

# DIECAST

## COLLECTOR

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A closer look at Classic's new Ford XT Falcon GT

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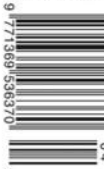
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ABOVE Corgi 1:48 scale English Electric Lightning F.6 XR726. Full feature on page 26.

# DIECAST COLLECTOR

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# Time to get out there

## EDITOR'S COLUMN



As the collecting calendar starts to fill again, this month brings new releases, community stories, and familiar favourites.

Hello, Collectors. We're one step closer to spring, with the clocks going forward and longer evenings ahead. It means less time spent hibernating indoors and more excuses to get out and about, just in time to start planning visits to fairs, shows, and car boot sales.

In this month's Diecast Collector, Jarrod looks skywards with a striking new release from Corgi, examining an English Electric Lightning that captures the presence and performance of one of Britain's most iconic Cold War aircraft. With its scale, finish, and extensive accessories, it's a release designed to make an impact in any collection.

We also step back to a pre-digital age with Alwyn, who revisits how diecast models were marketed before the internet changed everything. From catalogues and comics to bold ideas and the occasional misfire, it's a fascinating reminder of how collectors once discovered their next must-have.

Over in *Collectors Gazette*, the focus turns firmly to people and passion. George dives into the colourful history of wrestling figures, exploring how larger-than-life characters became enduring collectables for generations of fans.

Ann and Rob continue their tour of the collecting community, visiting the Model Bus Federation and spending time with members of the West Midlands branch, gaining an insight into a dedicated corner of the hobby.

If you'd like your club to be featured in an upcoming issue, we'd love to hear from you. Email us at the address below and Ann and Rob can arrange a visit. We're always keen to meet fellow collectors and share your story.

Meanwhile, Rick revisits a household favourite with a nostalgic look at Scalextric, reflecting on the slot racing systems that fired the imaginations of a generation and still hold their appeal today.

As always, we'd love to hear from you. If there are features you've particularly enjoyed, or a subject, era, or collecting niche you'd like us to explore in future issues, let us know. You can email us at [CollectingEditorial@warnersgroup.co.uk](mailto:CollectingEditorial@warnersgroup.co.uk).

Happy collecting,  
Luke, Amelia, Mike

# NEWS

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## MATTEL ANNOUNCE LATEST BRICK SHOP AND HOT WHEELS COLLABORATION

IN January 2026, Mattel announced the launch of two new Hot Wheels building sets from Mattel Brick Shop, in collaboration with Honda. The new releases expand the Mattel Brick Shop Speed Series with two Japanese performance icons.

The new Honda collection includes the Custom '90 Honda Civic EF and the '07 Honda S2000, both authentically recreated in buildable 1:32 scale. Designed for adult collectors, car enthusiasts and building fans alike, the sets celebrate Japanese automotive performance and '90s tuning culture through highly detailed builds, real metal parts and customisation options.

To mark the debut of Honda within Mattel Brick Shop, the builds were showcased alongside full-size vehicles, highlighting their accuracy and true-to-scale detailing—from recognisable body shapes to headlights, window elements and exterior lines. The '07 Honda S2000 also features an authentic windshield and spoiler that faithfully mirror the real-world design.

Both the Custom '90 Honda Civic EF and the '07 Honda S2000 feature opening doors that reflect the functional access points of the full-size cars, while interchangeable wheel covers and custom decal sheets echo the real vehicles' wheel options and customisation culture. Finished with a Hot Wheels signature metal plate and an exclusive matching 1:64 scale diecast car, each set reinforces the connection between the buildable models and the Honda icons that inspired them. ■



## WALSALL TOY FAIR IS BACK

WALSALL'S Toy and Train Collectors' Fair returned on the 4th of January 2026, giving everyone a chance to grab a deal on some nostalgic collectables. The event took place at the Oak Park Living Centre in Walsall Wood and will see collectors buy and sell a range of toys, trains and figurines. Record-breaking model bus collector Geoff Price and wife Linda run the event, and since their last Toy and Train Collector Fair, the event has gone from strength to strength. They showcase the vibrant interest in toy and train collecting across the UK.

The next fair is on the 8th of March 2026; it has an expected visitor count of around 11,000 attendees. The event features approximately 560 exhibitors, providing a diverse range of collectable toys, trains, and related memorabilia that cater to enthusiasts of all ages.

"We would like to thank both our valued and loyal traders and customers who have attended our previous events, and hope you will continue to do so in 2026." Says Geoff and Linda. ■

## MODEL NAMEPLATES SAVED

A vast collection of miniature train nameplates has been bought by two professional locomotive model makers. Former GP Gillie Hay did not know what to do with the thousands of intricate metal signs made by her late father, Chris Watford, who kept them in his home in Truro, Cornwall. Faced with sending them to a scrap metal dealer, she used her father's business contacts to find someone interested in buying the nameplates.

Professional model makers Richard Pogson, from Camelford, and Michael Russell, from Truro, bought the nameplates for an undisclosed sum. Pogson, who has been making model trains for 25 years, said the collection was too good to be sold as scrap metal. The nameplates provide the finishing touch to model trains, they said. "It's the final detail that everybody sees on the outside, and it has to be accurate," said Pogson. ■

# WINNERS OF THE ANNUAL INDUSTRY AWARDS REVEALED

SMYTHS and Asmodee emerged as the big winners at this year's Toy Industry Awards, taking home Toy Retailer of the Year and Toy Supplier of the Year respectively. Pokémon Trading Cards, distributed by Asmodee, were named Toy of the Year for 2025, underlining the continued strength of the collectables market.

For collectors, the product categories told a familiar story of established brands continuing to dominate. Mattel picked up Action Toy of the Year with its WWE Elite figure range and also claimed Vehicle of the Year for the Hot Wheels F1 5-Pack. The Lego Group secured Construction Toy of the Year with its Speed Champions F1 Cars, while Moose Toys won Creative Toy of the Year for the Gui Gui Shimmer Deluxe Pack. Zuru's 5 Surprise My Minibaby was named Collectable Toy of the Year.

Judges' Special Recognition Awards went to The Entertainer and independent retailer My Small World in Bath. The awards were presented on the opening evening of London Toy Fair 2026 at Olympia London, 20 January 2026. ■



# UNEXPECTED GROWTH IN TOY MARKET

TOYS are having a resurgence, as new figures reveal UK toy sales jumped 6% last year, marking the industry's first return to growth in five years. Revealed in January 2026 by the British Toy & Hobby Association (BTHA) and global market research company, Circana, at Toy Fair in London, the data shows a powerful comeback fuelled in part by blockbuster films, binge-worthy streaming shows, and gaming favourites that are refreshing toy aisles across the country. Across the board, the toy market showed healthy balance, with more than half of major toy categories growing in 2025. The biggest winners were Building sets, Action Figures, and Games and Puzzles, supported by entertainment licences, fandom, and consumers' enjoyment of socialising through play. Following a huge year for the big screen,

including hits such as Minecraft, Lilo & Stitch, and Jurassic World, film-linked toys now account for 16% of the entire UK toy market. But it's not just films driving demand. Streaming sensations such as Stranger Things and The Traitors, alongside popular video games such as Fortnite, have helped push licensed toys to account for 38% of all toy sales, one of the strongest signals yet that entertainment-led play is here to stay well into 2026. Children continue to power the toy boom, making up two-thirds of all toy spending, but they aren't alone. Young parents and adults are reshaping the market too, with a survey by Circana showing that 76% of 18-34-year-olds have bought a toy for themselves or another adult in the past year, whether for nostalgia, collecting, or shared family fun.

With upcoming blockbusters such as Toy Story 5 and Super Mario on the way, film launches will continue to shape what children choose to play with well into 2026. Many new licensed toys were on show at Toy Fair (20-22 January) at Olympia in London, from Lilo & Stitch crafting kits by Igloo, and SpongeBob Magic Dough by Craze, through to DIY Minecraft Chicken Jockeys by Bladez Toyz, and Metal Sonic Cable Guy desk lights by EXG Pro. Melissa Symonds, Executive Director, UK Toys, Circana said: "It's incredibly exciting to see the UK toy market back in growth, driven by the power of shared entertainment that's loved by parents and children alike. Streaming and films are turning screen moments into play moments, bringing families together, and generating excitement in the toy aisle." ■

# NEWS

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## EXPERTS PREDICT DIECAST MARKET TO SURGE TO \$2.3 BILLION

THE Diecast Scale Model Market witnessed notable expansion, growing from \$1.40 billion to \$1.49 billion in 2026. This growth is expected to continue and reach \$2.36 billion by 2032. As the market evolves, an understanding of the collectable model cars becomes crucial. The industry has grown and now combines hobbyist enthusiasm, nostalgic retailing and precision manufacturing. Die-hard diecast collectors are prioritising authenticity, material quality, and packaging that highlights provenance. ■



## HOT WHEELS & SUPERMARIO TO COMBINE

TWO of the most beloved brands in the world are Super Mario and Hot Wheels, so there can be no better idea than to reveal a collaboration of the two. This Bowser's Castle set comes with Kamek as a 1:64 scale character and features loops, a slam launcher, and a Bullet Bill who swoops around knocking Kamek and the other characters off course. There is also space to display 38 vehicles in the set when not in use. The other cars are sold separately. ■

# NEXT MONTH

MAY 2026 Issue 343



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## SUPERB START TO THE YEAR AT EXCALIBUR

**THE** standout result of Excalibur Auctions' Vintage Toys, Diecast Models and Model Railways auction on 31 January was a small group of Star Wars Kenner and Palitoy figures, which soared to £1,100 against a £40–£60 estimate. Diecast collectors were also active, with a 1:24 scale Gilbow MCW Metrobus achieving £550. Another strong result came from a Dinky Toys SHADO 2 Mobile from Gerry Anderson's UFO series, which sold for £250 against an estimate of £80–£120. Excalibur Auctions' next Vintage Toys, Diecast Models and Model Railways auction is scheduled for 31 March. ■



**TOP** The Dinky SHADO 2 Mobile from Gerry Anderson's UFO that sold for £250. **ABOVE** Some of the Star Wars figures that recently sold for £1,100.

## WARWICK & WARWICK SET SIGHTS ON MARCH AUCTION

**FOLLOWING** a successful toys auction in January, Warwick & Warwick have announced details of their next sale, which will take place on 18 March. The upcoming auction will

feature toys, cigarette cards and postcards, with another strong selection of Star Wars merchandise, memorabilia and action figures expected to appear in the catalogue. ■

# RECORD FOR MATCHBOX AT VECTIS

IN Vectis Auction's Matchbox Magic Auction on the 20th of January, the Matchbox Regular Wheels 62c Mercury Cougar sold for a world record £22,050! This is a rare model due to the colour, this model has a pale-yellow body (commonly referred to as cream). This is a first issue colour and wasn't produced for very long before changing colours, the standard is a metallic lime green body.

This version of the Cougar also has clear windows without windscreen wipers and without a rear-view mirror which confirms it is an early casting and hasn't been repainted. ■



# STAR WARS & RETRO TOYS SCORE BIG AT C&T

C&T Auctioneers and Valuers Ltd saw strong strong interest at their Star Wars and Retro Toy Collectables auction on Sunday 1 February, with collectors bidding confidently across action figures, boxed toys, and pop culture favourites. Competitive bidding reflected continued demand for vintage toys in strong original condition, particularly for well-

presented pieces. One of the top results came from a Masters of the Universe He-Man 8 Back action figure, carded and mint on card, which sold for £2,700. Thundercats items also proved popular, with the Ram-pagers 'The Driller' figure attracting strong interest and reaching £1,500. Star Wars items once again

performed strongly. A Palitoy carded Stormtrooper from The Empire Strikes Back achieved £1,400, while a factory-sealed Kenner Millennium Falcon boxed vehicle sold for £1,900, reinforcing the appeal of boxed examples in original condition. Another notable result was the boxed Six Million Dollar Man Sasquatch Beast 'Bionic Bigfoot', which realised

£1,250. Other familiar favourites also attracted solid interest, including a Denys Fisher Doctor Who Giant Robot figure, which sold for £300. Overall, the results underlined the strength of the retro toy market, with collectors continuing to compete for recognisable characters and classic toy brands. ■



**L**aunched in 1968, the XT Falcon kept the Australian muscle car scene alive, a direct reply to Holden's 2door Monaro. Both cars jostled for bragging rights at Mount Panorama, vying for racing superiority. The GT started life as a Limited Edition, but demand was so strong that more GTs were built. The last XR was assembled in February 1968; the GT's future as a model in its own right was assured. The XT, launched in March 1968, built on this momentum, offering more power and a wider range of colours — a step up from the XR, which had been limited to GT Gold. New shades included Springtime Yellow, GT Silver, Polar White, GT Gold, Candy Apple Red and Zircon Green Metallic, while the interior remained a classic black.

When Classic Carlectables' latest addition — the XT Falcon GT — arrived at Diecast Collector, excitement was palpable. Having previously reviewed other models in their range, we were already aware of the extraordinary attention to detail these creations receive. Classic Carlectables may not be widely recognised in scale modelling outside Australia and New Zealand, but their dedication to preserving the nation's motoring heritage firmly earns them a seat at the top table. Their Frosted Pewter version of the XT GT is no exception. This model represents a rare example of a four-door saloon with fully functional front and rear access, a feature seldom realised at this scale due to the engineering challenges involved.

The devil is in the detail, and Classic Carlectables delivers in incredible precision. Opening the boot, the rubber boot mat is soft and removable along with rubber

## New model of the month

Keith D'Souza picks a standout new release. This month, he reviews the Ford XT Falcon GT.

### Classic Carlectables

#### Ford XT Falcon GT (Frosted Pewter)

SCALE: 1:18 PRICE: £140

PRODUCT REF: 18863

[classiccarrlectables.com.au](http://classiccarrlectables.com.au)

shorn steelie spare and protective cover. We are not aware of any other brand that covers such intimacy. The undercarriage is a little work of art – rotating driveshaft, detailed front suspension arms, a rear live axle on leaf springs, all complemented by working steering. Inside, the instrumentation is complete, the seats are fabricated from soft rubber, with vinyl seatbelts gracefully laid across the rear seat and a working rear armrest which folds down. Every aspect demonstrates remarkable care and craftsmanship. This is next level – very few models from the established protagonists invest the time and effort to get to this granular level of minutiae.

The brightwork is deftly applied with all the correct elements being touched upon. Those door handles simply tempt you to grab them, press the key lock button, and

open the front openings – the touch and feel are all there; you simply have the urge to self-shrink and drive it away!

This XT Falcon GT also adds a refreshing diversity to the mainstream, which is often dominated by European, JDM and US cars. While this level of detail comes at a premium, no one else captures Australia's classics with such authenticity and precision. For 1:18 collectors, this model ticks every box and more. It is exceptional scale modelling, and well worth securing a place in your Diecast Garage. ■



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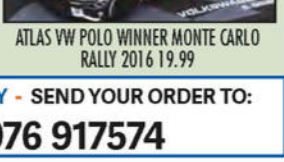
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**MATRIX**  
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**1992-1993 (Brown)**  
 SCALE: 1:43 PRICE: £121.99  
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Denoted by the long wheelbase, the Range Rover Vogue LSE was known for its luxurious interior and ample legroom. Its powerful 4.2 litre V8 engine produced 200 bhp.

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**MATRIX**  
**Chrysler T&C 1966**  
**(Blue Metallic)**  
 SCALE: 1:43 PRICE: £124.99  
 PRODUCT NO: MX20303171

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**TOPSPEED**  
**Lamborghini Countach LPI 800-4**  
**(Purple)**  
 SCALE: 1:18 PRICE: £208.99  
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Inspired by the original Countach, the LPI 800-4 version was sold in just 112 pieces, all of which were purchased within the first week of its availability.

maisto.com



**OXFORD DIECAST**  
**1950 Studebaker Champion**  
**Starlight Coupe (Aqua Green)**  
 SCALE: 1:87 PRICE: £10.95  
 PRODUCT NO: 87SC50002

While released in 1950, this vehicle had a complex manufacturing history, interrupted by the war. The three-window coupé featured a 2.8 litre, 85bhp side valve six-cylinder engine.

oxforddiecast.co.uk

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**2021 (China Blue)**  
 SCALE: 1:43 PRICE: £26.99  
 PRODUCT NO: S4312406

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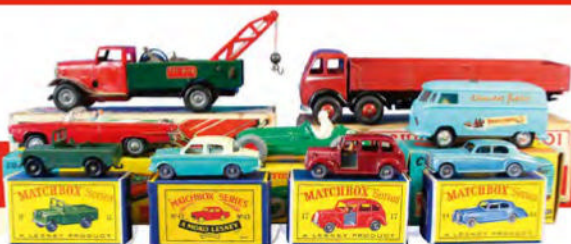
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**SCALE:** 1:76  
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**SCALE:** 1:73 **PRICE:** £25.99  
**PRODUCT NO:** S7200504

Designed to support amphibious operations, this unarmed tractor was operated by a Maybach HL120 engine and initially saw service on the Eastern Front.

