AM The Scotsman Train Set. Contents are still factory sealed so assumed Mint in Near Mint to Mint box complete with outer mailer. **Sold for £150, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Rivarossi HO Gauge Ref 1248 4-8-8-2 Southern Pacific Class AC11 (Cab Forward) Steam Locomotive No. 4272. Condition is generally Excellent in Fair (cracked) plastic case. **Sold for £60, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Bachmann 31-740 0-4-4 Midland Railways MR 1532 Class Steam Tank Locomotive No. 1273. Condition is Near Mint in Excellent box and outer sleeve. **Sold for £130, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Hornby (China) R2894XS 4-6-2 BR Duchess Class Steam Locomotive No. 46240. "City of Coventry", DCC Sound Fitted. Condition is Excellent Plus to Near Mint (missing coupling) in Excellent box and outer sleeve. **Sold for £110, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Brawa HO Scale Ref. 40356 2-6-0 Royal Bavarian State Railway (Epoch I) T11 Locomotive No. 7502. with digital sound and smoke. Condition is Excellent in Good box and outer sleeve with box and sleeve affected due to storage. **Sold for £130, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Star Wars: a vintage Kenner Droid Factory playset. Set appears lightly played with. Box with some wear and scuffs throughout, but is intact. Comes with a bespoke acrylic display case. **Sold for £220, Dawsons Auctioneers, October**



▲ Star Wars: a vintage Palitoy AT-AT Commander carded figure. Some light scuffs to the edge of the card, bubble good, with dents to bottom. **Sold for £160, Dawsons Auctioneers, October**



▲ Star Wars: a vintage Palitoy Han Solo (Hoth Outfit) carded figure. Some scuffs to card edges, and raised area below bubble. **Sold for £160, Dawsons Auctioneers, October**



▲ Star Wars: a vintage Palitoy Luke Skywalker (Bespin Fatigues) carded figure. Small dent to bubble, otherwise good. **Sold for £300, Dawsons Auctioneers, October**



▲ Star Wars: a vintage Kenner Luke Skywalker Farmboy carded figure. Warped card, with litho damage. Bubble intact **Sold for £650, Dawsons Auctioneers, October**



▲ Lego City Set no.60337 boxed and sealed RC Express Passenger Train. box is in very good condition, minor scuffs and creasing to top corner of box. **Sold for £100, M&M Specialist Auctioneers, October**



▲ LEGO CITY Set no.60336 boxed and sealed RC Freight Train. box is in excellent condition. **Sold for £140, M&M Specialist Auctioneers, October**



▲ NEW MUTANTS #98 - (1991 - MARVEL). First appearance of Deadpool + First appearances of Gideon and Copycat (as Domino) - Rob Liefeld cover and interior art. **Sold for £100, Excalibur Auctions, October**



▲ X-MEN #101 - (1976 - MARVEL - UK Price Variant). First appearance & Origin of Phoenix (Jean Grey) - Black Tom Cassidy and Juggernaut appearances - Dave Cockrum cover and art. **Sold for £150, Excalibur Auctions, October**



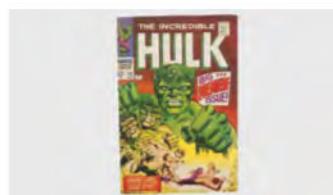
▲ STAR WARS #1 (1977 - MARVEL). First instalment of the six-issue adaptation of the first Star Wars movie, and includes multiple first appearances - Howard Chaykin cover and art. **Sold for £280, Excalibur Auctions, October**



▲ AVENGERS #1 - (1963 - MARVEL - UK Price Variant). First appearance of the Avengers with original members Iron Man (in clunky gold armour), Thor, Hulk, Ant-Man, Wasp as they battle Loki, Low grade copy with tape repairs, rippling and water damage. **Sold for £480, Excalibur Auctions, October**



▲ IRON FIST #14 (1977 - MARVEL). First appearance of Sabretooth - Al Milgrom cover with John Byrne interior art. **Sold for £280, Excalibur Auctions, October**



▲ INCREDIBLE HULK #102 (1968 - MARVEL). First issue of the (new) solo title series + Origin of the Hulk retold. **Sold for £100, Excalibur Auctions, October**



▲ A Gabrielle Designs Paddington Bear, (1972). In blue wellies, red duffle coat, and brown hat. Swinging label present. Hole to back of hat noted. **Sold for £40, Sheffield Auction Gallery, October**



▲ A Kathe Kruse (Germany) Doll with painted hard plastic swivel head and cloth body. Some wear to nose and pen writing to underside of one foot '12 August'. Minor wear and discolouration to cloth body. **Sold for £110, Sheffield Auction Gallery, October**



▲ Steiff Wedding Party Bride teddy bear, white tag 038013. with certificate, within Good to Good Plus, Excellent. **Sold for £200, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Steiff Wedding Edition Teddy Bear Milk Maid. within Good Plus packaging, Excellent condition. **Sold for £200, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Steiff Wedding Party Bride's Father. within Good Plus packaging, Excellent condition. **Sold for £200, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Steiff Baby 1949 replica. Good Plus to Excellent. **Sold for £150, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Steiff Jackie Bear replica 1953 teddy bear. 1999, excellent condition. **Sold for £160, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Steiff Dorothy (from The Wizard of Oz). Near Mint, within Near Mint box. **Sold for £170, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Charlie Bears Honour Mousekateer mouse. Excellent to Excellent Plus. **Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Charlie Bears Ambassador teddy bear. Good to Good Plus. **Sold for £130, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Charlie Bears Chilli Pepper the Otter. Excellent condition, unboxed. **Sold for £220, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Charlie Bears Ivory large polar bear. ivory plush, MISSING swing label certificate, clouding to both eyes, stains to soles of feet, otherwise Good; 28"/71cm. **Sold for £280, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Charlie Bears Voyager the Mouflon large teddy bear. Near Mint condition. **Sold for £200, Vectis Auctions, October**