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**SOLIDO**  
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KFOR - 1983 (Green Camo)**  
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## OOR WULLIE TAKES THE WHEEL

**E**FE Road has released a distinctive AEC Routemaster RML finished as Clydeside Scottish's 'Oor Wullie's Special', representing RML900 in post-1989 condition. The model benefits from EFE Road's updated RML tooling, featuring refined bodyside panel lines and a high level of livery accuracy, including roof artwork, fleet number JC10, correct blinds and even the Clydemaster radiator badge. A bespoke presentation sleeve completes the release. ■

### EFE Road

**Vehicle:** AEC Routemaster RML900

**Scale:** 1:76 **Price:** £54.95

**Product no:** E42301



## FLORAL FLOURISH ON THE FYLDE

**C**orgi has added a colourful Blackpool favourite to its tram and railcoach range with the release of Brush Railcoach no. 621 in mid-1990s Interflora advertising livery. Withdrawn from passenger service in 2004, the Railcoach later returned to operation following preservation work, but this model captures it during its bold advertising era, complete with period details and a clean finish. ■

### Corgi (Original Omnibus)

**Vehicle:** Brush Railcoach – Blackpool Transport 'Interflora'

**Scale:** 1:76 **Price:** £46.99

**Product no:** OM44013



## CLASSIC RTL GOES 'N' GAUGE

**O**xford Diecast has released a finely detailed RTL bus in 1:148 scale. The real bus survives today in notably original condition and is on display at the London Bus Museum in Cobham, where it regularly appears at events. Finished in red with a cream waist band, the model features period advertising panels, with interior and wheel hub colours carefully matched to the prototype. ■

### Oxford Diecast

**Vehicle:** RTL bus (Route 11)

**Scale:** 1:148 **Price:** £10.95

**Product no:** NRTL005



**WEISS BROTHERS**  
Taylor XH-360L  
forklift truck  
SCALE: 1:50 PRICE: €149.00  
PRODUCT NO: 410324

Ideal for any loading duties, finished in the striking Mammoet decoration. The model features steering rear axle, opening cabin doors, highly detailed interior, and fully functioning fork carriage.

<https://store.mammoet.com/>



**WSI MODELS**  
DAF 3600 8x4 Tractor 'Van Seumeren'  
SCALE: 1:50 PRICE: €169.00  
PRODUCT NO: 410308

The Van Seumeren branding is very popular, with a heavy tow DAF 3600 tractor, featuring a rear-mounted ballast box, steering front axles and a replicated cabin interior.

<https://store.mammoet.com/>



**KRANLAB**  
Gottwald AMK 126-63  
mobile crane 'Van Seumeren'  
SCALE: 1:50 PRICE: €369.00  
PRODUCT NO: 410292

Limited edition run of 600 pieces in the Van Seumeren decoration, expertly developed to capture all the small details of this vintage lifting rig, using photo-etch and resin parts for true realism.

<https://store.mammoet.com/>



**KRANLAB**  
Gottwald AMK 126-63  
mobile crane 'Mammoet'  
SCALE: 1:50 PRICE: €369.00  
PRODUCT NO: 410293

With twin lifting winches and a different design of telescopic boom, this Gottwald AMK 126-63 has been produced in the Mammoet branding, with custom parts used for true accuracy to the original.

<https://store.mammoet.com/>



**AT COLLECTIONS**  
Atlas 185W  
wheeled excavator  
SCALE: 1:32 PRICE: €109.99  
PRODUCT NO: 3200152

With a working blade and steering axle, this Atlas wheeled excavator. With the opening cabin door revealing the fully kitted out interior to the replication of the main and auxiliary hydraulic lines.

<https://shop.at-collections.nl/>



**CONRAD**  
MACK Pioneer  
tandem axle tractor  
SCALE: 1:50 PRICE: €109.99  
PRODUCT NO: N/A

Available in an all-black or burgundy finish, featuring a steering front axle, replication of the mirrors which are already attached, free-rolling wheels with accurate treaded tyres.

[www.mackshop.com/retailstore](http://www.mackshop.com/retailstore)



**NZG**  
Genie S-85 XC FE  
Hybrid telescopic manlift  
SCALE: 1:32 PRICE: €140.00  
PRODUCT NO: 9662

This telescopic manlift has a new undercarriage design and small differences to the boom linkage and basket over the original model, not forgetting the updated graphics.

[www.nzg.de](http://www.nzg.de)



**DIECAST MASTERS**  
Caterpillar D5 LGP track-type tractor  
'Centenary Grey Edition'  
SCALE: 1:87 PRICE: £68.99  
PRODUCT NO: 85953BGC

Caterpillar have commissioned four models for their Centenary celebrations, the smallest of which is the Cat D5 LGP track-type tractor which has been finished in the Centenary Grey colours.

[www.diecastconstruction.co.uk](http://www.diecastconstruction.co.uk)



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**ESVAL:** 1952 BENTLEY R-TYPE COUPE, ABBOTT, SILVER/BLACK. **£89.99**



**BHM LIONHEART SUPREME:** 1/18 SCALE... 1950 ROLLS ROYCE PHANTOM IV... HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II/KING CHARLES III. STUNNING MODEL OF MUSEUM QUALITY. **£275**



**ESVAL:** 1954 BENTLEY R-TYPE COUPE, ABBOTT, STEEL GREY, REAR SPATS. **£89.99**



**MATRIX:** 1962 AUSTIN MINI BEACH CAR, HER MAJESTY, THE QUEEN. **£89.98**



**MATRIX:** 1998-2002 ROLLS-ROYCE SILVER SERAPH; PEACOCK BLUE METALLIC... SILVER, OR... SUNSET RED METALLIC. **DUE IN! PRE-ORDER NOW!**



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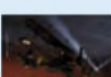
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**ROS**  
**Krone Big Pack HDP II 1290 VC**  
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**PRICE:** £140.00 **SCALE:** 1:32 **PRODUCT NO:** 602618  
 ROS released this new limited edition set last year at Agritechnica, where Krone launched the real baler. The baler is all new tooling. Like ROS's models of previous Krone balers, it's a well-engineered and detailed model with plenty of working features. On the drawbar, there are seven flexible hydraulic pipes, a yellow pto shaft and an adjustable stand. The pickup has castor wheels and a rotary crop press, while lifting the front cover reveals the flywheel detail. It also has hinged side panels that when raised

have 22 white twine balls detailed on each side. Access steps to and handrails around the baler above the bale chamber are provided. Here, there are two hinged covers. Under one, there's drive detail and under the other eight knotters and fan detail. The baler has steerable rear wheels, red and white warning decals and taillights. ROS has not provided the baler in this set with any bales or a tailgate but it has fitted a clevis drawbar with the pin for attaching the bale collector. The collector, which is not newly tooled, has a metal frame and plastic body. It has four non steerable wheels and an extendable drawbar. The wings fold and at the rear there's a tailboard with lights and decals.

[kronekitd-merchandise.myshopify.com](http://kronekitd-merchandise.myshopify.com)



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**JCB 3CX Pro "1 Millionth Edition" Backhoe Loader**

**PRICE:** £49.99 **SCALE:** 1:32 **PRODUCT NO:** 43411  
 Britains latest edition of its 3CX backhoe loader model sports the extra decals marking production of JCB's one millionth backhoe loader. Only 2,500 models made.

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**BRITAINS**  
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**PRICE:** £39.99 **SCALE:** 1:32 **PRODUCT NO:** 43406  
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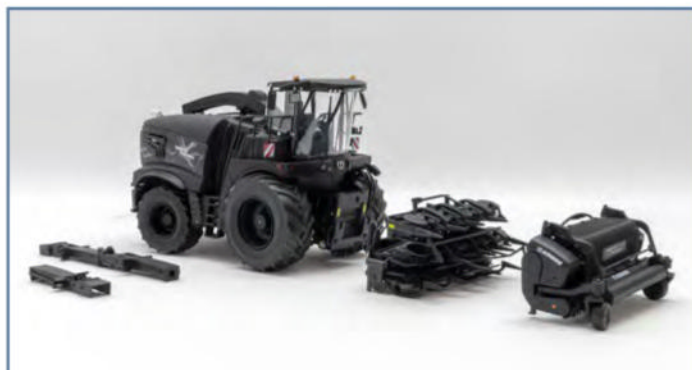
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**BRITAINS**  
**Ford 8210 Gen III Tractor**

**PRICE:** £34.99 **SCALE:** 1:32 **PRODUCT NO:** 43418  
 Good-looking classic tractor with steerable wheels and Britains' standard rear linkage. The fully glazed cab has good levels of internal detailing.

[www.britainsfarmtoys.co.uk](http://www.britainsfarmtoys.co.uk)



**ROS**  
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**PRICE:** £160 (169.00 euros) **SCALE:** 1:32 **PRODUCT NO:** 601734  
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Photos: João Carlos Oliveira



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: 1993 Nissan 90 GTP (Spark), 1998 Ferrari 333 SP (Top Marques) and 1988 Porsche 962 C (Spark)

In Part 1 of this article, Racing Colours Momo, we looked at models from the late 1970s and 1980s sponsored by the Italian brand Momo, a firm specialising in components and accessories for racing cars. It all started with a thicker-than-usual steering wheel, quickly adopted by some of the most reputed drivers of the 1960s—people who raced in series as high as Formula 1.

From a homemade steering wheel to other performance parts, both for racing cars and streetcars, Momo became a worldwide brand. It was just logical that spending some advertising funds in Motorsport was the right thing to do. Therefore, they did it.

In the beginning, Momo sponsored middle grid drivers and teams. And was very careful in choosing the series they want to be as a brand. In a way, the Motorsport world represented a good part of Momo's target customers, so the investment made sense.

#### BRANDING

But if there was an area where Momo gave its full attention, it was brand image. The logo was simply the brand name; however, they created a specific font for the Momo word. The liveries were also very simple, but carefully designed to give the best possible impact. And they were

# Racing in the veins

After Momo's early years that we visited in Part I of this article, **Francisco Mota** takes us to modern times. The livery evolved but kept being one of the easiest to recognise.

consistent when the marketing people decided to change something. Even today, a Momo-sponsored racing car is immediately recognised in the middle of any racing "mêlée": red with yellow stripes and letters always work fine.

At the end of Part 1, we left Momo-sponsored cars in the middle of the 1980s. Until then, Porsche was the manufacturer of choice for Mr Moretti, the original Momo's owner. In the first group of 1/43 scale model cars sponsored by Momo, only one was not from Stuttgart, because in the one-make series EuroCup, only Renault 5 Turbos were allowed to race.

For Part 2, we start with a pair of

Porsches, of a new generation, the Group C era, as it became known, due to new technical regulations that had the same name.

#### A NEW ERA

The car with racing number 230 is the Porsche 962C that entered the 1990 Le Mans 24h race. This was one of the last versions of this successful endurance car, with a separated rear wing and a more profiled body than the early 962s. The model is a release from Spark, from some time ago. Looking around for nice details, there are many, starting with the double headlights behind Plexiglas covers. The



single wiper for the curved windshield is made from photoetched parts and looks amazing. Marked tyres and matt-black rims also look great. From behind, we can see the huge ground-effect tunnels under the car. The model next to this one has the racing number 30 and is also a Porsche 962, although an older version, as raced in the 1988 Del Mar 2H. It features the previous body with a rear wing connected to the sides by a pair of longitudinal fins. It has a few modifications from the original car made by Porsche, like a voluminous double air intake over the engine cover. Headlamps are blanked out, presumably because the race was in daylight, and there are a pair of winglets at each front corner. The rear view shows the ground-effect tunnels even more clearly.

#### CHANGING CARS

For the next pair, we have another Porsche 962C version: a 1992 edition by Joest Racing, featuring a twin-plane rear wing and a longer, sharper nose. It also features blanked-out headlamps and periscope air intakes on the side flanks. There are many air scoops around the body, making this look just like the car entered in the 1992 Road America race.

Next to it, there's the Nissan 90 GTP as raced in the USA IMSA Series. The overall shape isn't much different from the Porsche's; however, there are quite a few

details that make this scale model unique in this collection. Black wheel rims are not one of those, as they became a Momo trademark. There are no visible headlamps, because this American Series was in daylight. On the front, there are winglets at each front corner and behind each race number 30, there's a scoop to let out hot air from the front radiator. The rear-view mirrors are positioned on the front wheel arches, and there are two high-periscope air inlets on each side of the cockpit, plus two lower ones further back. The rear wing has a slightly arrow-shaped profile, looking very dramatic. In this case, Momo was not the sole main sponsor, dividing the available space on the front bonnet and side flanks with Rodio in white letters. These are two great-looking cars in this collection, particularly for collectors with a soft spot for 1990s endurance cars.

#### THE GREATEST WIN

We jump from the early 1990s to the end of the decade. Technical rules changed, bringing in other manufacturers to

1. Single exhaust pipe in the 1998 Porsche 962
2. High-placed mirrors and a single roof antenna in the #230 Le Mans Porsche



**'If there was an area where Momo gave its full attention, it was brand image. The logo was simply the brand name; however, they created a specific font for the Momo word. The liveries were also very simple, but carefully designed.'**

# »» RACING COLOURS MOMO – PART II

**RIGHT** Two Porsche 962 versions, on the left a 1990 Le Mans car, while the other is an early car from the 1988 Del Mar 2H race



**RIGHT** A 1992 version of the Porsche 962 (left) next to a Nissan 90 GTP. Both very well rendered



endurance racing. Ferrari was one of the newcomers with the new 333 SP. This open prototype was never intended to run under the works' colours. Its aim was the privateer team with a sound budget. It was raced by several teams in different series; one of them was Moretti Racing, with a beautiful red-and-yellow car sponsored by Momo. The team's best result and also the car's highest achievement was the victory in the 1998 Daytona 24 hour race. Moretti shared the car with professional drivers Luyendyk, Baldi and Theys, completing no less than 711 laps, eight more than the second-place Porsche 911 GT1 Evo. We have two models to represent this car, one from the high-end model maker Top Marques and the other a low-cost Altaya/Ixo.

The model with four headlamps is from Top Marques, while the Altaya/Ixo features only two. Both are correct. The first one represents the car in night configuration, while the other has the daylight front hood—the same thing for the yellow fin over the engine cover on the back. The Top Marques model has better details, such as a small visor in front of the driver, higher side mirrors, and a longer front splitter. Wheels also seem more realistic, and the car's rear side has more detail, including an aerodynamic extractor. The Ixo/Altaya



**3.** Rear wing almost looks like a trailer in this 962

model lacks the vertical yellow stripes in the rear and features a different shape. Maybe this was a second rear engine cover used sometime during the race. The lower body shape behind the front wheels is also different; in this case, the Altaya/Ixo seems closer to period pictures.

On the other hand, the Top Marques model features air scoops over the front wheels and a more detailed cockpit. To end this comparison, the red paint on the Altaya/Ixo model appears slightly darker. But, in what concerns Ferrari, the right tone of red is a never-ending debate...

The Daytona win was the peak for Momo-sponsored cars. It kept showing



**4.** Unusual air scoops in the Nissan 90 GTP

in the Ferrari 333 SP in the USA racing scene, but never again with such success.

## MOMO DESIGN

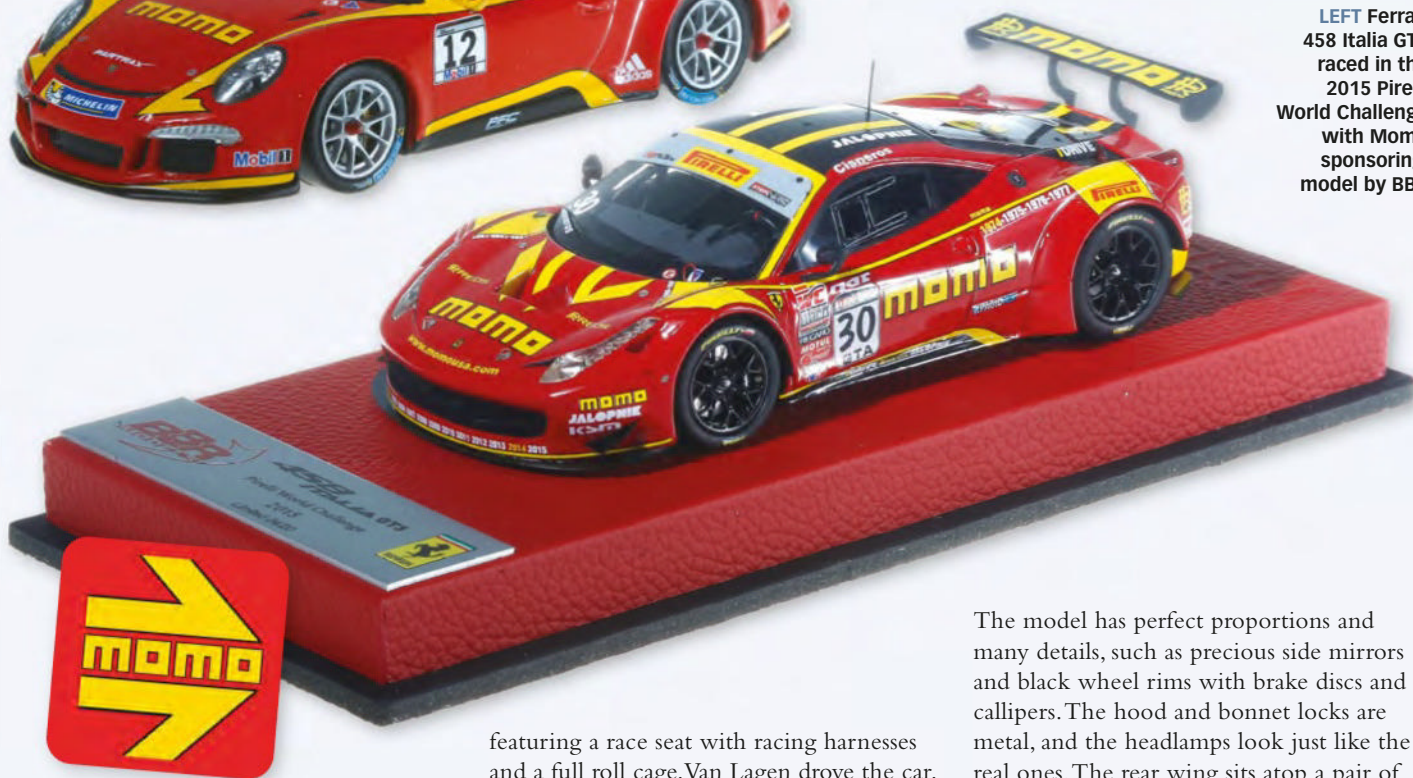
Gianpiero Moretti's death in 2012, at 71, didn't stop the owners of Momo Design from continuing to invest in advertising in the following years. Motorsport was still a major market for the company and the brand. From time to time, a red-and-yellow-painted racecar with the word Momo would be seen racing in Europe or the USA. For model makers, this era was challenging to track, but with dedicated research, several cars can still be discovered.



ABOVE Two models of the same car, the victorious Ferrari 333 SP, first in the 1988 Daytona 24H



LEFT Porsche 911 GT3 Cup raced in the manufacturer's Supercup with Momo colours



LEFT Ferrari 458 Italia GT3 raced in the 2015 Pirelli World Challenge with Momo sponsoring, model by BBR

One of those is the Porsche 911 GT3 Cup that entered the 2015 Porsche Supercup. Painted in the traditional red, as a base colour, the yellow stripes are a new interpretation of the traditional livery. Curved lines following the 911's shape gave it a very special, unusual look. The model is by Spark and features a very high level of detail, as usual. Wheel rims and tyres are perfect. The rear wing sits high, on a pair of photoetched stands, for extra realism. There are the trademark double exhaust pipes at the centre of the rear bumper, along with detailed rear lights. Through the windshield and door windows, we can see the entire cabin,

featuring a race seat with racing harnesses and a full roll cage. Van Lagen drove the car.

The last Momo-sponsored 1/43 scale model we've found is an exquisite BBR-made Ferrari 458 Italia GT3. The car itself is probably one of the best-looking GT3 cars ever seen, and the Momo livery suits it very well. The designer chose to start with a graphic scheme reminiscent of traditional double yellow stripes, ending in half arrows at the front, pointing to the word Momo at the extreme front end. The sides of the car feature the sponsor's name, roughly in the middle, with subtle yellow stripes following the car's beltline. Visually, it works very well because the mandatory Pirelli logos share the same colour combination. The car was entered in the 2015 Ferrari Pirelli World Challenge and driven by Cisneros.

The model has perfect proportions and many details, such as precious side mirrors and black wheel rims with brake discs and callipers. The hood and bonnet locks are metal, and the headlamps look just like the real ones. The rear wing sits atop a pair of curved supports, anchored to the rear side. Here, we can see a pair of exhausts at the centre, to free space for a tall aerodynamic extractor. There's a black net on both sides of the exhausts to let hot air out of the engine compartment and a pair of excellent rear lamps. The model is a limited edition of only 20 examples worldwide and is screwed to a leather-covered base. Obviously, it's the most expensive scale model in this article, but it's worth every cent.

Momo-sponsored scale models became an unexpected episode of Racing Colours; at the end, we found more examples than expected. Of course, the chase is never over! ■



Few aviation aficionados can fail to be impressed by the English Electric Lightning, a Cold War fighter capable of supersonic speeds. The popularity of the Lightning means that it has been no stranger to Corgi's Aviation Archive range over the years, firstly in 1:72 scale but more recently in the form of very impressive models in 1:48 scale. This latter, larger scale offers Corgi the chance to produce a model with much higher detail, and the result is a real modern masterpiece.

**CORGI'S 1:48 LIGHTNING RANGE**

So far, including this latest model, Corgi has released four Lightnings in 1:48 scale. All have been F.6s to keep the tooling the same. The first was XR728/JS of 11 Squadron in grey livery (AA28401), as flown from RAF Binbrook at the time of the Lightning's retirement.

Secondly came XS927/R of 74 Squadron, RAF Tengah, Singapore, circa 1969 (AA28402). This wore an all-over silver livery with a black tail and the famous markings of 74 'Tiger' Squadron.

The third model represented XS904/BQ of 11 Squadron, RAF Binbrook, circa August 1987 (AA28403). This model has grey and green camouflage topsides.

Both the model of XS904 and that of XR728 represent aircraft that are part of the Lightning Preservation Group and can

# Lightning strikes

Jarrold Cotter looks at the latest release of a Corgi 1:48 scale Lightning, the all-over silver F.6 XR726.

be seen at their base at Bruntingthorpe in Leicestershire. They are maintained in operational condition and can regularly be seen on 'fast taxi' runs using reheat.

**THE NEW MODEL**

This latest addition to the range models XR726/N of 5 Squadron, RAF Leconfield circa May 1973 (AA28404). XR726 was constructed as an F.6 variant during late 1964, making its first flight in June the following year. Spending much of its RAF career with 5 Squadron, it wore the majority of the different finish

variations worn by Lightnings during their service lives.

It is painted all-over silver to represent the natural metal finish that Lightnings wore in their early days. The 5 Squadron markings comprise a red band either side of the forward fuselage roundel and a figure 5 with a maple leaf from the unit's badge inside it on both sides of the tail. The maple leaf, the national symbol of Canada, commemorates the squadron's close links with the Canadian Corps during the First World War and was approved by King George VI in June 1937.



With all the accessories included, this model comes into its own when displayed as though on the ground. Note the open canopy, crew ladder and air intake cover visible in this view.

This model captures the lines of the Lightning really well, including the highly swept wings and low-mounted tailplanes, plus the unusual stacked engine configuration. It has the Lightning's familiar air-to-air missiles on its forward fuselage sides, an in-flight refuelling probe under the port wing and this is the first in the range to include overwing fuel tanks. These are supplied separately from the model and can be optionally fitted at the collector's choice.

The Lightning was always limited on its range with a high fuel consumption, and the overwing tanks of the F.6 variant helped with this problem.

Adding to the model's impressive characteristics is a choice of open or closed canopy by the inclusion of two canopies provided, a crew step ladder, an engine air intake cover, and an exhaust cover. A detailed pilot figure and optional undercarriage up or down accessories

complete the model's list of detail parts. It comes supplied with a sturdy stand to display it in in-flight guise should the collector wish, though with all the additional accessories, in my opinion, this model looks best displayed as though parked on the ground.

The model has a length of 350mm, a height of 130mm and a wingspan of 220mm. These measurements make for a model which would be a real centre of attention and talking point to add to anyone's collection.

This very welcome addition to the Corgi range of 1:48 scale Lightnings has a limited-edition run of only 1,200 units, so keen collectors may wish to get one before they sell out. At the time of writing, it was still available direct from Corgi and well advertised by the usual good retailers. It has a retail price of £189.99, which I appreciate is a more considerable purchase, but the model is well worth it. ■



The Corgi 1:48 scale Lightning captures the lines of this British Cold War interceptor.



Clearly visible in this view is the exhaust cover, another great accessory.



The 1:48 scale Lightning comes supplied with a stand for 'in-flight' poses.



The Lightning points skywards as though climbing fast to intercept a Soviet aircraft.



A nice profile view of the Lightning.



As you'd expect, the box artwork is superb.

Now, I've decided to restore a Dinky Alfa Romeo, the next step is to dismantle it. Drilling out the rivet heads that hold the wheels and the baseplate on is the first thing to do. Secure the model in a vice and use rubber blocks to protect the casting if necessary. Once the model is in pieces, you'll quickly be able to ascertain any hidden damage. Make sure to lay everything out on a clear surface. Granted, there's not much to lose on a 50's Dinky, but on a Corgi James Bond Aston Martin or a battery operated model, you definitely don't want anything going astray.

**PAINT OFF**

Once you're satisfied with the models' structural condition, the next step is to strip off the old paint. Before you do anything, remove any plastic components as these would be ruined by the stripping process. The old type of commercial paint stripper is no longer available. Although effective, it was deemed harmful to the environment, so new formulations had to be found.

What we have now takes much longer to work and is a good deal messier. The alternative is to use caustic soda, which, although effective, must be used properly. Always take the obligatory safety precautions and dispose of the waste responsibly.

Whatever method you choose, afterwards, clean down the casting using very fine grade wire wool and remove any stubborn paint with a pin or a scalpel blade. Finally, give the casting a wipe over with cellulose thinners and leave everything to dry thoroughly. Speaking of health and safety, years back, people used brake fluid to strip old castings. Can you imagine the health and safety furore that would cause nowadays!

**STOP THE ROT**

Rust is the bane of restorers, whether it's baseplates or lithography, it can wreak untold damage which is not always repairable. Now, I've used a few rust removers over the years, and though effective, they can be horrible to use and clear up. Recently, I've taken to using dips of white vinegar. Whilst it takes longer, it's gentler, easy to use and a whole lot cheaper too. Vinegar, my struggle with really bad rust, but typically that's a sign of something being past saving anyway. You can sometimes get a quick fix on a clockwork motor using WD40 and the like, but to really fix them, rust removal



# The Renovation Game: Part Three

This month, **Ian McDermott** takes us through the first part of the restoration process: the strip-down.

is the way. Once done, a quick oil should have them running well again. This assumes that there isn't a broken spring, which is another story.

So, once you've stripped your casting and cleaned up the baseplate, what else is there to do before paint? For a start, don't put your greasy fingers all over it. We've all done it! Secondly, don't paint anywhere

near products containing silicone, as it can contaminate the paint finish. Thirdly, pick somewhere appropriate to paint. If spray painting, you'll need a warm, dry environment with plenty of ventilation and somewhere to make a mess. You knew the last bit though, didn't you?

Next time we'll be painting our casting, masking up and touching in. ■



**ABOVE** All cleaned up and ready for paint. The tinplate base was cleaned up with vinegar.



**ABOVE** It's surprising how many parts a model can be broken down to: a bit like a real car.

**TOP** Take care when drilling out the rivets and make sure the model is well secure.



# Driven to collect

**Jonathan Crellin (Jono)** reflects on a lifelong passion for Matchbox, from childhood beginnings to a 15,000-model collection built purely for enjoyment.

## WHAT GOT YOU INTO SCALE MODEL COLLECTING?

To be quite honest, I have no idea why I collect models. I have always had a fascination with cars and trucks. My mum told me that as soon as I could talk, whenever we passed a toy car display, I would point at the models and say “car, car!” Apparently, a Matchbox car was constantly in my hand and never far away. My dad was also a heavy influence on my love of cars, owning a service station and mechanical repair business where I spent a lot of time during childhood holidays. Growing up in the 1970s and 1980s in Australia, Matchbox was the dominant diecast brand, which is what I naturally leaned towards, aside from the

occasional Corgi, Majorette and Hot Wheels. I considered myself a collector at about the age of seven, around 1980, and avidly collected the boxes because I loved the artwork—this is where my love affair with Matchbox really began. My mum made me throw a lot of the boxes away, much to my disappointment, only to tell me a couple of years later that I should have kept them, as they made the models more valuable—something I never let her forget!

## WHAT DO YOU COLLECT?

My first love was, and still is, Matchbox collecting: 1–75 Superfast, Superkings, Yesteryear, Matchbox Dinky, and Collectibles. My main focus and true passion are the Lesney years, although my collecting spans from the late 1960s to the present day. My Corgi models are mainly 1:36-scale vehicles from the 1970s and 1980s. I have always preferred Matchbox because of their quality, which led to many playground debates about what was better—Hot Wheels, Corgi Juniors or Matchbox. I have all the major variations of Yesteryear, while my Superkings focus has largely been on trucks, with Peterbilt and Ford trucks—Continentials and LTS—among my favourites. In 2011, I started a role at Mazda Australia, which acted as a catalyst for taking a shine to the Tomica mainline range—what Matchbox should be in today’s era, rather than the current

Mattel narrative—while also dabbling in 1:43, 1:18 and some 1:10-scale radio-controlled kits. I also began showcasing my collection via Instagram (@thewheelcollector) as a way of engaging with other collectors, creating a sense of community within the hobby and building a running archive of my models. I reckon my collection sits at around 15,000 models, which is a fair few, although I am well aware that some collectors have far larger collections.

## WHAT ARE YOUR HINTS AND TIPS ABOUT COLLECTING?

My hints and tips are simple: collect what you like and like what you collect. Diecast collecting should be about the enjoyment of the hobby rather than financial gain. If you are chasing monetary returns, have realistic expectations—don’t expect your collection to make millions, as values rise and fall unpredictably. Today’s ‘hot’ items may be tomorrow’s old news. Overproduction has flooded the market with Yesteryear, making them difficult to shift. My observation is that Matchbox Superfast is considered more valuable because so many examples were played with and sadly destroyed, leaving far fewer survivors. I see a similar future for the Hot Wheels collectors’ range. Mint packaging alone does not guarantee long-term value.

## WHAT IS THE HOLY GRAIL THAT IS MISSING FROM YOUR COLLECTION?

There are a few Matchbox Superfast models I would love to own: the MB8 Rover 3500 in yellow; the MB34 Chevy Pro-Stocker in green ‘88’ tempo with matching box; the MB8 white transitional Ford Mustang; and the MB22 transitional Pontiac Grand Prix in red. It is a proper wish list, but if the price is right, there is always a deal to be done. I managed to acquire a pre-production TP-24 Long Haul truck in Kodak livery from a seller who had no idea of its rarity. Sometimes you get lucky! ■



**ABOVE** First seen in the 1979 catalogue, it felt like the coolest car available. Opening doors and a tow bar made it endlessly playable, and it has remained one of my favourite Matchbox castings from childhood through to adulthood.

## What we reckon

Jono does well by documenting his models and sharing his collection via social media. It’s not for everyone, but it allows a pictorial archive that informs other collectors about models on the rarer side, rather than following the all-too-obvious cycle of new drops. When social media is done without the need for validation and likes, these channels become a brilliant resource, and Jono’s feed exemplifies the journey of collecting and showcases excellence in the quality of his collection. **Keith D’Souza**



**ABOVE** Despite there being over 40 years between them, both models are clearly of the Rover SD1.

# Style, ambition & legacy

**L**aunched in 1976, the Rover SD1 was designed as a replacement for both the Rover P6 and the Triumph 2000/2500 ranges. At this time, both marques were under the umbrella of British Leyland (BL) and by the time development work started, they had both come under the new 'Specialist Division' of BL. The project was given the codename SD1 (Specialist Division project 1), a name that BL never used in its marketing and sales of the car. Instead, they referred to the engine size and trim level, or to one of the traditional 'names' (Vanden Plas, Vitesse). Enthusiasts now refer to the car by the codename SD1 to cover all models from the range. Early cars were built at Rover's Solihull factory, but were plagued by poor build quality. Despite the advancements over the P6 and all the fanfare at launch, the car quickly gained a poor reputation, not helped by even the press fleet cars being of poor quality. Things improved after the 1982 facelift, with production of these 'Series 2' cars moving to Cowley. By this time, however, the damage was done, which is a shame, as the Series 2 cars were generally regarded as being very good cars. This month's 'Then and Now' takes a closer look at two miniature examples of the SD1.

Whilst there have been a decent number of toys and models produced of

the Rover SD1 over the years, it was last year's Matchbox Moving Parts Rover SD1 Vitesse that sparked the idea for this month's comparison. Some might question my choice to compare the new Matchbox with an older Corgi, given that Matchbox itself released a 1-75 Rover 3500 back in 1981. My reasons are surprisingly simple; firstly, colour. Matchbox didn't release their 3500 in red, the colour of their Moving Parts 2025 offering. Corgi, however, did release their Junior Rover 3500 in red. Secondly, there have already been numerous comparisons between the two Matchbox versions on the internet. So, let's take a closer look at how these two red Rovers compare.

We will start, as always, with the older model. The basic shape of this Series 1 car looks to be about right. Corgi provided a degree of cast-in detailing with the shape of the headlights and outline of the Rover badge up front, and the distinctive ribbed rear lights at the back. Corgi also chose to fit a tow bar, giving rise to that slightly awkward, oversized hook. The black plastic base also incorporates the [all-black] bumpers, which on the Series 1 cars consisted of three pieces front and rear; two plastic end caps and a stainless

steel central section. A nice feature of this toy is the opening tailgate, revealing a good-sized boot area. And not only does the tailgate open, but it is glazed too. My example featured here has yellow-tinted windows and a yellow interior. The interior is, as you would expect from a small-scale toy, pretty basic looking, but it does have more than a passing resemblance to the early SD1 interior. Overall, this is a nice looking representation of the early Series 1 SD1.