▲ Joustra - Codeg (France) 496 4 Wheel Mobile Grab - Crane. Orange / blue, tinplate - plastic construction, nice clean example, comes with instruction leaflet. Conditions: Good to Excellent in Good box. **Sold for £35, Oberon Auctions, October**



▲ Sutcliffe Models - Sprite Day Cruiser Tinplate Clockwork. Near Mint to Mint in Excellent Plus to Near Mint box. **Sold for £100, Oberon Auctions, October**



▲ Sutcliffe Models - Jupiter Ocean Pilot Tinplate Clockwork Boat. Near Mint to Mint in Near Mint box with original paper bag wrap. **Sold for £100, Oberon Auctions, October**



▲ Sutcliffe Models - Unda-Wunda Clockwork Tinplate Submarine. Near Mint to Mint in Excellent Plus to Near Mint box. **Sold for £90, Oberon Auctions, October**



▲ Sutcliffe Models "Valiant" Tinplate Clockwork Battleship - FACTORY WRAPPED. Presumed Mint in an Excellent Plus to Near Mint box. **Sold for £130, Oberon Auctions, October**



▲ Sutcliffe Models "Valiant" Tinplate Clockwork Battleship. Near Mint to Mint in Excellent Plus to Near Mint box. **Sold for £100, Oberon Auctions, October**



▲ Triang Spot-On Toys RARE MADE IN NEW ZEALAND N118 Land Rover Motorway crash Service Wreck Truck. Overall Excellent with some paint chips. **Sold for £240, Oberon Auctions, October**



▲ Dinky Toys Pre-War No.45 tinplate Garage. overall in very good condition. **Sold for £120, Lacy Scott & Knight, October**



▲ French Dinky No.60D pre-war Breguet Corsair. red diecast body, tinplate wings with green trim, steel twin-blade propeller, excellent condition. **Sold for £100, Lacy Scott & Knight, October**



▲ French Dinky No.60C pre-war Henriot H180T. green diecast body, tinplate wings with white trim to front edge, steel twin-blade propeller. **Sold for £70, Lacy Scott & Knight, October**



▲ Scalex tinplate and friction drive model of a MG 2 Seater Saloon. red body with green interior, housed in the original card box. **Sold for £60, Lacy Scott & Knight, October**



▲ Rico of Spain, tinplate and friction drive model of a Racing Car. metallic body with driver figure, marked Rico to base. **Sold for £55, Lacy Scott & Knight, October**



▲ Mettoy tinplate and clockwork racing car. red body with lithographed driver detailing and racing number 11, length 28cm. **Sold for £120, Lacy Scott & Knight, October**



▲ Nomura of Japan tinplate and battery operated model of a Mercedes style streamlined racing car. metallic blue body with RN 25 and red and white stripes, loose example with trademark to rear, length 28cm. **Sold for £40, Lacy Scott & Knight, October**



▲ Nomura (TN Toys of Japan) "Remote Control Piston Action Robot". 1960s tinplate battery-operated mechanised robot figure, excellent condition and in working order. **Sold for £680, Lacy Scott & Knight, October**

eBuys

From collectables of the future to old favourites, eBay always manages to produce some amazing finds... and even more amazing prices!



Item: Hot Wheels Mattel vintage redline era rumblers bone shaker motorcycle.

Condition: New and immaculate condition, unboxed.

Sold for: £285.30 (6 bids)



Item: Conrad 1/50 MAN E2000 Collett Heavy Haulage Diecast Model.

Condition: New condition, no scratches or marks, comes with original box.

Sold for: £240.19 (9 bids)



Item: Gilbow 1:24 #99101 Daimler DMS Bus London Transport.

Condition: In excellent condition, with original box.

Sold for: £390.20 (9 bids)



Item: 1/18 CMC Ferrari 275 GTB metallic blue Diecast model car.

Condition: Unboxed and in excellent condition, no damage or marks.

Sold for: £353.48 (46 bids)



Item: Matchbox Ferrari Berlinetta Diecast Model.

Condition: In great condition considering age of model, in original box with slight wear to the ends of the box.

Sold for: £345.20 (14 bids)



Item: Vintage Italian 'Ventura Ferrari' Toy Car. Tin Plate.

Condition: The body shell has been resprayed, but everything else is original. A very rare toy.

Sold for: £4,836.68 (1 bid)



Item: Vintage Gunthermann tinplate Roll Back Roof Limousine 1920s/30s.

Condition: A very rare model, good condition for age, scratches and paint wear visible due to age.

Sold for: £1,027.98 (30 bids)



Item: Dinky Pre War Streamlined Fire Engine No 250.

Condition: In good condition with tinplate figures, age wear visible.

Sold for: £340.20 (34 bids)



Item: Vintage Ohlsson & Rice Red #90 American Made Gas-Powered 10in Tether Car #X581

Condition: Good vintage condition. It has some chipped paint on the hood and undercarriage.