For their new Moving Parts SD1, Matchbox have chosen the later Series 2 car, in top of the range Vitesse form, as introduced in late 1982. Labelled as an 1984 SD1, this model also captures the SD1's shape well and boasts the larger, deeper front spoiler that Austin Rover homologated for the 1985 European Touring Car Championship.

It also has the side rubbing strips, introduced in 1984 when the rear wheel spats were deleted. Matchbox have cast in the rear spoiler and simply painted it body colour (it should be black), which sort of spoils its appearance in my book. What also slightly spoils the appearance is the oddly applied black paint around the windows. While the black has been



**ABOVE** The oversize tow bar/hook on the Corgi spoils the look of the rear.

applied to the top millimetre of vertical surface, the flat surfaces are still red, looking odd with the window glazing set behind.

The rest of the detailing on this SD1 is superb. The side rubbing strips and door handles are very delicately done. The front lights and Rover badge are nicely detailed, and even the silver paint representing the chrome strip along the leading edge of the bonnet is well done. The model's ace card, however, is around the back. The painted rear lights and 'Rover Vitesse' badging would give a 1:64 that costs several times as much as a real run for their money. The opening bonnet reveals Rover's infamous V8 painted in three colours. And like the Corgi, the interior is fairly basic but does pass for the Series 2 interior.

So I reckon the Corgi has real period charm, while the 2025 Matchbox is superbly detailed. When you park the two side by side, however, something becomes immediately obvious. That difference is the dimensions of both cars. They are the same length and nearly the same height, but their widths are very different; yet it is hard to tell which is closer to the correct width. When viewed together from the side, they also take on very different appearances. The Matchbox looks lower, with the Corgi's windows appearing squarer and taller. Photos of the real car suggest to me the Matchbox is perhaps the most accurate, which you would possibly expect, being a much newer model.... But I don't think it is quite that clear-cut. Perhaps it's time to go and dig out my bronze MB8 Rover 3500 and a scale ruler! ■



**ABOVE** Both Rovers feature openings; the Corgi has the lifting tailgate while the Matchbox has the front hinged bonnet.

**BELOW LEFT** Three colours of paint gives the Matchbox excellent engine detail.

**BELOW RIGHT** The Rover SD1 had a capacious load area; something Corgi have replicated on their Juniors version.





No.  
**69**

# Superfast 1969-1982

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

## ROLLS-ROYCE COUPÉ

**Production:** 1970-73

**Catalogue:** 1970-73

**Box Styles:** F, G

Taking over from the non-Superfast Hatra Tractor Shovel for 1970, this model was based on the then latest Rolls-Royce, a two-door convertible bodied by Mulliner Park Ward. Many collectors, particularly Americans, have wondered why this was called a "coupé" when it was quite obviously a convertible or cabriolet. The reason is that Rolls-Royce, being a rather conservative company, chose to use the old-fashioned term "drop-head coupé" for its cars.

Anyway, this lovely model shared some components with the existing Silver Shadow saloon (No 24 in the series) namely the opening boot and the front grille/lights/bumper piece. The rest was all new. Initially it was painted an attractive mid-blue colour, with a tan hood cover and a reddish-brown interior that could be described as terracotta.

The windscreen was tinted orange, and the

base was normally painted black, but can also be found in silver, brown and even yellow!

In 1973, the colour scheme was changed to a metallic gold body, with a cream interior and black hood, although gold examples could be found with terracotta interiors and/or tan hoods. Some late examples appeared in a slightly different shade known as 'lime gold', which is more of a metallic yellow colour than gold. This Rolls-Royce Coupé had a fairly short life, being replaced for the 1974 catalogue.

## TURBO FURY

**Range:** Rola-matics

**Production:** 1974-78

**Catalogue:** 1974-78

**Box Styles:** I, J

Easily the most impressive Rola-matics release is Turbo Fury. Based largely on No 61 Blue Shark from 1972, but painted an eye-catching shade of metallic red, the rear of the casting was heavily modified to accept to large rear-facing six-bladed turbine fans that contra-rotate as it drives.

The main casting difference compared to Blue Shark was a big bulge behind the driver, instead of a rear-mounted engine, that fed the two huge fans.

The chassis and headlights are painted black and the driver and clear windscreen were common parts shared with Blue Shark. On the nose was a racing decal with an arrow and the number "69". If you think you've found a Turbo Fury without the rotating turbines, it is actually a Blue Shark incorrectly painted red and with "69" instead of "86" labels because at one point there was a production run error.

## SECURITY TRUCK

**Production:** 1979-82

**Catalogue:** 1979-82

**Box Styles:** L

Something completely different for 1979 was Security Truck, which was the first armoured car to appear in the Matchbox range. It was based on a real vehicle, probably an International, used by the Wells Fargo Bank in the USA. Most people today probably associate the name Wells Fargo with stagecoaches in the Wild West but for many years it has operated as a major bank and financial services company headquartered in San Francisco.

The Matchbox model came painted in the correct red with a separate roof component in white plastic. The base and grille are painted silver-grey, whilst the windows and dome light are blue-tinted. The company name and logo are tampo printed on the sides in white. The only variations involve the telephone number printed on the front fenders. Reportedly this was a real phone number and was changed after complaints about kids dialling it. It was changed, but the original number is still on the box! ■

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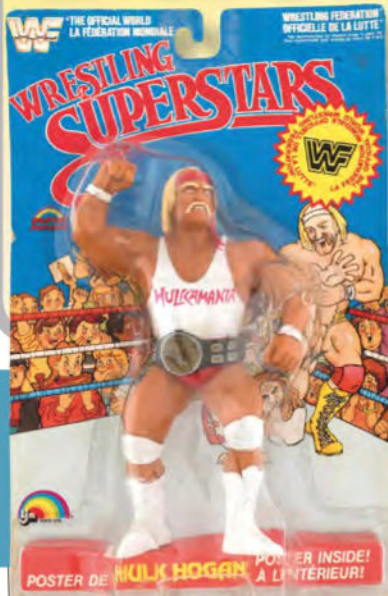
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## » WRESTLING IN MINIATURE

How wrestling's biggest stars became collectable icons, from childhood toys to prized collector pieces



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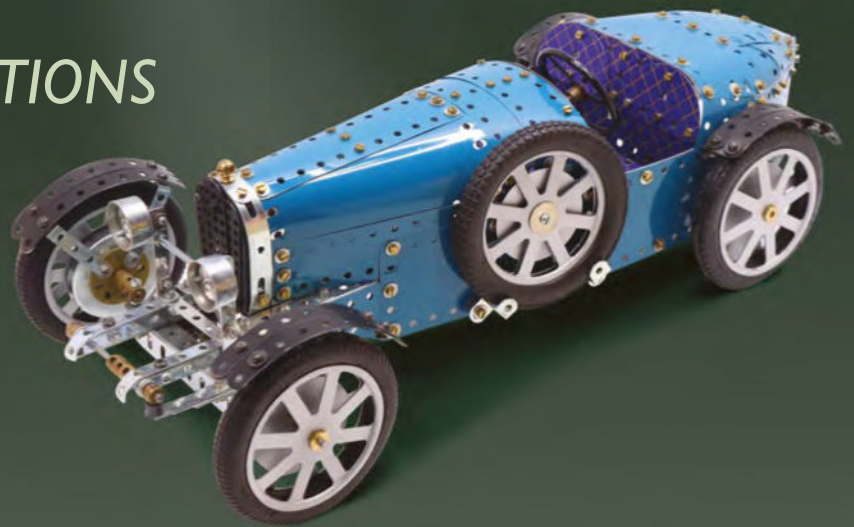
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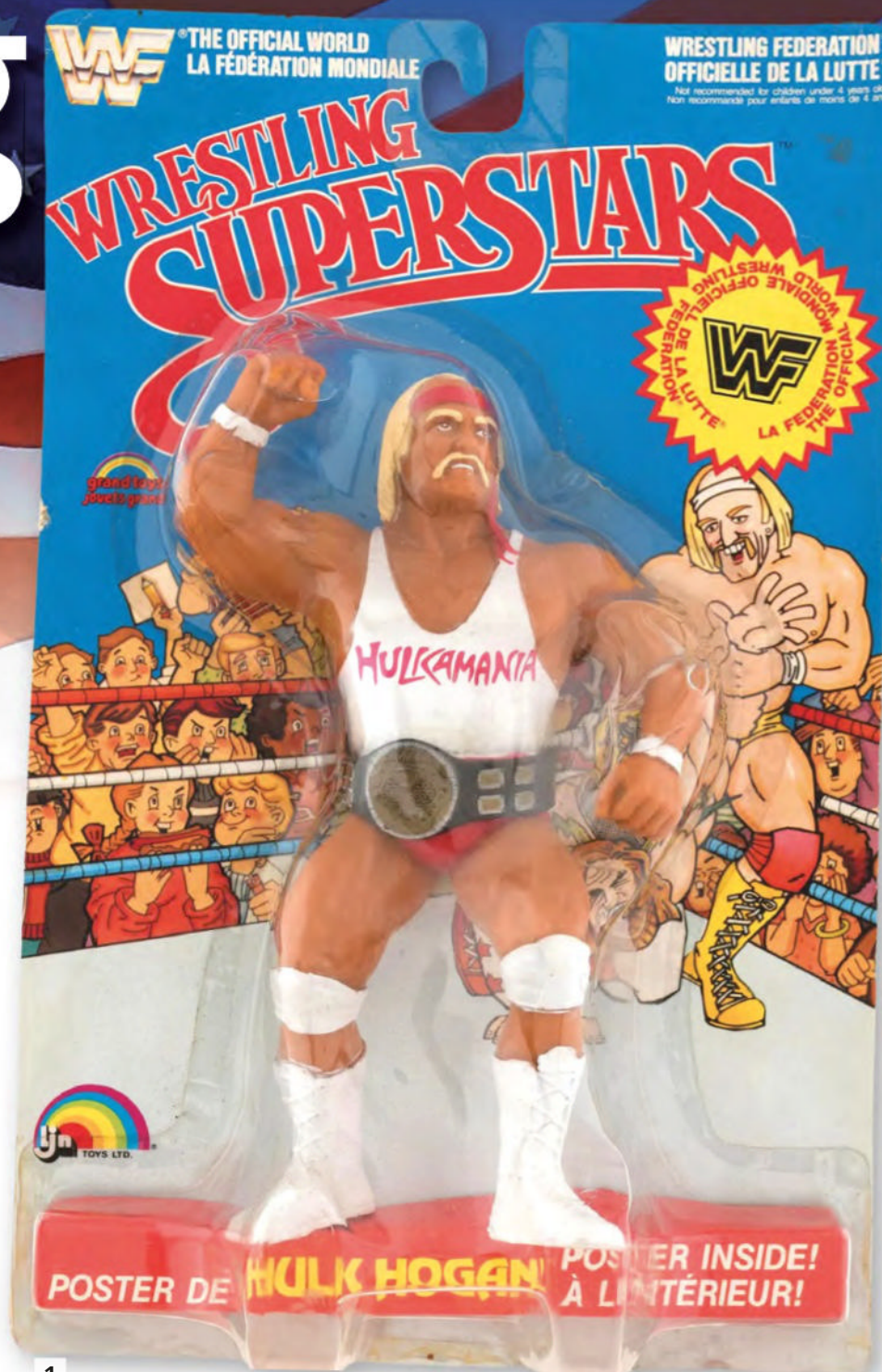
# Ring the bell

## Wrestling figures through the ages

Grapple with this! George Chrysostomou battles with the history of wrestling figures.

If you've turned on Netflix recently, you've probably noticed WWE banners across the platform's advertising panels. In fact, start channel-hopping for an evening, and AEW will likely appear. It seems that wrestling is entering a bit of a boom period again as the sport and entertainment juggernaut goes mainstream. With any significant brand like this, which has a sizeable audience, there are bound to be toys and figures inspired by the action taking place in the ring.

The very first action figures based on wrestling appear to date back to Japan in the 1960s, inspired by characters from the Japan Pro Wrestling Alliance (JWA). However, it wasn't until large American companies entered the business that the collectable space really took off. Today, there's a lot of



1

interest in putting together classic wrestling rosters using their action figures, and fans have been known to pay thousands of dollars for rarer finds. With the increased wrestling presence on our TVs in mind, it's a great time to look at the history of wrestling figures and their prominence as collectables today.

### WRESTLING'S SUPERSTARS IN FIGURE FORM

For those non-wrestling fans out there, it's important to briefly touch on how the

wrestling industry has functioned over the last few decades. While wrestling was initially divided into territories with a range of major companies, the birth of the WWF began to change things. The territories began to die out, as major companies like the NWA, WCW and what would become WWE took their place. Soon, an independent circuit emerged that complemented other mainstream promotions such as TNA and AEW. Now, there are still some major brands alongside WWE, including AAA in Mexico (which

1. A Hulk Hogan 1988 LNJ figure.
2. An Antonio Inoki 1969 JPWA figure.
3. A Stone Cold Steve Austin 2009 Jakks Pacific figure.
4. A Trick Williams 2024 Elite Mattel figure.
5. An Andre The Giant WWE Wrestlemania figure

WWE now owns) and NJPW in Japan. Each of these major promotions features famous wrestlers of its own, who have been fully realised in video games, collectable cards, and, of course, action figures.

It was Wrestling Superstars in 1984 that really began the figure trend, though. Created by the toy company LNJ, these figures were inspired by WWF's biggest names, including André the Giant, 'Rowdy' Roddy Piper and Hulk Hogan. These toys were rather limited in their mobility, and while they captured a stylised likeness of the heroes and villains of the squared circle, they were largely built with a sturdiness that meant kids could throw them around. The line was stopped in 1989, although interestingly, a variation on Wrestling Superstars was revisited in 2021, recreating the classic chunky aesthetic, albeit with modern wrestlers. But, Wrestling Superstars ultimately set the standard, despite the line's drawbacks. Not only are they fondly remembered and highly sought after, but they were the first signs of a boom in wrestling merchandise.

**A POST-BOOM PERIOD**

The 1980s were a significant boom period for wrestling, and the 90s saw a continuation of that momentum. The two major competitors during this period, WCW and WWF, both launched new action figure lines with duelling companies. WCW turned to Galoob and then Toy Biz to create their plastic figures. At this stage, they still weren't quite seen as a collectable, but the range and diversity of figures available began to grow as large as the wrestling roster itself. The figures were still robust, but contained finer detailing, with great attention paid to capture the likeness of the wrestlers.

WWF, meanwhile, worked with Hasbro until 1994, which produced stylised, larger-than-life action figures. While there was something lifelike about the WCW variations, these Hasbro alternatives felt as if they had been inspired by cartoons. As the famous Attitude Era approached and the WWF became far more gritty, the action figure range took the biggest step forward yet. Jakks Pacific took the reins, creating a range of genuine collectables that were highly malleable, incredibly detailed and featuring accessories and weapons. WCW would soon follow suit, with Toy Biz stepping up to the competition.

Jakks Pacific would dominate the space throughout the 2000s, with the market clearing after WCW was bought out by



WWE. Fascinatingly, TNA entered the toy business and worked with both Marvel Toys, an incarnation of Toy Biz, and Jakks Pacific as well! This is the era that many highly valuable collector items come from, with Jakks Pacific, in particular, at the top of its game.

**THE MATTEL YEARS**

Throughout both the 2010s and the 2020s, Mattel has become the most prominent action figure creator for WWE, which continues to be the largest wrestling company in the world. With the collectable community growing throughout this period, Mattel further focused on specific lines. While there was a general range of toys aimed at young fans, which began utilising face-scanning technology on the wrestlers, Mattel also opted for more expensive collector's items.

The Elite Collection range has become the premium collector's item for modern

WWE wrestlers, with Mattel playing to the community with fan-led designs, convention appearances and event reveals. These figures are usually inspired by iconic in-ring appearances, with a quality final finish that recreates specific gear and superstar tattoos, hair and accessories at such a minute level.

**MONEY IN THE BANK**

Like any collectable space, there are some truly shocking price tags linked to some of these action figures, as fans search out the rarest items. One of the most expensive wrestling figures of all time is the Hulk Hogan prototype figure, created by LNJ. The few models that exist have been listed between \$50,000 and \$120,000 and are a significant part of wrestling figure history. Much in the same vein, an exclusive Mattel figure that was never released, featuring a granite Ultimate Warrior, has been auctioned for \$20,000. The Hasbro 2-Up experimental figure of Big Boss Man,



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meanwhile, was purchased at \$5,500 by wrestler and major voice in the collectable community, Zack Ryder/Matt Cardona. Greg “The Hammer” Valentine’s very own prototype figure from LNJ, in his rhythm and blues gear, retailed at \$15,500!

But figure sales can also be based entirely on the popularity of a wrestler. Look at LJN Wrestling Superstars’ figure of Macho Man Randy Savage from 1989, for instance.

The mint condition, in-box toy sold for \$12,000! An Ultimate Warrior equivalent went to auction at \$9,999.99, with Andre the Giant following on at \$9,500. It seems collectors are still hunting down those iconic LJN figures in particular, which hold such fond memories for those who grew up watching wrestling.