Sold for: £257.25 (20 bids)



Item: Vintage 1932 Rare Tin Wind Up Popeye Puncher Punching Bag Boxer J Chein Toy.
Condition: Very good working condition, visible age wear, unboxed.
Sold for: £576.24 (32 bids)



Item: Galaxy Rangers Boxed Toy Space Laser Ray Gun Classic Vintage Retro.
Condition: Great condition, damage to box, slightly torn due to age.
Sold for: £259.64 (1 bid)



Item: Vintage Tinplate Clockwork Toonerville Trolley Toy, Fischer, Germany, 1920s.
Condition: In very good used working condition, paint chips and marks to the tinplate body.
Sold for: £261 (6 bids)



Item: Vintage 1960s Daiya Space Conqueror Robot Tin Toy Japan Tested Lights Up Box.
Condition: Good condition, original box is ripped and damaged, the toy itself is in a good condition.
Sold for: £703.32 (22 bids)



Item: 1950s/60s Chiltern Rubber Faced Bunny Plush soft toy.
Condition: Great condition, appears slightly dirty, would benefit from a clean.
Sold for: £343.33 (13 bids)



Item: Vintage Marusan Toys Buick Blue Sedan Friction Tinplate Car 1950's Japan in box.
Condition: Great condition, no visible scratches, Box is good.
Sold for: £129.64 (8 bids)



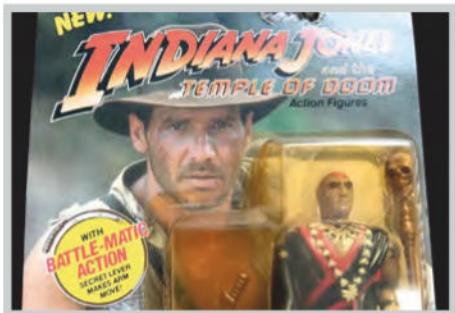
Item: Vintage Japan Tin Yonezawa Ford Toy Car 13" Friction.
Condition: Good condition, visible age wear and tear, unboxed.
Sold for: £623.48 (60 bids)



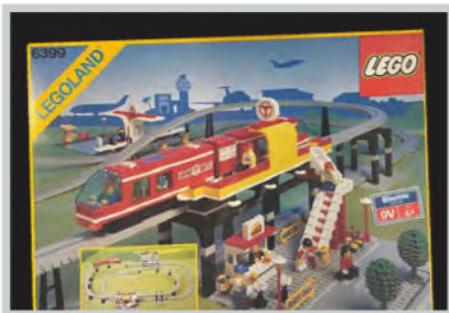
Item: Mickey Mouse Disney Vintage Candlestick Holder Crown Devon 1930's England.
Condition: Good condition, visible age wear and tear, unboxed.
Sold for: £208.68 (6 bids)



Item: Star Wars Haslab Mos Eisley Cantina The Vintage Collection.
Condition: Great condition, no figures included.
Sold for: £167.08 (10 bids)



Item: Vintage Kenner Indiana Jones and The Temple of Doom Mola Ram.
Condition: Excellent condition, still boxed, never been opened, slight tear to the top of the box.
Sold for: £267.20 (13 bids)



Item: LEGO Town: Legoland Airport Shuttle Set (6399).
Condition: Excellent condition, been built previously, unknown if complete.
Sold for: £437.79 (17 bids)



Item: Hot Wheels Redline - ROLLS ROYCE SILVER SHADOW - Hong Kong 1969 Vintage.
Condition: Good condition, scratched paint and slight rust to the underneath.
Sold for: £201 (4 bids)

It was a busy ToyTrac this year, with over 90 adults paying extra to gain early entrance and over 600 attending during the day. As always, the show attracted both dedicated collectors and families. For those interested in adding to their collection, this year's show again attracted traders from across the country; Evert Nijssen had even travelled from the Netherlands. Many were selling new and old Britains models. Some old Britains models spotted included a boxed JCB 5C excavator (9580) for £345 from Phoenix Models, and Dawn Chadwick had an early boxed Massey Ferguson 135 tractor for £185. Red Ant Farm Models had a David Brown 900 tractor (08716) for £60 and a Ford 7000 tractor (42197) for £85. Other traders, such as Dave Poole, had display cases for between £10 and £60, and Braemere Models had its model kits on sale. While John Roberts of Turleigh Models was selling old Britains old lead models that he had refreshed or adapted.

Alongside the model trader's local machinery dealers, Claas – Western Frome and TH Whites Dairy had equipment on display. They also had stalls selling the models they stock in their stores. Britains had a stand promoting the models they plan to release. Expected in spring 2026, there's a Ford 8210 Gen III tractor, a limited edition JCB 3CX anniversary backhoe loader, a Case IH Farmall 120c tractor, and Steyr 4120 Pus tractor. Then later next year Britains plans to release a Case IH AF10 combine, Ford Transit van, Kane DS trailer and Class Liner 2900 rake. Announcements on other 2026 model releases to follow later.

This year's show tractor was a Britains' Claas Arion 660 tractor that Bulldog fairs had finished in gold. Supplied in a ToyTrac branded box, there were two versions: one had red wheel rims, while the other had gold wheel rims. The red-wheeled tractor, limited to fifty units, cost £85, while the gold-wheeled model, limited to just two units, cost £120.



ToyTrac 2025

The South West's biggest and longest-running farm model show returned to West Woodlands showground in Frome on Sunday 19 October 2025. **David Pullen** reports.

An important feature of Toytrac has always been the dioramas, and this continued at this show. For this show, Bulldog Fairs had simplified the diorama competition into three classes. These were under 16, over 16, and displays measuring 2ft by 2ft with at least one Britains model. For winners, prizes included models provided by Britains. All dioramas were of a good standard and covered many farm operations from different periods. They included a small 1940s harvesting diorama that R. Dyer had built to mark this year as the 80th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War. M Taylor used Britains models to create a diorama showing a ploughing match from the 1960s. While Zac Anderson had a detailed farm with models of tractors and equipment from the 1960s and 1970s. Representing modern farming,

Gwilym Thomas showcased a model of the driverless AgBot 5.115T2 tractor, which he had scratch-built using 3D-printed parts.

The next show will be held on Sunday 19 October 2026, at the West Woodlands Showground, Frome. You can find further details by visiting www.bulldogfairs.com/toytrac/. ■

TOP Part of Alez Well and Michael Seager's large JCB dealership, which they had created with many models from Britains.

BELOW LEFT On its stand, Britains had samples of models it will be releasing in the next five months and details of some releases planned for later in 2026.

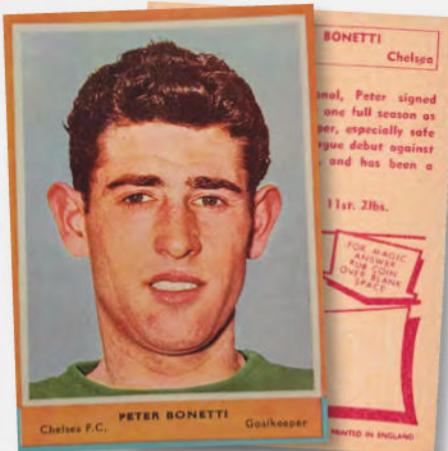
BELOW CENTRE This scene with Britains' JCB backhoe digger was a part of a larger Irish farm display Pete Ockwell had created.

BELOW RIGHT A small section of Zac Anderson's large 1960's 1960s-themed diorama featured a Fordson New Performance tractor spreading grass on the silage clamp.



YOUR LETTERS AND QUESTIONS

This is your space to share thoughts, tips, and questions with other collectors. Write to us at CollectingEditorial@warnersgroup.co.uk and you could see your letter featured here.



■ Footie favourites revisited

Alwyn's Top gum article in Issue 338 brought back plenty of memories. However, he would have been hard-pressed to have watched a match on Grandstand. They were never allowed to be broadcast, except for the FA Cup Final.

Whilst I agree that the number of transfers per season has increased, it would be easier for card producers these days as there are only two defined transfer windows. They could therefore produce player/club cards either in September or February, which would remain accurate for months. Transfers were allowed at any time during the 60s and 70s, so players frequently changed clubs before the cards even got to the shops.

John Pilkington

Thanks for sharing your insight, John. That's a great point about the transfer windows. The logistics of producing football cards must have been quite a challenge back in the day!

■ Fiat focus

I really enjoyed Andrew Ralston's very interesting article on Maisto models this month. Although I've been collecting for many decades, I didn't know much about the company, especially the fact they used to be known as MC Toys.

I've had the MC Toys Fiat Panda Mk1 in red in my collection since I found it in a toy shop in Canterbury in the early '80s and recently



managed to find the blue version on eBay. This got me looking through my Fiat collection and noticing quite a few other Maisto Fiat models in varying scales. Andrew is right that Maisto often chose overlooked subjects – their Fiat Stilo 5-door, for instance, was a very strange choice, but one I really appreciated as a Fiat collector.

My favourite Maisto Fiat models have to be the classic 500 and Panda Mk2 they produced in Juventus colours – a very attractive pair of models.

Kevin Brock

Hi Kevin, That's a fantastic write-up, and a great example of the variety Maisto has offered collectors over the years. We love that your Fiat collection spans everything from early MC Toys to Juventus specials, a true fan's line-up!

■ Land Rover lookalike

The TAL item shown in picture 2 (above) of this article is not a Land Rover but a Willys Jeep. This was a very popular vehicle to model in the immediate postwar years, with most UK-based toymakers having one in their range.

Maz Woolley

ABOVE LEFT: Readers with long memories might recall this famous goalkeeper - Peter Bonetti

ABOVE: Oxford Diecast Land Rover Defender Military Police – easy to mistake for similar Willys Jeep models of the era.

Good spot, Maz! Thanks for pointing it out for our readers. With their similar military styling, it's easy to see how the two could be confused at first glance — especially in smaller scales.

■ A brilliant issue

Hello team. I must say that December's mag is one of the best for information, pictures, and varied content. Just brilliant, and thanks to everyone for putting this together. Well done. I'll be adding it to my collection right from the number one issue.

Mr Nigel Smith, Isle of Wight

Hi Nigel. Thanks so much for your kind words. We work hard to make the magazine as varied and interesting as possible, so it means a lot to hear you've enjoyed this issue.

We're always grateful for feedback like yours. To all readers, please feel free to let us know if there's anything you'd like to see more of in future, such as particular topics, brands or article types you enjoy most. We'd love to hear from you.



There are no few manufacturers trading under the letter T, so we'll plough on. From Tomica to Togi, and even a few you might not have heard of, this letter turns out to be a treasure chest for diecast devotees.

T FOR TWO:

TAKARA-TOMY AND TOMICA.