### THE FUTURE OF THE INDUSTRY

The conversation is still very much on those rare, older collectable figures, at least

those that can be found in a relatively stable condition or in-box. While some non-WWF and non-Western figures also sell well, the majority of the market seems specifically interested in America’s wrestling history.

It’s a mythology that continues to grow, and those limited Mattel drops are more than likely to become valuable years down the line.

But what’s really exciting about wrestling figure collector items is the way the community is continuing to grow. From special events to podcasts, YouTube streams and blogs, there’s a whole range of ways to interact with this hobby that seemingly popped up overnight. This is being partially driven by wrestlers themselves, who have become great advocates for the history of wrestling figures. It seems that their passion for their craft has inspired a generation of fans to appreciate the show on another level. ■



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**S**calextric is a name most of us have grown up with since our very earliest years. Even if we might consider ourselves to be grown out of such things (nonsense, you're never too old!), there is always the excuse of younger generations to dust off the classic old track pieces.

The concept was first introduced at the Harrogate International Toy Fair in January 1957 by Minimodels Ltd., a manufacturer of tinplate cars since 1952. By 1956, the toy market was beginning to change rapidly, thanks to new high-quality, low-cost pocket-money toys, such as Lesney's newly introduced range of diecast Matchbox vehicles. The company's owner, Fred Francis, had taken note of the popularity of the cars being raced on rails by specialist clubs and the idea of a buried-rail track 'slot car' system was born during a visit to a trade fair. When it launched at Harrogate, the following year, Minimodels initially introduced Scalextric (from 'Scalex Electric', named after its earlier Scalex tinplate car range) with a rubber track system, utilising battery power and push-button controllers. The cars were, of course, initially tinplate and featured low-voltage electric motors.

Moving into the 1960s, Scalextric was really starting to take off, and even the track got upgraded in 1963, with the introduction of the new, more flexible Plexytrack, replacing the original rubber track. Plexytrack featured a sturdier system for connecting track sections and is the system many of us, including me, grew up with. The cars had undergone quite a transformation too in 1960, and were now manufactured with moulded plastic bodies rather than tinplate. This was more cost-effective to produce and allowed for greater detail. Also in 1960, the first edition of the Scalextric catalogue was published.

My first experience of this delightful toy was aged just three (see photo) in 1967, so that's where my collection is focused. I also have plenty of 1970s Scalextric, but that's for another article!



# Back on track

**Rick Wilson** takes a snapshot of the much-loved Scalextric slot racing system from the 1960s.

By the mid-1960s, there was a real variety of sets and accessories on offer, as the range had expanded rather impressively from the early years. I've picked out my favourites to detail here, but I can thoroughly recommend grabbing one of the catalogues from the era to fully appreciate this amazingly popular toy.

## SETS

The first thing that stands out when you see a boxed set is the incredible artwork by the legendary artist, Roy Nockolds. The imagery is so dramatically evocative and featured on Scalextric sets right up to his passing, aged 68, in 1979.

The smaller set here is Set 50, comprising a figure-of-eight track with a flyover and

two cars (C/72 B.R.M. and C/73 Porsche Formula 1 cars). It's the cars that help age it, as they were replaced by C/81 Cooper and C/82 Lotus during 1966, according to that year's catalogue.

But the next set is a huge step up, with much more track, which could be configured either as two-lane or four-lane, and included four cars (2x C/81 Cooper and 2x C/82 Lotus Formula 1 cars). Marketed as "Set 80", this was also referred to as "4 in 1". My set is from the 1967 range, dated by a leaflet that promotes the superb "101 Circuits" publication, first released that year.

Both sets had first appeared in 1964 and lasted in the range until 1970, although the included cars would change during this period, of course, to reflect what was in production at the time.

**LEFT** That's me, aged 3 in 1967, playing nicely (for once!) with my big sister – my first experience of Scalextric! Dad is helping.

**FACING PAGE** Stunning artwork by the legendary Roy Nockolds adorned all the sets and packs during the 1960s – here we see my Set 80 “4 in 1” and the smaller Set 50.

### SPECIALIST TRACK

Scalextric, by now, featured plenty of extras to add even more excitement, such as the A/248 Hump Back Bridge and various chicanes, but my favourite three, by far, were PT/77 ‘Goodwood’ Chicane Set, PT/90 Pit Stop Set and PT/73 Hill Climb and Dragster Turn.

#### PT/77 ‘Goodwood’ Chicane Set,

modelled on the famous hazard used on the Goodwood Park Circuit, the set comprised two converging tracks and three special half straights with track close together. There were borders to widen the track, plus hay bales, cones, fences and the ‘Goodwood Wall’. This was a carryover from the very earliest rubber-track days and lasted in the range until 1974. It was a notable absentee from the 1975 catalogue.

#### PT/90 Pit Stop Set

comprised PT/91 ‘W’ Turnout, PT/93 ‘Y’ Turnout, and two PT/95 Lay By sections (which came as a pair). The turnout sections feature red slider buttons that divert the cars when required. Operated by hand, Scalextric sold a set of four cable-operated hand controls as a set (PT/96) to make things a little easier. The Pit Stop Set could actually be expanded for four- or six-lane racing with the addition of PT/92 ‘X’ Crossing and PT/94 ‘Z’ Crossing, but these are really hard to come by these days and cost a pretty penny when they do crop up. I’m still looking.

#### PT/73 Hill Climb & Dragster Turn

first appeared in 1965. When used with a conventional two-lane track, a special section split the lanes, and a single lane circle allowed the car to return without handling, very much in the popular style of hill climbing and perfect for single-person play. Put two of these at each end of a straight section and you have an interesting test track. I have two sets and run mine with the ‘Goodwood’ Chicane Set and Pit Stop Set in between for a superb visual treat.

**BELOW** PT/73 Hill Climb and Dragster Turn with two copies of “101 Circuits” (both 1st and 2nd editions) and a leaflet from the 4-lane set.



### ACCESSORIES

Scalextric had also begun to introduce various buildings, some in the form of self-assembly kits. There were also ‘extension sets’, which combined extra pieces of track and accessories.

#### K/703 Control Centre

Introduced in 1963 as a self-assembly kit, this three-storey control centre is a very impressive building and is still very much sought after today. It lasted in the range until 1970, but because it was a kit, not many have survived. I was very lucky to find one (just missing one of the flower box strips) amongst a job lot for £15 on Facebook Marketplace recently. These usually sell for well over £100!

#### A/208 Control Tower

If you couldn’t afford the big control centre, either back then or today, then this smaller version was/is another popular choice. Introduced in the first catalogue in 1960, it was last listed as being in the range in the 1971 catalogue.

So, fast forward 60 years, and Scalextric is still going strong, albeit a very different

**RIGHT & BELOW RIGHT** Two building accessories – K/703 Control Centre and A/208 Control Tower.



**BELOW** ‘Goodwood’ Chicane Set and Pit Stop Set, with all six of the cars from my two sets.



digital animal these days, but just as exciting. But there’s just something about those 1960s sets that takes me right back to being an impressionable three-year-old. ■

**W**e British have long been spoiled for choice when it comes to military models. There was a surge in manufacturing output just after the Second World War, but many companies, sadly, would vanish in the 1950s. Thankfully, some survived.

**BOXING CLEVER**

One company that did soldier on was Lesney. I've always felt that Lesney's military output sat beautifully within its bigger 1-75 range – and the marketing coup that saw these little miniatures retailed in small boxes is now part of history. Lesney had imitators, of course, but none came close to its quality.

The late 1950s were key years for Lesney, and a dozen military models followed one another in quick succession. Authentic scale was not always followed (see the DUKW, for example), but to its credit, Lesney focused on British vehicle manufacturers and less on foreign makes. Lesney even tooled up for rubber tracks, an example of the company's attention to realism. To the single models can be added the delightful Antar low loader with its Centurion tank, a pairing rivalled only by the excellent Sentry Box offering.

**MODERN TIMES**

Whilst the name DCMT is arguably less well known, under its Lone\*Star branding it became synonymous with toy firearms. The Palmers Green enterprise truly cornered the market in this particular area and made a killing, if you'll pardon the pun. The company also produced diecast vehicles and had a military range within that.

Under the Modern Army banner, Lone\*Star's 1/43 range hit the toyshops in the 1950s. As for quality, the models were, to my mind, a little rough around the edges. That said, there was innovation in the shape lorry-mounted searchlights and radar dishes, and its cannon and launchers were functional. An interesting item was the Bren gun carrier, something that most makers had overlooked since the Britains example. The range was supplemented by instantly identifiable, rather squat, plastic British infantry. Still common today, examples stand out because of their slightly unusual accoutrements.

**STAR TURN**

Astra Pharos was yet another small business that had its origins in a terraced property in London. Toy production (notably working traffic lights and searchlights) got underway

**TOP** John Hill's delightful barrage balloon and transporter; other manufacturers also offered this ensemble. **RIGHT** Long-range anti-tank gun is arguably the commonest Bullock military item to be found today.



# The green belt

In the second and final part of this two-part feature, **Alwyn Brice** concludes his review of classic British diecast military model suppliers.

in the early 1930s. Still, in 1937, the company decided to change direction and move into military offerings, possibly in view of what was looming on the global horizon.

The fact that you'll find Astra models today without much trouble speaks volumes about these toys' robustness. Tinsplate and diecast elements were employed, and the result was longevity: even when exposed to the elements, Astra toys survived. Tough as old boots, they exemplified the character of the people of the era, one feels.

Field guns, fixed base cannon, a range of military searchlights, a pom-pom gun, a huge cruciform-based anti-aircraft gun, a

multiple rocket launcher, and even guns and searchlights mounted on O gauge railway wagons are all to be found. The railway examples, for some reason, are scarce today, but pretty much all the rest of the output is readily available. There are variations within the range for those who like that sort of thing – and paint finishes can vary in shade. (Astra had a link-up with Wend-Al and Johillco in the mid-1950s when it sold some moulds: these latter companies produced some similar models). Overall, simple, solid engineering has ensured that these models still function almost a century on: that's how good they are.





## QUALITY STREET

I feel that Bullock, a marketing name for MSR Toys, has been much overlooked in the military marketplace. This is a great pity, because its small range of mobile guns and fixed-base cannons is something to be coveted. Extremely well engineered and fully functional (the only maker, I believe, to include string lanyards that allowed the guns to fire, just like the real thing), they also benefited from meticulous paintwork. Furnished with amorces and wooden projectiles, toys they were, indeed, but viewed nowadays, they are something which would take pride of place in any model collection.

Whilst not too common now, for some reason, most of the examples I've come across have remained in very good condition indeed.

## SOLDIERING ON

Best known for its plastic toy soldiers (in particular the swoppet types, that relied on overmoulding and no painting, that were thus far cheaper than the Britains product), Timpo, in its early days (the 1930s), saw it manufacturing in a variety of media, the result of materials shortages. It is credited with making figures in Timpolene (rather

like Hausser's mixture of kaolin, sawdust and glue), and lead and diecast models followed.

In terms of military diecast models, there's not much out there, and the subject matter is certainly not well catalogued. Aircraft, available singly and in sets, is one collecting area, but the actual army vehicles are rather scarce. The most common would appear to be the military dispatch rider; there's a slightly crude articulated khaki-coloured army tanker, an AEC lorry (a repaint of the civilian version?) and a small field gun. My knowledge base runs out here; doubtless, some readers will be able to supplement this information.

## LONDON CALLING

We conclude with another capital firm: like Timpo, John Hill's long suit was that of model soldiers, initially produced in toxic lead (no-one had heard of Elf 'n' Safety back then, you see), from an address in London. Here was another of the pioneering diecast fraternity, and in fact, the company owed its origins to an ex-Britains employee, who founded the enterprise in 1898.

Its contribution to the military vehicle scene is likely to appeal only to those who like quirky, as the models were somewhat

**TOP LEFT** Timpo's fuel tanker and a field gun: detail a bit coarse, but the vehicles were sturdy enough. **ABOVE LEFT** Odd assembly from Timpo includes three twin-boom aircraft (Lightnings?) plus ground personnel. **TOP** This selection of John Hill's military vehicles includes a rare box. Note the tank's somewhat unusual camouflage. **CENTRE** A trio of the ever-popular Lesney army vehicles, which are still readily available 70 years on. **ABOVE** This anti-tank gun from Astra is not too difficult to find.

crude and, in many cases, relied on common underpinnings. For "common underpinnings" read the purported Mack truck, which was continually pressed into service and formed the basis of a mobile anti-aircraft gun, a searchlight lorry and a barrage balloon truck, as well as a gas cylinder truck. Other interesting models included a far-too-small Renault tank, a larger scale dispatch rider and half a dozen simple cannons, which could fire caps or projectiles. One early boxed set (of eclectic content) includes a WW1-type tank, but John Hill later produced mechanised armour and vehicles that saw action during the Second World War.

Curiously, its military models were not always finished in khaki: look out for light blue, yellow and even orange (!) paint finishes. ■



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**T**here have been many examples of innovative products which fought for consumer dominance. For those who remember videotape, VHS, and Betamax are good examples. Betamax was technically superior, yet VHS (which stands for 'Video Home Systems') grabbed the market share by being adopted by more people. These included producers of adult entertainment, who always seem to be at the forefront of new technology. Both formats are history now, apart from a retro following.

Technical battles like these are not new. They were presaged by railways in the mid-19th century. Their development was not a neat, co-ordinated process. How could it be? Even today with our advanced technology, neat and co-ordinated is not in the lexicon.

### STANDARD GAUGE

Why did four feet eight and a half inches end up being the widely adopted gauge? Possibly from the wheel spacing on horse-drawn carts, which in turn was dictated by the width of a horse's rear quarters.

And how does that translate to metric? Not easily! There is no convenient mathematical relationship between metric and imperial; a millimetre is 0.03937007874 of an inch.

In fact, the UK imperial system was not fully quantified until 1855. That ties in fairly well with the development of railways. Steam engines, though crude by modern engineering standards, still benefited from accurate and consistent measurements.

Despite the dominance of standard gauge,

# A very British compromise

"These trains are small. Those trains are far away." **Mark Nolan** attempts to explain how we ended up with two scales with the same gauge, without confusing Father Dougal.

flamboyant engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel built a 7-foot broad gauge network for the Great Western Railway. The GWR was eventually forced to convert to standard gauge for interoperability.

### SCALE V GAUGE

When we talk about scale, it's inches to the foot in imperial, and a ratio like 1:76 in metric. Gauge, on the other hand, is the distance between the rails.

At first glance, OO and HO look like the same thing. Same track, similar size, broadly interchangeable. Many UK toy trains were actually labelled 'OO/HO' on the box.

Wind the clock back to the early 20th century, and model railways were dominated by O gauge; expensive, space-hungry, and increasingly at odds with shrinking houses and post-war realities. Something smaller was needed.

Enter the Germans, who have always been very good at deciding how big things ought to be. They halved O gauge, sensibly enough, and produced HO (Half O) at 1:87 scale on

16.5 mm track. It worked. It looked right. It ran well. By the 1930s, and certainly after the war, HO had become the default in Europe and America. But not Britain!

### COMPACT BODIES

British railways are smaller, tighter, and more fiddly. A bit like British roads, really. Our locomotives had compact bodies and outside valve gear. In model form, there was precious little space for an electric motor. And in the 1930s, electric motors were not dainty things. British manufacturers, Hornby chief among them, had a choice—redesign motors at huge cost and risk, or cheat slightly.

They cheated. By keeping HO's 16.5 mm track but scaling the models up from 3.5 to 4mm to the foot, they created 'Dublo'; it looked right, ran reliably, and didn't require a degree in electrical engineering to manufacture. OO gauge was born, not out of accuracy, but out of sheer practicality.

Yes, it's technically wrong. The track's too narrow. Purists will tell you it should be

18.83 mm, and they're right. But this was the 1930s. What mattered was whether trains would go round a tight curve on the dining table without derailling.

By the time anyone seriously questioned the maths, it was far too late. OO had spread into bedrooms, lofts and model railway clubs. Post-war Britain rebuilt itself in 4 mm scale, while the rest of the world marched happily along in HO.

Today, the original excuses for OO no longer apply. Motors are tiny, powerful, and sophisticated. British outline models could easily be built to true HO proportions. But why would you? The OO ecosystem is vast, familiar, and deeply loved. It's not perfect, but it works, and it always has.

So we're left with two scales that look almost identical, share the same track, and yet come from completely different mindsets. HO is the neat, rational international solution. OO is the slightly bodged, British answer that got the job done anyway. And we still love it.

## UNDERESTIMATING OO

Many European manufacturers fancied breaking into the UK market. Lima and Playcraft (from the French manufacturer Jouef) had some success, though Lima eventually retooled and produced an even more successful range, filling gaps left by Hornby.

In 1977, the venerable German manufacturer Fleischmann produced a Class 42 Warship diesel hydraulic in two liveries, as well as three Bulleid SR coaches. They also planned a Bulleid Pacific spamcan 'Blackmore Vale'. All of these models would have been incredibly popular but for one fatal misjudgement. Maybe they thought we wouldn't mind them being smaller than the rest of our trains, or perhaps we wouldn't notice. Producing HO for an OO market was commercial suicide, and the products did not sell well. A pity, as they are great models. Bizarrely, the two Warships survived in the Fleischmann catalogue until as late as 2001.