The Takara-Tomy story is a complicated one, and would occupy several pages of this magazine to relate in full. Essentially, the brand, as a toy company, had its origins in the 1920s; previously known as Tomiyama and Tomy Kogyo, the name changed some years ago, with Tomy and Tomica being the more recognisable monikers these days.

Interesting to note, it took the company about half a century to get into the world of the diecast – but when it did, the floodgates opened. Spurred by the success of the likes of Matchbox and Hot Wheels, the company offered small scale diecast cars and trucks with a Japanese flavour. Initial production was aimed at neighbouring US, but in time, other overseas markets were established.

It's a bewildering choice if you decide to collect these models, for output

ABOVE This 1/36 scale Land Rover from Tayumo features a "Pull back and Go" mechanism.

A-Z of collecting

This month, **Alwyn Brice** continues with the letter T.

embraces collectors as well as infants. From what I've researched, the diecasts were not as cheap as their competitors, which is why some models now command a premium in the collector's market. Model runs were generally limited and novelty abounded: there were vehicles that had operating lights or sound, or which were motorised, for instance. Exclusive runs have also been entertained from time to time.

In terms of size, the 1/64 scale was accompanied by 1/43 (in 1972), although detail on these models was arguably better on its rivals' products. Opening features can be found, nonetheless. The 1/87 military series (Combat Tomica) was well thought out and plugged yet another gap.

In 2004, Tomytec (another company offshoot) began marketing better quality 1/64 models; once again, Japanese fare (this time relating to the 1950s/1960s home market vehicles) was much in evidence.

Aside from road and race vehicles, there are also construction site models within the catalogue. The problem, though, is one of knowing where to start!

AMORE DELLA MIA VITA

Alfa was most definitely the love of his life, for one Tonino Lorenzini, whose company, Togi, has pretty much focused on this Italian marque ever since. Yes, there have been one or two manufacturer departures, but it's Alfa that has almost exclusively driven the passion since 1957.

Produced in a very odd scale (1/23), these miniatures replicate both road and track cars. One or two, such as the Duetto or the stunningly beautiful Giulietta Sprint Speciale, are highly desirable, as indeed is the real thing. And then there's the Alfa Carabo...

Red tends to be the dominant body colour (not too surprisingly) with these models, although you will find other hues. For the old school, the 1930s racing cars will be of interest, but equally, there are lovely recreations dating from the 1960s, arguably Alfa's finest decade in terms of bodywork styling.

There are also models available as self-assembly kits, which are something else – and which could probably form a collection in their own right.

**1****2****3****4****5****6**

1. A 1/43 rendering of the Nissan Gloria by TomyTec. Metalflake paint looks a little heavy on this example.

2. If cars aren't your thing, how about this Tomy Komatsu excavator?

3. Lamborghini Countach by Tomy in 1/64 with separate door mirrors and opening features.

4. Hard to resist a Porsche 917K in these iconic racing colours! This example is by Tavarco, albeit not a diecast.

Quality is most acceptable, although some of these models are now showing their age when compared with vehicles of more recent manufacture. That said, if you are an Alfa aficionado, then Togi is certainly going to appeal to you. The only snag is one of cost, for these little gems command healthy resale prices.

Togi *tifosi* will need lots of lire!

REMEMBER WHEN?

The world of the miniature diecast is all about offshoots and take-overs. The REMEMBER line of models came out in the 1980s; kits or hand-built in resin, they were the work of one Umberto Codolo. It was Marco Tavanti, an ex-employee, who

went on to create the Tavarco line, along with Denis Carrara. (This latter would, in time, market his own models).

The three companies were interlinked, and Tavarco was typically retailed under the "Tavarco by REMEMBER" moniker, just to complicate matters a little further.

The line doesn't really have a place in my sweep of A to Z since their base material is resin, but I thought I'd mention the enterprise for anyone looking for something a little, shall we say, obscure.

ODD SCALES RULE?

If you want to get away from the standard model scales, then you might try Tayumo, with its 1/32 offerings. Oddly enough, it also manufactures in 1/36, so you may have some explaining to do when someone comes to look at your display cabinet.

If nothing else, this range will not break the bank. There's a preponderance of SUVs (such as Hummer, Volvo, Land Rover, Nissan and Jaguar, reflecting, I guess, modern road transportation), as well

5. Striking in apple green, the Togi Alfa Romeo Giulia GT features opening parts as well as detachable wheels.

6. Audi RS from Tayumo may not have the world's best paintwork but the estate does boast opening features.

as pick-up trucks and Jeep models; and there's a number of variations on a theme, like the I-Pace E trophy Jaguar, which comes in various colours. Innovations include light and sound on some models, and steerable front wheels are yet another asset.

QUALITY?

Well, given the cheap entry level, you can't expect too much; so oversized hinges on bonnets and doors, for example, will not endear these models to the perfectionist. Some models wear the paint better than others, but to the company's credit, it has tried to add as much detail as is practicable, given the low retail price.

A Chinese company founded by Henry Mom, Tayumo would certainly seem to have found a niche within what has become a very busy market sector. ■



Superfast Restoration

Tips for how to bring your playworn models back to life

There are many Superfasts that have become incredibly sought after, either because they weren't around for long or, even if they were, were so popular and played with that not many have survived. For those of us without the resources necessary to purchase any like these, the quick and easy (and fun) way to add them to your collection is to use a little imagination and spend a couple of hours 'making' your own.

Actually restoring a Matchbox Superfast isn't as difficult as you might think because although it has rivets on the base rather than screws, these are quite easy to remove. I use a 4.5mm drill bit for this and, actually, if you do it just right you can remove just enough of the rivet for there to be enough of a 'snap' on what's left to hold the base plate in place when you put it back. This doesn't work all the time though and it won't work on all models, in which case, drilling out the rivet stem with a 1.5mm drill bit and finding suitably sized self-tapping screws will do the job. There are

other methods but you will soon find which one you prefer to use.

First up is No 32 BP Tanker – once I'd taken it apart, closer inspection showed that it was really only the rear body that was in poor shape, bizarrely the main cab and chassis were in very good condition. Homemade decals finished it off but there are aftermarket versions available.

Next is No 20 Lamborghini Marzal, which was actually one of the first three released in 1969. One thing that has always bugged me, despite the fact that Lesney produced several different colours over the years, is that it never replicated the real car. There was only ever one Lamborghini Marzal, because it was a concept show car, painted silver with a slightly space-age chrome-look interior. An easy thing to rectify apart from the fact that Lesney always produced the window unit with an orangey/amber tint. To fully replicate the real car this obviously needs to be clear to replicate glass. Thanks to a Facebook conversation with Dean Benton, a fellow Lesney restorer/customiser, I was made aware that Steve Flowers Model Supplies



TOP Three restored examples, with the Lamborghini Marzal finished as the original concept car.

MIDDLE RIGHT In the condition that I acquired them.

MIDDLE RIGHT Turning over the models shows off the rivets to be drilled out.

BOTTOM RIGHT The Marzal breaks down into four basic components if the baseplate is left intact.



produces these to special order.

The third of the trio in the header image is one I've been after for a while as I have the two earlier colourways of the No 53 Zodiac – transition metallic bluey-green and metallic minty mid-green, both with skinny wheels – but the later fat-wheeled version in lime green is surprisingly hard to come by. I picked up a scrapper for a few pounds – it was tatty and missing its bonnet but I found a spare in my parts/playworn stash.

So my method is, once the models have been stripped down to their basic components (but leaving the wheels attached to the baseplate as we are only restoring the bodies here), is to then use a caustic soda solution to quickly strip the paint off. Please follow the safety instructions and precaution for any product that you choose, obviously. Once stripped, I wash the castings in cold water and buff with 0000 gauge steel wool to really bring the bodies to a shine.

Then choose a suitable primer for the

TOP Recreating the red transitional variant completes my set of three No 67 VW 1600 models.

TOP LEFT All stripped and buffed, awaiting primer.

MIDDLE LEFT Now primed – the colour used depends on the final coat.

BOTTOM LEFT Comparing a restored No 64 MG 1100 to an original transition model, but which one is which?

final colour and spray very thinly, usually one coat of primer and two of top coat. Then it's time to reassemble, replacing any window units or other missing/broken parts – Steve Flowers Model Supplies is my 'go to' here.

When Superfast first arrived, many of the original Lesney models were simply upgraded with Superfast wheels (and a suitable new baseplate). Plenty of these also kept their original colours for a while – these are known as *transitional*s. These are also quite rare and command fairly big sums in mint condition, so I've decided to create a couple of my own to show you what can be done.

So I've taken untidy versions of the more plentiful later colours and simply resprayed them as a transitional colour. No 67 VW 1600 and No 64 MG 1100 are the ones that I've chosen here. I've photographed the finished VW with a more readily available metallic purple version and the later metallic pink fat-wheeled release, and now I have a complete trio, albeit with a little cheating (but you do have to look closely to tell!). I do have an original transitional of the MG 1100 so I wanted to see how close I could make it – can you spot which is which? The shade of green differs slightly but then this was frequently the case with models straight from the factory so it doesn't worry me. ■

Don Townshend tells us about his 'toy room.' "We were having some new doors fitted, and one of the installers called out, 'I've just done the toy room.' Until that day, it was just our collection room. But from that day on, it was the toy room. I use the term 'our' because I share the space with my wife, who is also a collector."

In my view, the toy room is an Aladdin's Cave because it contains so many different collections. I have the almost obligatory vintage Dinky models, plus a few Corgi vehicles, and Hornby 'O' gauge trains. There are plenty of model buses, mostly 1:76 scale and some 1:50 scale, as well as modern model cars, which I secured at auction as a job lot. I had to battle an internet bidder. The cheek of it! I was there in person and ended up having to pay a bit more than intended. I showed no signs of emotion when I presented my bank card. Nerves of steel!

I have a collection of modern metal figures, which are mostly Britain's, King and Country, and Del Prado. My wife has her own collection of Britain's Zulu War figures, resplendent in their red tunics. We share our display cabinets, because we both have a great deal of hollow cast farm, zoo animals, and figures, from a period when there were numerous manufacturers. Most are sadly gone, but their wonderful models are a testament to those golden days.

We both dabble in printed tin plate models. A large Wells Brimtoy trolley bus has pride of place. A lot of our items were purchased at a vintage toy fair, which we attended on a regular basis. As a result, we got to know several dealers who offered generous discounts. I can tell you about a heart-over-head story from one of our visits. We saw a brilliant 1950s ride-on Mobo metal horse which had been expertly restored, and we both fell in love with it. The dealer offered



Your collection

Every collector has a story. Each month we feature one of our readers and the treasures that mean the most to them. Want to share yours? Email CollectingEditorial@warnersgroup.co.uk

an excellent discount, and we were sorely tempted. Then we had the familiar collector's dilemma. Where would we put it? The yet unnamed toy room was already crammed with items. It would have been terrible to store such a lovely vintage toy in the garage. We had to say no, but talked about it all the way home just to reassure ourselves that we had made the right decision.