Fleischmann wasn't the only Continental manufacturer to make the same mistake. In the same year, the respected Italian company Rivarossi, who had a good reputation for their large US outline products, launched some UK models. Incredibly, they too failed to understand the importance of the scale difference.

Their launch model, which arrived in 1979, was a very nice parallel boiler Royal Scot - a much-needed model at the time. It was scaled somewhere between HO and OO, but still looked too small against the latter, which dominated the UK market. The loco was available as the 6100 Royal Scot and the 6140 Hector, both with smoke deflectors.

The three-panelled coaches were a slightly



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1. Rivarossi HO scale 4-6-0 Class 6P Royal Scot number 6140 'Hector' LMS (1979)
2. Playcraft Railways HO scale 1450 Euston Passenger Train Set
3. Fleischmann 4246 HO scale Class 42 Warship diesel number D821 in BR green
4. Lima HO scale Class 33 number D6524 in BR rail blue livery with full yellow ends (1973)
5. Lima HO scale Class 4F Fowler 0-6-0 number 4547 in LMS Black (1974)
6. Playcraft P837 HO scale Class 21/29 number D6100 in Green



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obscure choice for the loco, but they look ok. They were a Corridor Vestibule 1st, a Corridor 3rd and a Brake Corridor 3rd. All models were available separately, but there was a set produced as well, which is quite rare.

Had Rivarossi chosen OO from the start, they could have caused serious upheaval within the comfortable status quo of the UK market. Instead, they withdrew, and the stock of UK models took many years to clear, remaining in the catalogue until 1988.

## NEW SCALES

Of course, nothing stands still, and there are always new scales to explore. The new smallest scale ever is T Gauge. At 1:450 scale, you can fit an HST in your hand, and it will do a conventional oval in a 16 x 11-inch space. At present, the range is small, but it's getting bigger.



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The other scale to watch is TT120. Pitched between OO and N, it was introduced by Peco and Hornby in 2022, with other manufacturers planning products. At 1:120, it's considerably smaller than OO, prototypically correct, and more satisfying than N. It has received some negative reviews on forums, usually from OO proponents. However, the classic riposte to them is, "At least our wheels are the right distance apart." ■

It was a frosty afternoon, with snow still thick on the ground, as we headed into the Methodist Church Hall at Balsall Common to meet up with the Model Bus Federation (MBF) – West Midlands Area. The Federation, which started in 1968, has 20 regional branches called Areas covering the UK, and, luckily for us, the National Chairman and Area Secretary of the West Midlands branch is Roy Finney, who provided a warm welcome to Rob and Ann of the *Gazette*.

Roy explained that the MBF was started by two 17-year-olds from Yorkshire back in 1968. Bob Heathcote and Martin Popplewell wanted to expand their interest by communicating with other modellers in order to improve their modelling. Their group grew rapidly; currently, there are around 850 members – the majority in the UK, but also in the US, Australia, New Zealand, and elsewhere. The two founder members are still very much a part of the scene. In fact, Bob Heathcote was Chairman until Roy took over 18 months ago and is still Membership Secretary.

The club is open to anyone interested in model buses, whether that's collecting them, building kits, making kits or building from scratch.

The MBF is regarded as the world's leading model bus authority, having been so for over 50 years. Being a member has many benefits, not least as a platform where like-minded people can discuss their interests and build solid friendships in many cases. Also having regional areas, they meet up as regularly as their members want, with club nights, open days and events.

The National MBF also meets for its AGM and an annual competition, which, although it awards trophies, is mainly for fun and a chance for members to show off what they've been doing. They tend to alternate the venue for the AGM, it's either at The King's School in Yorkshire or at the Heart of England School in Balsall Common. Often it attracts overseas members and generally has around 80 layouts on display.

Members can keep in touch through social media and the website, which also has a shop exclusive to members which offers model kits in white metal and resin, plus a wide variety of accessories for scratch-builds and modifications.

Members also receive a monthly glossy colour magazine packed with articles covering such topics as scratch-built models, kit reviews, news from the various Areas, new diecasts, kit modifications, plans, photographs and lots more. There's also a quarterly publication on Fictitious Fleets.

The man behind these excellent publications is Dave Jessop, who has been a member since 1971 and editor of the



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# The Model Bus Federation

Every other month, Ann Evans and Rob Tysall will be visiting a toy collector's club or society. This month, they meet the Model Bus Federation.

Model Bus Journal for almost 20 years. Dave had always collected Dinkies, and while at Manchester University, he heard about the newly formed MBF, so he went along to a meeting at Milton Hall, Deansgate. In later years, he moved to Coventry and drove for Johnson's coaches, then switched to driving buses. As well as being editor for the MBF's journals, he scratch-builds models and has his own fictitious fleet called *Eldorado*.

Area meetings are always friendly, chatty affairs as members all tend to be helpful and keen to share their knowledge and skills. Numbers were down a little at the West Midlands meeting due to the weather; usually there are between 19 and 25 people present. Amongst them was Mark Hughes, membership number 27, who makes kits

from etched brass. Mark grew up in Lytham St Annes and clearly recalls being taken out in his pram and crying in protest if he wasn't taken along the main road to see the buses. As a boy, he got into re-painting Matchbox and Dinky buses and then into making up kits. These days, Mark scratch builds and makes kits, plus he has his own fictitious fleet of models.

Member Mike Wilson followed in his dad's footsteps. Mike said, "I remember him letting me paint a wheelarch of one of his models, and the first plastic kit he bought me for Christmas. Now, 30 years later, I have around 200 models, all different, some made, some collected. My main interest is buses and coaches from Blackpool because of the variety before they were all made uniform."



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1. Dave Jessop, Editor of the MBF Journal.  
2. Mark Hughes with some of his buses.

On the next table was James Knight, who has been into model bus collecting since the age of 14. He builds his own models with Meccano chassis, the bodies may be made from cardboard, wood or brass. All his models steer, and when not making models, you might find him driving or volunteering at Wythall Bus Museum.

It seems that often childhood memories greatly influence what's collected, and for Kieran Starr, who joined in 1988, being brought up in Leicester meant that he collects Leicester buses, but he also has a fictitious fleet now. At one time, he had around 400 buses, but now has around 150.

The MBF also has a number of authors. Paul Ellender has just brought out his latest



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book, which is on the history of the coach firm Shirley's of Meriden near Coventry. Paul drives for Johnsons Coaches but finds the history of Shirley's fascinating. He has also built a diorama of the Meriden coach firm, which no longer exists but will be remembered by many people. Copies are available at £13.95 plus postage from him directly. Email: [pellender90@gmail.com](mailto:pellender90@gmail.com)

Another West Midlands author is David Cole, who has just released the second in the series of 50 Years of WMPTE Ailsa Double Decker, which were in service from 1969 to 1986, co-authored with Keith Billingsley. His previous book is WMPTE The County Years 1974 to 1986. So keen on this bus, he owns a full-sized double-decker Volvo Ailsa.

Member Stuart Jones' career has been in journalism for the bus press and is currently the UK Judge for the International Bus and



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3. Some of the MBF West Midlands Area members.  
4. James Knight with a bus scratch built by him.  
5. Kieran Starr. 6. Paul Ellender with his latest book.



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- 7. Red Lion Bus Station Stratford by David Cole.
- 8. A few of Dave Jessop's models.
- 9. A sample of Mark Hughes' Enterprise Fleet.

Coach of the Year Jury. As well as collecting scaled models, he has owned ten full-sized buses over the years. One was a 50th birthday present to himself, a 1950s OB Bedford Duple Vista.

Another long-standing member since 1971 is Andrew Goodwin. He has always built from scratch – making models for himself, and then extra models and kits for other people in the group. He enjoys the friendship of other members, finding that they are always ready to help.

We also met Peter Murphy, who is the National Treasurer for the Model Bus Federation. Peter started collecting London model buses in 1:76 scale; his collection also includes many buses made by other members of the federation.

Although we couldn't get round to everybody, it was a lovely afternoon, and we caught up again with Chairman Roy



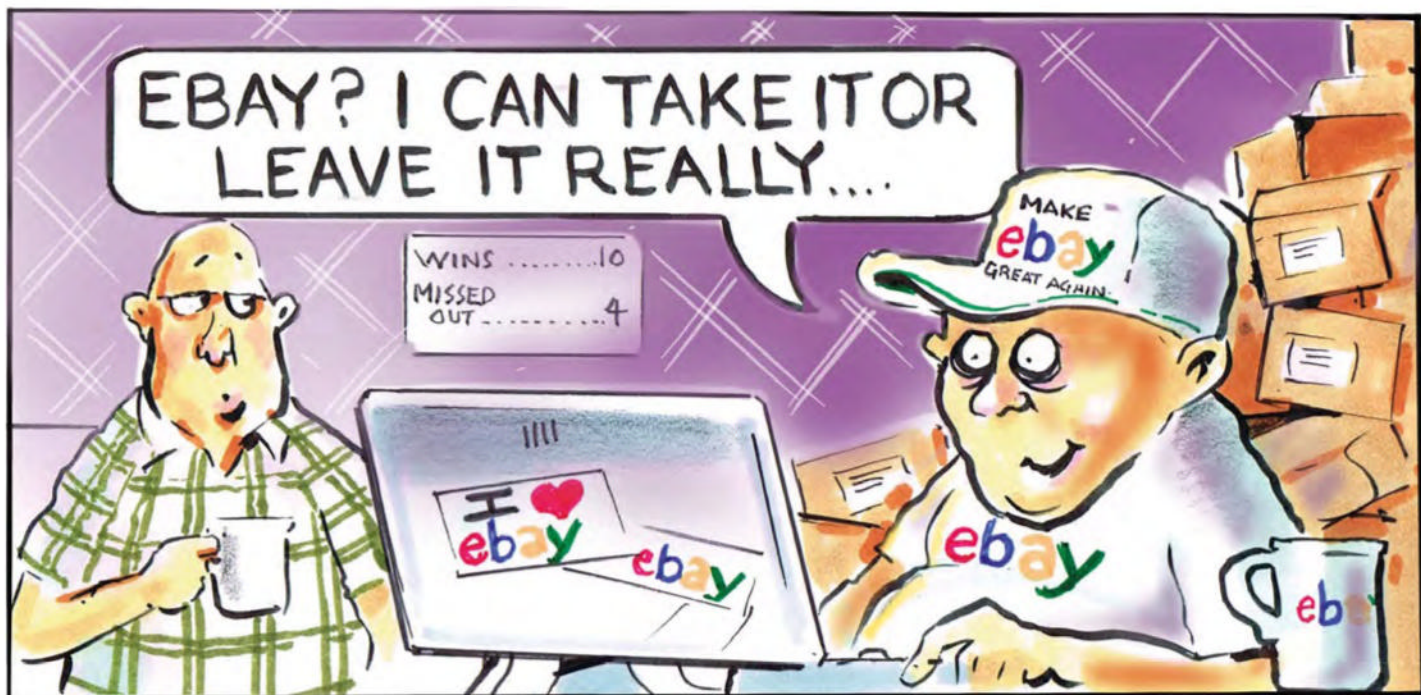
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Finney, who had a chance to tell us how his interest in buses started. Roy said, "I've been a member for over 30 years. I grew up in Meriden, and as a youngster, I built a model railway, but after a visit to Wythall, I got really into buses. I decided to make a model of every Midland Red bus – thinking there would only be a few. Now 168 models later, I still haven't made everyone! The oldest is a 1922 bus, and often there aren't

plans available, so you have to work from photographs."

He added that being a part of the MBF is a great organisation to belong to, as everybody is helpful and is always trying to pass knowledge on to younger members. They welcome new members from the age of 14 upwards.

We'd like to thank everyone at the West Midlands branch for welcoming us. ■



# My eBay Poker face

Ed Karswell ponders the world of model collecting.

I've been buying off eBay for over 20 years. I had got to the point where taking potluck and walking 20 miles around a toy fair in the hope of tracking down that rare Yonezawa tinplate Jaguar XK120 was starting to drain me of all my collecting enthusiasm. Then one day, I woke up to eBay and never looked back. I bought lots of stuff from the States and, pre-Brexit, lots of stuff from France and Italy too. Added to this, I made great connections with other dealers and collectors worldwide. I remember buying a load of very nice Tootsietoys from an arcade in Atlanta, America. Best of the lot was a boxed 1958 tinplate Police patrol car bought for me as a Christmas present. Many of the items were so scarce here in the UK that I'd never seen them, let alone had a chance to buy them. For me, collecting books became like shopping catalogues. I'd see a picture of something and then go and track one down. PayPal, the money side of it, made international payments easy and custom charges weren't too exorbitant at the time. For quite a while, it seemed, funds permitting, that you could find most things if you searched hard enough.

It's not only collectables that come to light through eBay. The incidental thing about eBay, though, is how much you learn about the human condition. For example, I could offer something for £50 to purchase

immediately that's worth £100 and get no takers. Put the same item on a timed auction, and it will end up making £150. Possibly the same people who put it on their watch list when it was offered at £50 then battled it out in a bidding war and ended up paying £150. Go work that out. I bought numerous things that were offered at a set price because they were bargains. For some reason, people don't do it. Maybe it lacks the jeopardy or the sport of an auction? There are many bidding strategies, from putting on lots of little bids just scare competitors off to using sniper software. The latter, if set to continually outbidding the highest bid can prove extremely expensive!

eBay, though, particularly the UK operation, has a habit of rearranging the chairs when it comes to its operating systems. So now, buyers pay a fee so sellers can list for free, available funds, timing changes, etc., the list goes on. I work in the marketing and design industry and fully understand the road testing of systems when it comes to buying and selling. I know it can drive people to distraction.

It's the virtual equivalent of having your supermarket rearrange its aisles every three months. It can be bloody annoying.

There is a school of thought that maybe the UK market in particular has reached a saturation point and that there's nowhere else for it to go. No one else has come up with an alternative selling platform yet, although there are several Facebook groups where buying and selling take place. Although you have far less protection here, it's rife with scammers. My biggest eBay change was that I stopped selling items abroad, as I had a particularly bad experience when I sent a model to someone in the Netherlands. They assumed I was in some way responsible for the import charges on the item and made their feelings known in no uncertain terms. In these situations, I learned early on that it's always best to play the guy in the white hat online, as eBay monitors all messages and pointed out that I was not a member of the government and therefore not responsible for the import charges decreed by them. I heard similar stories many times after Brexit had broken.

In the meantime, I'm still a fan of eBay. It will never be perfect, but if anyone can cast their minds back to the fruitless miles we once travelled to marvel at trays of chipped-up diecasts, they'll see what a good thing it was and is. It has been said that online collecting can be addictive, but as collectors, we already know that, don't we? ■

**'It will never be perfect, but if anyone can cast their minds back to the miles we once travelled to marvel at trays of chipped-up diecasts, they'll see what a good thing it is.'**



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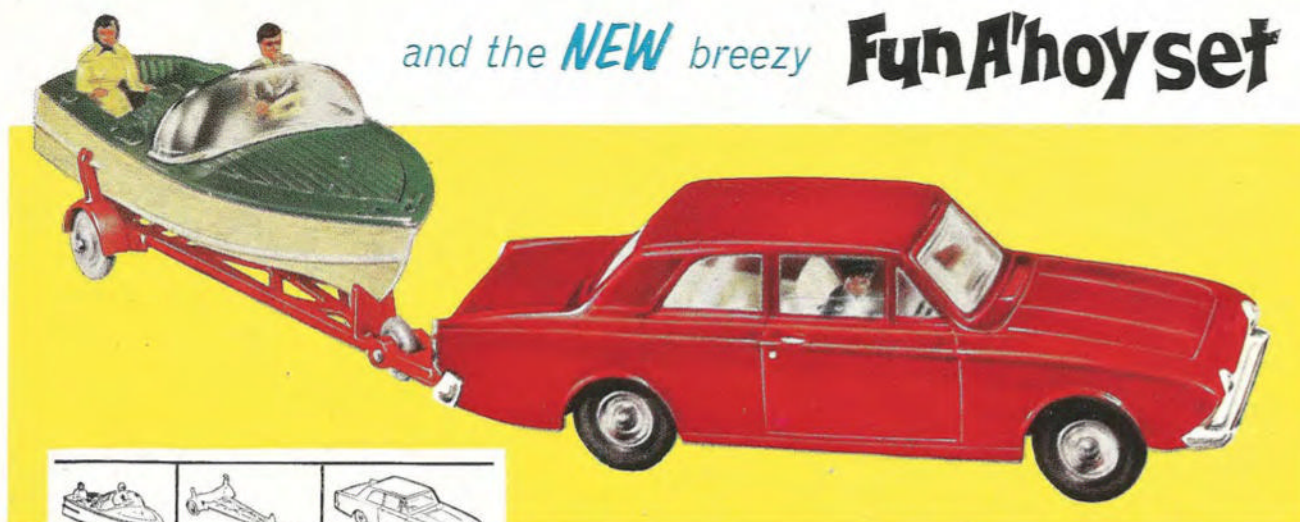


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Boat slides off trailer, trailer hooks on Corsair.