One of the wonderful things about being a collector is suddenly opening a new area of collecting. One Christmas, I opened a present from my wife, it was a Dinky UFO original Interceptor. I did a few hand-held flights around the room, seeking out alien invaders. I loved it. Naturally, it was inevitable that I would then get a Shadow 2

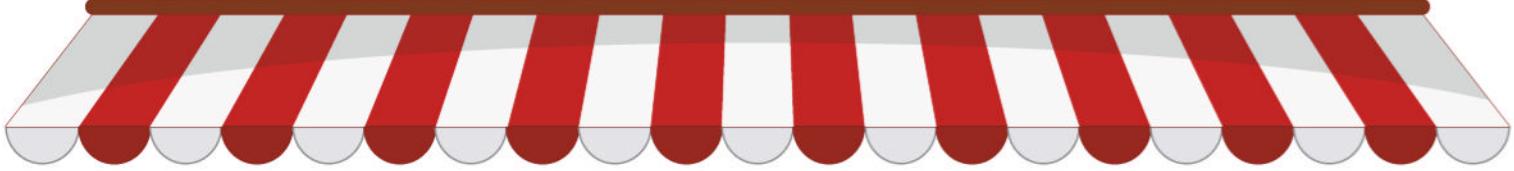
mobile vehicle and other associated models. You know how it goes, 'I could not stop.' I moved on to Captain Scarlet models, then other TV tie-in models were added. Kojak's car, the Starsky and Hutch Gran Torino, the Professionals Ford Capri. Need I go on?

Our joint collections are underpinned by our other collecting bug, which is vintage children's books. Our models share the toy room with our books, and as you can imagine, it is extremely difficult for both of us to clean and dust. It can take ages if our attention is taken by one of the display cabinets. Unfortunately, I cannot take the UFO interceptor out on a space mission, because I would have to take the front off the display case! We both love our collecting hobby, and it ensures that we do not really have to grow up." ■



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On a recent Saturday morning stroll around the local shops, I discovered a new Matchbox Models of Yesteryear.

This was a bit of a shock, given that the Yesteryear range has not been seen since the 1990s. Naturally, I grabbed it.

The Yesteryears of old were mostly veteran and vintage vehicles, and a good deal larger than regular Matchbox models, but this new Yesteryear depicts a 1954 Bentley, and it is the same size as a normal Matchbox model.

Matchbox have hardly trumpeted the return of the Yesteryears, and this appears to be the only Yesteryear they released in 2025. We do not yet know what is planned for 2026.

Lesney introduced Matchbox toys in 1953, and the Models of Yesteryear in 1956. These initially depicted vehicles from around the turn of the century, mostly commercial types.

By the 1960s, the Yesteryears had grown larger, and cars dominated the range. The period covered expanded into the 1930s, and in later years even the 1950s. After Lesney went into receivership in 1982, the diecast side of the company was renamed Matchbox Toys, and was sold to Universal Toys of Hong Kong.

In 1992, Matchbox was sold to the US Tyco toy company. Tyco was taken over by Mattel in 1997, and Matchbox became a sister brand to Hot Wheels. The Models of Yesteryear had their ups and downs during these later years, but survived until the end of the Tyco era.

Mattel has produced several Matchbox premium lines, mainly using regular Matchbox castings, under various names, with more elaborate packaging and more detailed tampo printing. Some also had metal rather than plastic baseplates and more realistic wheels. Many also came with an old-style cardboard box, the models sitting on top of the box inside a plastic bubble. Naturally, these premium lines, aimed at adult collectors, were considerably more expensive than regular Matchbox models.

Mattel revived several names previously associated with Matchbox for these premium lines. Superfast was used from 2004 to 2009. The Lesney Series ran from 2010 to 2011. Following additional name changes, the Superfast series returned in 2019 and 2020. It was dropped again in favour of the Matchbox Collectors line from 2021.

The 2025 Matchbox Collectors range comprises 20 models, of which 17 also carry the "Models of Yesteryear" name on the box and the card. This is a 1954 Bentley R-Type Continental, which is a brand-new



Matchbox Models of Yesteryear are back

Paul Brent Adams explores how Matchbox has revived its famous Models of Yesteryear range after nearly 30 years, starting with a 1950s Bentley.

model. Painted in metallic black, with a dark red interior, and a bare metal baseplate that includes the front and rear bumpers. The rear number plate carries the 'registration' MOY. Lights, side window frames, and the Bentley badge at the rear are also tampo printed.

The baseplate reads '1954 Bentley R-Type Continental,' along with both the Matchbox and Mattel names, a copyright date of 2025, the number MB1418, and 'Made in Thailand.' However, there is no mention of Models of Yesteryear. This is limited to the card and the box. So, without the packaging, the only way to identify this model as a Yesteryear is the rear number plate.

The model is 75mm long, and given its metal body and metal baseplate, it is fairly heavy. It sits atop a vintage-style box, inside a plastic bubble, glued to a backing card. The box is far too large for the model, which has a different picture of the car on the front and back. The packaging design is the same as that of the other models in the Matchbox Collectors series, except for the addition of the "Models of Yesteryear" name. ■



TOP The front of the Matchbox Collectors box – which is far too large for the model – also carries the Models of Yesteryear name, and the number 17 in the series.

ABOVE The model comes on a card, inside a plastic bubble, sitting on top of a cardboard box. This has a different picture on the front and back.

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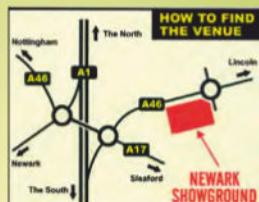
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ABOVE: This Nomura "Remote Control Piston Action Robot". recently sold at Lacy Scott & Knight for £680.

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Oak Park Active Living Centre, Coppice Road, Walsall Wood. WS9 9BH
(situated off A461 Walsall - Lichfield Road - close to junction with A452)

Sunday 4th January 2026

10.30am - 3.00pm Admission: Adults £2.00, Seniors £1.70, Child £1.00

Over 80 tables - spacious well lit venue - Buy, sell, swap collectable toys - Refreshments available

Future dates (all Sundays):

8th March 2026 May 10th 2026

20th September 2026 November 29th 2026

For table bookings and enquiries please call
Geoff or Linda Price on 01922 643385
www.transtarpromotions.com

Jackson & Jackson Events
Toy & Train Collector Fair
Sunday 21st December
10.30am - 2.30pm • Admission £3
Hulme Hall Port Sunlight, CH62 5DH
For more information call:
David: 07967 681080

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TOY & TRAIN FAIR
27th December**
VENUE CYMRU
Adults: £3.00 Concessions: £2.00
Llandudno, LL30 1BB
Doors open 10.30 Details 01492 517004



Jackson & Jackson Events
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Sunday 14th December
10.30am - 2.30pm • Admission £3
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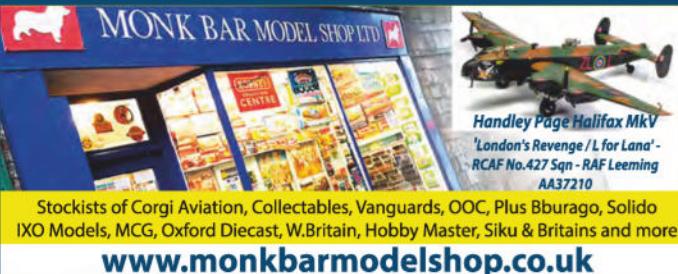
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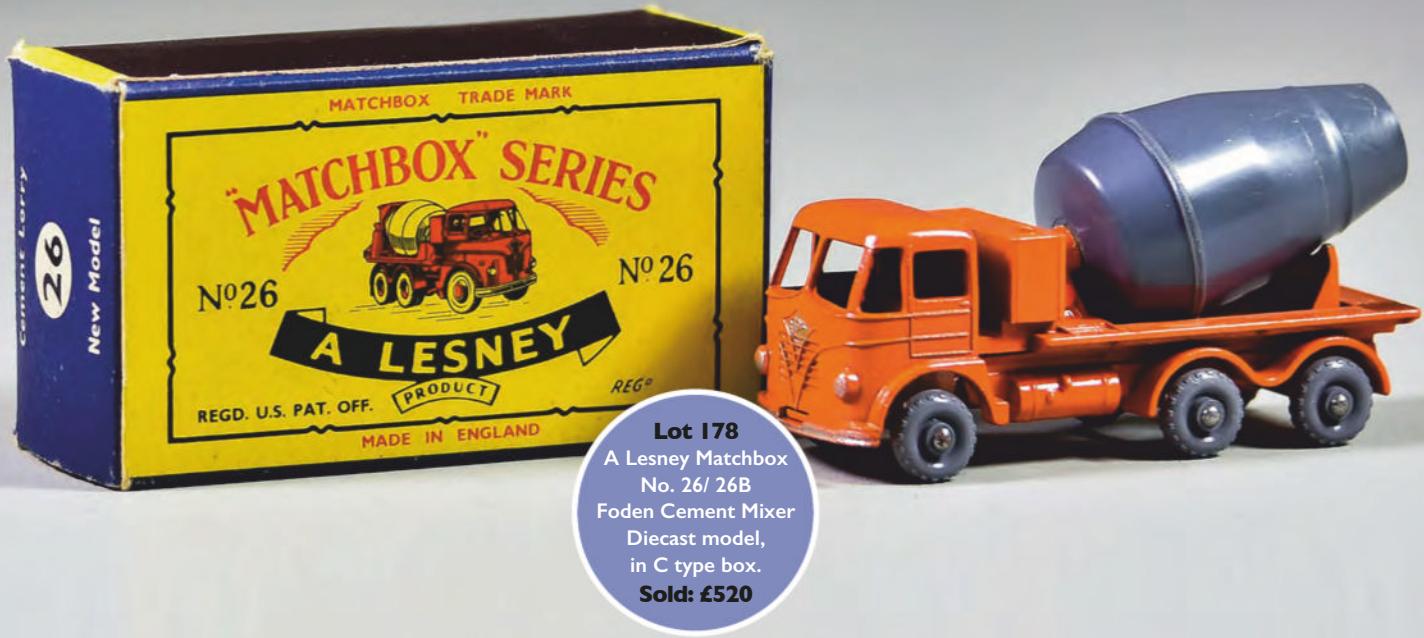
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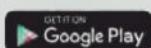
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