Lots of fun on road and sea with the New Ford Corsair towing a Healey sports boat and trailer. Boat has skipper and passenger. Corsair has fully detailed engine compartment – battery, radiator etc. Up-and-down windows. Prestomatic fingertip steering. Chauffeur. Jewelled headlights. Steering wheel. In red metallic with cream upholstery.

SET NO.125. **9/11**

Always something new from

**DINKY TOYS**<sup>®</sup>

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There's a line in Kenneth Grahame's classic story *The Wind in the Willows* where the Water Rat says to the Mole:

"There is nothing – absolutely nothing – half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats."

Not everyone is fortunate enough to be able to mess about in boats, but they can certainly mess about with them in toy and model form. Centuries before miniature trains and cars were ever thought of, children were playing with toy boats, and the hobby has successfully evolved with time, as the ongoing popularity of radio-controlled boats today demonstrates.

Model boats are closely linked to model cars – quite literally, as most diecast toy ranges have included boat trailers which can be towed behind the vehicles. Models such as these are not only attractive in their own right but are frequently offered as part of a gift set containing a car, boat, trailer and figures. This, of course, appeals to toy manufacturers as it allows them to offer a 'new' product simply by bringing two existing items in a set. In this article and next month's sequel, we'll look at how four major British brands – Dinky, Spot-On, Corgi and Matchbox – exploited this idea during the classic period of diecast manufacture during the 1960s and 1970s.

According to the *Meccano Magazine* for

# Take to the water

In the first of two articles, Andrew Ralston looks at how British diecast companies linked up existing cars to boat trailers to create something new without incurring further tooling costs.

September 1960, "Dinky Toys collectors must have noticed the growing number of cars which now move smartly along the roads towing behind them jaunty yachts and motorised craft, mounted on trailers." Hence the introduction that month of the Dinky Healey Sports boat on trailer. The trailer is diecast with plastic wheels similar to those fitted to Dublo Dinky Toy vehicles, while the boat is plastic and can really float. The hull is cream, and the superstructure is usually green, and more rarely red or yellow.

It could be bought separately without the trailer, and Dinky also made considerable use of the model in combination with others in the range. For example, the Touring Gift Set of 1963 brought together the Jaguar 3.4 saloon and Rambler Station Wagon with a caravan trailer and the Healey Sports boat. Those setting off on group expeditions could travel in a minibus

in the form of a Standard Atlas Kenebrake. In these days, holiday traffic jams often led to cars overheating, so the set also contains an AA Motorcycle patrol to come to the rescue. The following year, the Healey Sports boat reappeared in the *Holiday Gift Set*, along with the Vega Major Luxury Coach, Plymouth convertible and Jaguar Mark X.

On a more modest scale, the *Fun A'hoy!* set, announced in July 1964 (just in time for the summer holiday season), linked the boat to a Ford Corsair. Packaged in an unusually shaped but attractive display box, this set revealed Dinky to be ahead of their time in appreciating the value of recycling: the boat is piloted by a man in a grey suit and tie borrowed from the MGB Sports car while, in the back seat, there's the lady driver from the Triumph Spitfire – still reaching out her arms for a steering wheel that isn't there!



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**PREVIOUS PAGE** "The new breezy Fun A'hoy set" as advertised in the August 1964 Meccano Magazine.

1. Dinky Toys no. 796, the Healey Sports Boat, first went on sale as a separate item in September 1960. It is shown here attached to the Rambler Cross Country Station Wagon (no. 193).
2. The Dinky Fun A'hoy set was only listed for two years and is now very rare.
3. Spot-On offered the dinghy in combination with a Vauxhall PA Cresta. (Photo: Vectis Auctions)
4. "Take to the water with the Spot-On dinghy and Hillman Minx set", suggested this article in the June 1966 Meccano Magazine.

This set was only listed for two years, which makes it rare today, and when one appeared at the June 2025 *Simply Dinky* Vectis auction, the bidding soared to £580 (which, with the added fees, meant the buyer paid £736).

It's also worth mentioning in passing that the Dinky Healey and some other boats were copied in Hong Kong. Generally, Hong Kong plastic toymakers copied British diecast vehicles, but in the case of the boats, they were making plastic copies of plastic originals. One of the most attractive of these is the Blue Box set containing an almost exact likeness of the Healey boat, which, unusually for such Hong Kong plastic toys, is the same size as

the Dinky rather than being scaled up. It seems likely that this set was inspired by the *Fun A'Hoy!* set, though strangely Blue Box substituted a copy of a rather dated Dinky Austin A105 for the more modern Corsair.

Dinky was not the only British range to introduce a model boat and trailer in 1960. Spot-On was Tri-ang's ambitious but ultimately doomed attempt to enter the diecast market. Compared to the Healey Sports boat, Spot-On's Sailing Dinghy and trailer was a rather fragile affair, with various easily lost separate components to attach in the form of mast, boom, tiller and centre-board.

Brian Salter's *Ultimate Book of Spot-On Models Ltd* unravels the many complexities

of Spot-On production and explains the various different modifications made in terms of trailer design, methods of attaching the boat to the trailer and, above all, the many colour combinations. It was another three years before Spot-On offered a car and boat set, which was introduced in time for Christmas 1963 (that is, about six months before Dinky), with the car initially being a Vauxhall Cresta and later a Sunbeam Alpine. The Dinghy also crops up as part of a bigger Gift Pack along with three cars, and as a set paired with a Hillman Minx.

As 1964 was the year when Meccano was taken over by Lines Bros, Tri-ang products began to be discussed more frequently in the pages of the *Meccano Magazine*, which

# TAKE TO THE WATER

by John Brewer

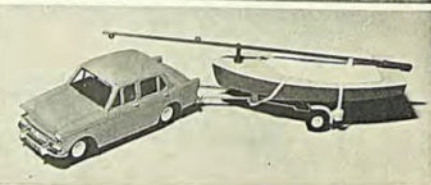
THE British people, like most island races, love the sea and ships of every description. Although the days of Drake, Nelson and the great Naval battles are gone, many thousands of people today spend their holidays 'going down to the sea in ships' just for the fun of it.

Many picturesque fishing harbours around our coast, which lost their existence years ago when their fleets became uneconomic, have found new lives as havens for small boats. These harbours and old fishing villages have a great appeal to the scenic modeler, and form a very attractive addition to a model roadway or railway layout. When Tri-ang introduced a sailing dinghy and trailer in their range of Spot-On models, the possibilities for building a realistic 'waterside' model were increased. The Spot-On dinghy is moulded in polystyrene and represents a typical light sailing craft of about fourteen feet. The mast and boom are detachable, and the tiller and centre-board can be removed and stowed away inside the craft under a waterproof cover. The boat is not rigid, but holes are provided in the hull for this purpose. The dinghy simply 'plugs' on to its neat rubber-tired trailer, using the centre-board slot to locate it firmly. The boat and trailer are built to the same scale as the Spot-On range of cars, and will couple to any of them.

Our photograph shows the dinghy in 'towing' condition arriving at the quay of a little west country resort behind a new Hillman Mixx 1600. The whole model harbour, complete with quayside and houses, measures only 2ft. by 2ft., but includes a great deal of interesting modelling and a feature seldom seen in scenic model-roads!

On the quayside in the foreground can be seen the 'Revenue Man', a 17th century inn which was once the haunt of smugglers. Next door a ship's supplies does a roaring trade with small boat enthusiasts. On the water, a dinghy in full rig dips gently in the breeze. The base of our model is a square of hardboard 2ft. by 2ft. to which a 'wall' of 1/4 in. wood battening has been glued and pinned round the edges, forming an open topped box (see sketch). Another batten, running across the box, forms the quay wall. This should be about 9 in. from the front wall of the box, but not quite parallel to it, as this would give the finished model a 'formal' and somewhat unnatural appearance.

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You are probably wondering how we stop the water from leaking out of the harbour section, but this is quite simple. The harbour 'floor' is covered with a sheet of transparent polythene which is drawn up over the walls and fixed along the top with 'self-tape'. A large polythene bag is ideal for this purpose, and can be quite easily obtained. Great care must be taken not to tear the polythene when fitting. Don't attempt to stick the polythene to the harbour floor, or to cut it to fit the corners. It is merely turned over the edges of the walls, secured with 'self-tape' and very gently 'prodded' into the corners of the harbour. This method provides a perfectly watertight basin, and has been used successfully in the construction of outdoor ornamental ponds and emergency reservoirs.

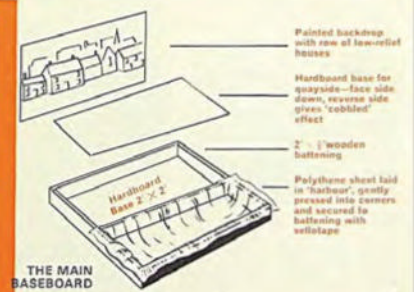
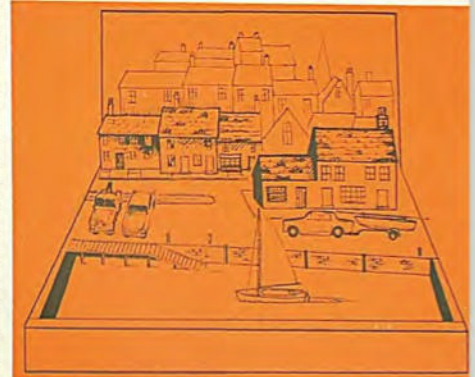
The next stage is to fit the 'dry land' which is just another piece of hardboard cut to size and glued and pinned into position. If the board is used with the face side downwards, the reverse side will give a realistic cobbled effect to the quayside. This is painted a dark, flat grey. The wooden slipway is best constructed of balsa and painted flat black. Fix it to the quayside above the water-line with Evo-stik.

The buildings are of very conventional construction using mainly plasterboard. Although commercial brick-papers can be used, we produced our own brick effect by painting the walls with artists' oil colours and then ruling on the bricks with Indian ink. This is great fun to do, and not nearly so laborious as it sounds, although it is easier to do before the model is assembled. Remember that on an old building the brickwork has mellowed with age, and the individual bricks vary a lot in colour and texture. This also applies to slate roofs, which are basically grey, but with little touches of blue and even purple. A little trouble taken with a paint brush at this stage will be repaid in full when the model is completed. The 'Revenue Man' is 300 years old, and its foundations have slipped slightly, so do not cut the windows too square—the crookedness of old buildings is part of their charm. However, if this effect is overdone the building will look like a Crazy House at a fun fair!

Windows are etched sheet with the glazing-bars scribed on with a knife and filled

with Indian ink. Excellent chimney pots can be made from old Biro refills. The houses in the background, which form the village itself, are built on the side of a hill, and rise up in tiers, one behind the other, villages. The effect is easily obtained by using the 'low relief' principle. The lower row of houses are modelled in plasterboard in the same way as the inn, but are only about 1/2 in. deep, and glued to the hardboard background. The upper rows of houses are simply painted straight on to the hardboard which has first been painted a very light blue to represent the sky. Remember that all this is background, and do not attempt to include too much detail. The 'low relief' row of houses are built to a slightly smaller scale than the 'Revenue Man' (in our model they

are about 2 1/2 in. high) to give an illusion of distance and perspective. The upper buildings, which are painted on to the background, should also reduce in size, and paler colours should be used as they recede into the 'distance'. When the model is complete, the harbour can be filled with water to a depth of about an inch. The dinghy will float very realistically, and will even 'answer' to the tiller. Our model is small and very straightforward, but despite this we feel that it is not only attractive, but different. The possibilities of using real water on a larger scale are enormous, even a miniature rigging could be held. We hope that our suggestions may give you some ideas and encourage you to build your own waterside model.



THE MAIN BASEBOARD

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was now published by Thomas Skinner and Co. of London rather than as an in-house journal by Meccano themselves. An interesting feature, headed *Take to the Water*, appears in the June 1966 issue describing the Hillman Mixx and Dinghy set and giving instructions on how to build a picturesque harbour setting for it, said to be based on a typical West Country fishing village. This even incorporated a water feature, made of a polythene lining.

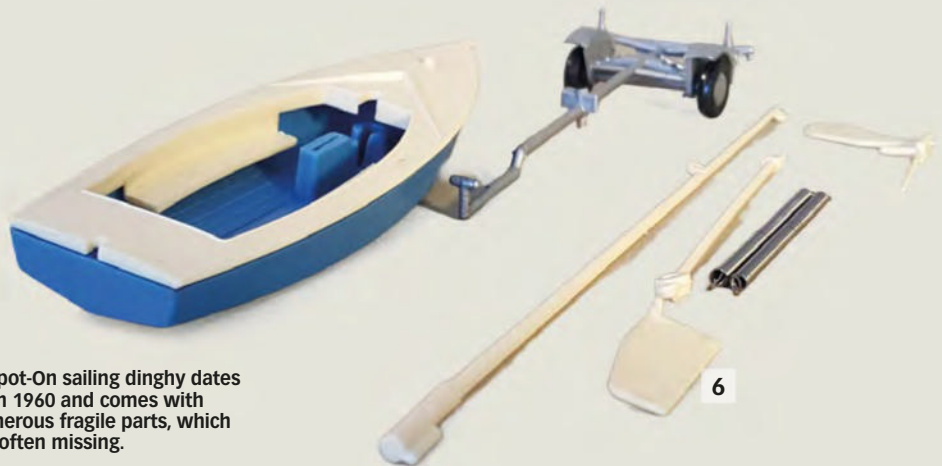
The Spot-On brand wouldn't be around for much longer, but one last variation on the car and boat theme appeared as part of the *Tommy Spot* series, in which the next generation of Vauxhall Cresta (PB) was supplied with the Dinghy in a box which could be cut up and made into a *Superville Yacht Building* – an invitation to destroy the packaging which accounts for the rarity of this set today. In September 2024, someone bid as much as £900 (£1,143 with fees) for one at Vectis.

It seems that the strategy of both Dinky and Spot-On was first to sell the boat separately and, perhaps when the novelty wore off and sales slowed, to give it a further boost by including it with other items in a set. When it comes to Corgi Toys, however, a different marketing approach was adopted, as we'll see next time. ■



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5. Towards the end of Spot-On production, the dinghy could be purchased in one of the 'Tommy Spot' gift sets along with the next generation PB Cresta. The box was meant to be cut up and made into a building, which means that very few of them have survived intact.



6. Spot-On sailing dinghy dates from 1960 and comes with numerous fragile parts, which are often missing.

6

**I** warmed to Steve Pickering early on when he said his collectable toy trading name was 'Jaunty Jalopies.' Established in 1986 and celebrating its 40th anniversary this year, the title comes from the 1969 film 'Monte Carlo or Bust' and the marketing strap-line, "Those daring young men in their Jaunty Jalopies." This is a favourite movie of mine.

Steve's personal car number plate even reads JA10 PYS. "For many years I've tried to live the name down," he laughs. "I've found it quite embarrassing, bordering on camp! Yet, these days I buy into it, spurred on by the many positive comments."

Steve has been involved with collectable toys for well over 40 years. His interest first began at the age of 12, when he discovered some boxed Lesney gift sets in the loft at home.

"It turned out my mother had put them away for me," explains Steve. "I was spoiled rotten as a young child by my Grandma, who had a cycle shop near Doncaster which also had a sideline in Matchbox Toys. She visited every week and brought me so many of the 1-75 series that my Mum would snatch them away to save."

His enthusiasm grew when a local newsagent in Filey, Yorkshire, stopped selling Corgi models and placed the remaining stock on sale in the window, at a reduced price. "We bought most of them," smiles Steve. "I still have the collection to this day."

His love for the hobby was then derailed by the usual vices of youth. These included buying vinyl singles and LPs. "If only I had been purchasing all that Dinky Toy surplus stock instead, when the company went bust in the late '70s," he laments.

Oddly, it was Steve's interest in classic cars that rekindled his interest in diecast models. "I was at a motor show in Birmingham during the early '80s and perusing a Haynes book stand. There was one on the Sunbeam Alpine, my favourite sports car at the time. I also happened to see Graham Thompson's book 'Spot-On Diecast Models by Triang.' I'd had a few Spot Ons as a kid and always regarded them as my favourites. Until I flicked through the book, I had no idea of the range. There was even a Sunbeam Alpine!"

Steve was then a penniless student and couldn't afford both books, so the Alpine won out on the day. Yet, there were regrets on the way home, and his girlfriend ordered the Spot-On book from WHSmith for his birthday a few months later.

Now, he was on a mission. It was 1985, and Steve knew about the emerging Autojumbles. He would visit these and be disappointed that there were only maybe a couple of stalls selling diecast models. He then learned about Swapmeets.

"I had very little to spend, back then,"



# 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 Steve Pickering.

comments Steve, "The aim was to try and collect the whole range of Spot-On models. I couldn't afford mint and boxed. Yet, chipped ones often suitable for repainting, were available for as little as £1 each."

The highlight of that year was when attending a Scotch Corner Swapmeet, he purchased a Spot-On Gift Set containing an Austin Flatbed lorry, Bentley, Aston Martin DB4, Ford Zodiac and MGA. While the models had a number of small defects, they still cost the princely sum of £100. "In fact, numerous models in my collection have the odd flaw," points out Steve. "After all, they were only ever produced as toys."

It was fortuitous back then that legendary northern swapmeet trailblazer, Ken Wragg, opened a small collector's toy shop on Quay Road in Bridlington, local to Steve. This

became a regular haunt in the search for additions to his Spot-On collection.

Soon, he was attending Wragg's toy fairs, selling a combination of surplus models from his collection and old shop stock from local toy outlets. By the late '80s, Steve was spreading his net further afield and was attending events at Hull, York and Beverley, as well as outdoor summer steam rallies and classic car shows. He has taken a pitch at the annual November NEC Classic Car Show every year since the early '90s.

Yet, never once did he become a full-time toy trader. His business has always remained part-time.

After gaining an HND in Agriculture, Steve struggled to find a related job during the recession years of the early '80s. "There was no place for me on our small family farm



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at that time,” says Steve, “So, living in a tourist location, I had to take seasonal work. This was fine until the cold weather arrived.”

One desperate winter, he found himself selling cavity wall insulation.

Steve takes up the story:

“After joining the company, I was introduced to a sales colleague, an actor called Derren Nesbitt.”

Nesbitt is known for appearing in such 1960’s TV classics as ‘The Saint’, ‘The Prisoner’, ‘Dr Who’, ‘UFO’ and ‘The Persuaders’. He is perhaps best remembered for playing a nazi Gestapo commander in the film ‘Where Eagles Dare’ and a German fighter pilot in ‘The Blue Max’, acting alongside the likes of Richard Burton, Clint Eastwood and George Peppard. He also had a cameo in ‘Monte Carlo or Bust!’

“Obviously, Derren was ‘resting’ between acting work,” smiles Steve. “He was a larger-than-life character and each day turned up wearing a 3-piece pinstripe suit complete with a button-hole carnation. He also drove a bronze metallic Citroen CX complete with a car phone, an expensive novelty in the mid ‘80s.”

He continues, “My few months working with Derren were truly hilarious. Bearing in mind his background and the product we were selling, I used to joke with him: That’s Foam Business! After I left, I never saw him again, but by extraordinary coincidence, his son, Ashley, was the photographer for my son’s wedding 10 years ago.”

Nesbitt is still alive and celebrated his 90th birthday last June.

Eventually, Steve was drafted to the family farm. Yet, not being a born farmer, he decided to diversify. It was Wragg who suggested he should buy a van and do delivery work. Through this, Steve’s career morphed into the laboratory and medical supplies distribution business, which it is today.

“We have quite a niche role,” he explains. “Supplying all the medical essentials to NHS hospitals for pharmaceutical clinical trials. It’s quite satisfying to think we have played a



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1. Steve Pickering alongside a collection of Dinky models he wished he’d bought, when sold as shop clearance, after the Liverpool company closed in 1979. 2. The Jaunty Jalopies Hunmanby shop. 3 & 4. A selection of Steve’s stock.

5. Steve’s pitch at an outdoor event.

small part in the development of new drugs and therapies for the likes of diabetes, obesity and cancer.”

Meanwhile, Steve opened a collector’s toy shop at the turn of the millennium, selling obsolete diecast on the ground floor, while packing medical supplies in the basement. Eventually, expansion was required, culminating in an auction purchase of a former library in 2013. He laughs, “My hand was shaking so much, I could hardly write the cheque.”

While focused on building up the medical supplies business, Steve was also busy selling toy-related items on eBay. Today, he prefers the ‘Buy It Now’ option. For example, he can list up to 100 of the same item and watch each one sell until all are gone. Steve explains, “It’s always been hit and miss for me, purchasing people’s collections, where you can never be sure of a regular supply”.

He realised back in the ‘90s and noughties, that relying on the same diecast wholesalers that other traders went to was a price race to the bottom. “What is the point of selling the same item for a pound less than the other dealer?”

Instead, Steve discovered ‘Jobbing Wholesalers’ who were clearance merchants dealing in a wide range of commodities. Back then, they would often gain remainder diecast parcels due to model over-production. “There were some great opportunities,” says Steve, “I filled my boots, but it’s a pity I wasn’t wearing waders!” This stock was ideal for Steve’s eBay shop as he could buy a gross of the same item to suit his sales approach.

The over-production of diecast has now



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ceased. “This is no bad thing,” continues Steve. “The practice was killing our hobby.”

Today, he also has another string to his bow, collecting and selling actual classic cars. “They don’t have to be exotic. For me, it is sporty or top-of-the-range versions of fairly ordinary ‘60s and ‘70s cars.”

Steve became aware that South Africa was a rich source of right-hand drive English classics, and due to the country’s sunny climate, it was decades behind Britain in their deterioration.

In 2018, he imported his first container of three Ford Escort restoration projects, and the concept grew from there. Since then, Steve has imported 60 or 70 Mk1 & Mk2 Escort projects as well as building up a fine collection of classics himself.

Steve reflects, “While I’ve experienced a varied working life, all the way through there has been my constant love for model diecast and later on classic cars.” ■

‘Jaunty Jalopies of Hunmanby’ is open every Wednesday 10.30am - 3.30pm or at other times by appointment. More information at: [www.jauntyjalopies.co.uk](http://www.jauntyjalopies.co.uk)

# PRICE GUIDE

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



♣ **Dinky Toys Military 665 Honest Missile Launcher.** Green including platform and plastic hubs complete with white and black missile - Excellent lovely example in a Good Plus yellow and red carded picture box. *Sold for £120, Vectis Auctions, January.*



♣ **Dinky Toys Pre-War 33 Series Mechanical Horse And Trailer "LNER".** Blue, Black including cab roof and smooth hubs with white tyres - Fair. *Sold for £110, Vectis Auctions, January.*



♣ **Dinky Toys 402 Bedford TK "Coca-Cola" Delivery Truck.** Red including plastic hubs,, white roof and front bumper, blue interior - Good Plus lovely bright example in a Good to Good Plus yellow and red carded box with detailed picture. *Sold for £130, Vectis Auctions, January.*



♣ **Corgi Toys 499 Citroen Safari "Grenoble".** White body with mid-blue roof, light blue interior, spun hubs and with 2 X red Skies & Sticks - Good Plus in a Good Plus blue and yellow window box with pictorial header, also with correct folded leaflet. *Sold for £140, Vectis Auctions, January.*



♣ **French Dinky Toys 823 GMC Tanker.** Drab green including concave hubs, black canopy - Good to Good Plus overall bright example (some very slight corrosion marks) in a Good Plus yellow and red carded picture box with inner tray. *Sold for £160, Vectis Auctions, January.*



♣ **Dinky Toys 29c Pre-War Double Decker Bus "Dunlop Tyres".** Violet blue and cream with grey roof, black smooth hubs with white tyres - Fair. *Sold for £70, Vectis Auctions, January.*



♣ **French Dinky Toys Pre-War 24B Limousine.** Green body with red (Type 1) Open Chassis, black smooth hubs with white tyres - Fair. *Sold for £600, Vectis Auctions, January.*



♣ **Corgi Toys 258 "The Saints" Volvo P1800.** White body with red interior, silver trim ans spun hubs - Good (requires cleaning) in a Good Plus to Excellent crisp blue and yellow carded picture box with collectors club folded leaflet. *Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, January.*



♣ **French Dinky Toys 808 GMC Crane Truck.** Drab green including concave hubs and with black canopy and plastic jib - Good Plus in a Poor to Fair yellow and red carded picture box. *Sold for £150, Vectis Auctions, January.*



♣ **Dinky Toys (Nicky Toys) 295 Standard "20" Mini Bus.** Green body with pale grey interior, silver trim and plastic wheels - Excellent in a Good Plus carded box with detailed picture. *Sold for £150, Vectis Auctions, January.*



♣ **Corgi Toys 258 "The Saints" Volvo P1800.** White body with red interior, silver trim ans spun hubs - Good (requires cleaning) in a Good Plus to Excellent crisp blue and yellow carded picture box with collectors club folded leaflet. *Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, January.*



♣ **Moko "Pop-Pop" Series Motor Scooter.** sage green scooter with black seat, with figure - Good Plus lovely bright example in a Good carded picture box. *Sold for £340, Vectis Auctions, January.*



♣ **Dinky Toys 57/003 (Hong Kong) Chevrolet Impala.** Yellow body with off white roof, red interior, chrome trim and cast spun hubs - Good to Good Plus in a Good Plus lovely bright example yellow and red carded box with detailed picture. *Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, January.*



♣ **Dinky Toys 281 Luxury Coach.** Mid-blue body with cream flashes, pale yellow ridged hubs with treaded tyres and silver trim - Excellent in a Good Plus bright example yellow and red carded picture box with correct colour spot. *Sold for £120, Vectis Auctions, January.*



♣ **Corgi Toys 431 Volkswagen Pick-Up.** Yellow body with red plastic canopy and interior, silver trim and spun hubs - Good Plus (could be better with some cleaning) in a Good Plus to Excellent crisp blue and yellow carded picture box with collectors club folded leaflet. *Sold for £140, Vectis Auctions, January.*



♣ **Matchbox Regular Wheels 1d Aveling Barford Diesel Road Roller.** Near Mint with usual distortion to plastic rollers, in Excellent to Excellent Plus RARE LATE ISSUE TYPE E3 BOX. *Sold for £220, Oberon Auctions, January.*



♣ **Matchbox Regular Wheels 5a London Bus.** Excellent, in Good to Good Plus Type B1 Box. VERY RARE GENUINE FACTORY PRODUCED AUSTRALIAN EXPORT ISSUE. *Sold for £9,000, Oberon Auctions, January.*



♣ **Matchbox Regular Wheels 15a Diamond T Prime Mover.** RARE YELLOW BODY with silver trim, metal wheels with flat crimped axles - Good with some light play wear, in Excellent Type B1 Box. *Sold for £280, Oberon Auctions, January.*



♣ **Matchbox Regular Wheels 22c Pontiac GP Coupe.** Near Mint (couple of minor factory assembly marks to base), in Good (unfortunately 1 end flap is sun faded & stained, along with some creasing to 1 striker side) VERY RARE LATE ISSUE TYPE F2 BOX. *Sold for £520, Oberon Auctions, January.*



♣ **Matchbox Regular Wheels 26b Foden Cement Mixer.** Near Mint in Excellent Plus "New Model" Type C Lesney Box printed by Pembroke Abbey. Superb example of a rare and desirable model. *Sold for £1,700, Oberon Auctions, January.*



♣ **Matchbox Regular Wheels 11a ERF Tanker.** Near Mint (chip to left hand rear edge of tank), in Fair incomplete Type B1 Box. *Sold for £750, Oberon Auctions, January.*



♣ **Matchbox Regular Wheels 17d Foden Hoveringham Tipper Truck.** Excellent Plus (paint loss to tipper rest), in Good creased but complete RARE DUAL ILLUSTRATION TYPE E3 BOX. *Sold for £130, Oberon Auctions, January.*



♣ **Matchbox Regular Wheels 23c Bluebird Dauphine Caravan.** overall Good Plus with paint chips to edge of roof & body raised outlines, along with thin factory paint finish to left hand side of body. *Sold for £420, Oberon Auctions, January.*



♣ **Matchbox Regular Wheels 31b Ford Fairlane Station Wagon.** Near Mint (very minor faint factory assembly mark to hood & slight surface rust spots to axles), in Near Mint to Mint Type B5 Box. *Sold for £1,700, Oberon Auctions, January.*



♣ **Matchbox Regular Wheels 12b Land Rover.** Excellent (some factory silver paint marks to both front wings & right hand front wheel, there is also a small scratch to right hand rear step), in Near mint Type D2 Box printed by Bowater's. Very rare 12.5mm diameter wheel variation. *Sold for £380, Oberon Auctions, January.*



♣ **Matchbox Regular Wheels 18e Field Car.** RARE GREEN PLASTIC HUBS with black tyres - Good with some play wear & loose tyres, in Good Type F2 Box. *Sold for £200, Oberon Auctions, January.*



♣ **Matchbox Regular Wheels 23d Trailer Caravan** FACTORY PRE-PRODUCTION COLOUR TRIAL. overall Excellent with some paint chips to lower edge of left hand side of body & interior a little dirty/stained from display, in Good Plus "New Model" Type E2 Box. *Sold for £1,600, Oberon Auctions, January.*



♣ **Matchbox Regular Wheels 31c Lincoln Continental.** Near Mint with a couple of minor factory paint flaws (one of which appears as a small scratch below the rear window, but this disappears when the model is tilted against the light), in Good Plus to Excellent Type F2 Box. Very rare transitional issue. *Sold for £2,700, Oberon Auctions, January.*



♣ **Matchbox Regular Wheels 13c Ford Thames Trader Wreck Truck.** Excellent in Good Type D2 Box printed by Bowater's. Very rare unrecorded combination of Type D base & 22mm grey plastic hook with the early light orange print decals. *Sold for £160, Oberon Auctions, January.*



♣ **Matchbox Regular Wheels 19c Aston Martin DBR5 Racing Car.** Excellent (2 x large paint chips to nose & thin factory paint finish to cockpit area & rear body), in Good stained Type D2 Box printed by Bowater's. *Sold for £460, Oberon Auctions, January.*



♣ **Matchbox Regular Wheels 25c Bedford TK BP Tanker.** Good to Good Plus with some large paint chips to chassis, small chips to filler caps & catwalk and thin factory paint finish to cab, in Good Plus a little scuffed & creased Type E4 Box. *Sold for £600, Oberon Auctions, January.*



♣ **Corgi No. 224 Bentley Continental Sports.** generally excellent in good plus box (pencil marking 7/8 to one side, light crushing to one corner, edge & corner wear). *Sold for £60, Griffin's Auctioneers and Valuers, January.*



♣ **Matchbox Regular Wheels 14d Iso Grifo.** Excellent Plus (couple of tiny chips to edge of roof), in Excellent Plus RARE TYPE F2 BOX (old glue residue to 1 end flap where price label removed). Still a nice example of a hard to find box. *Sold for £200, Oberon Auctions, January.*



♣ **Matchbox Regular Wheels 22b Vauxhall Cresta PA.** Good Plus to Excellent (does have a few chips to raised body outlines, right hand rear fin & roof), in Excellent Plus Type B5 Box without printers identification. Very rare model to find in any condition. *Sold for £2,000, Oberon Auctions, January.*



♣ **Corgi No. 238 Jaguar Mk X.** generally excellent in excellent to good plus box, pale blue, red interior (one tan suitcase), four jeweled headlamps and spun hubs. **Sold for £80, Griffin's Auctioneers and Valuers, January.**



♣ **Dinky Toys 164 Vauxhall Cresta Saloon.** Excellent overall (couple of small marks on protruding edges) in a Excellent yellow and red carded picture box with correct colour spot. **Sold for £110, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ **Dinky Toys 953 "Dinky Continental Touring" Coach.** Excellent Plus lovely example in a Good Plus bright example yellow and red lift off lid box with detailed picture. **Sold for £130, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ **Corgi Toys 252 Rover 2000.** Maroon body, cream interior, silver trim and hard to find cast hubs - Excellent overall in a Excellent Plus crisp blue and yellow carded picture box with collectors club folded leaflet. **Sold for £300, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ **Corgi No. 261 James Bond 007 Aston Martin DB5.** gold with Bond and Bandit figures, Top Secret instructions (folded) & spare Bandit, generally good plus in good plus to good box and inner plinth. **Sold for £120, Griffin's Auctioneers and Valuers, January.**



♣ **Dinky Toys 230 Talbot Lago Racing Car.** Mid-blue body with yellow racing No.4, silver trim, figure driver and with harder to find red plastic hubs and grey tyres - Excellent overall. **Sold for £80, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ **Dinky Toys 514 Guy (Type 1) "Lyons Swiss Rolls" Van.** Blue cab, chassis and back, silver trim, mid-blue ridged hubs - Excellent overall (couple of minor marks on roof edge). **Sold for £300, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ **Corgi Toys 422 Bedford "Corgi Toys" Delivery Van.** Excellent overall bright example in a Good Plus blue and yellow carded picture box with correct model illustration and collectors club folded leaflet. **Sold for £260, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ **French Dinky Citroen Presidentielle No. 1435.** generally excellent to good plus in good plus outer lift-off lid box, bubble pack plinth and base tray (small split and Sellotape repair to lid). **Sold for £130, Griffin's Auctioneers and Valuers, January.**



♣ **Dinky Toys 256 Humber Hawk "Police" Car.** Black body, silver trim, aerial and chrome spun hubs - Good Plus to Excellent in a Fair yellow and red carded picture box. **Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ **Dinky Toys 902 Foden (Type 2) Flat Truck.** Violet blue cab and chassis, green back, silver trim, metal tow hook and mid-blue supertoy hubs - Excellent Plus beautiful example. **Sold for £380, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ **Triang Spot On 213 Ford Anglia Saloon.** Good Plus to Excellent (couple of minor marks on protruding edges) in a generally Good Plus carded picture box. **Sold for £300, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ **Minichamps 1/12th scale 1985 Honda NSR500 Repsol M Doohan No. 122 976101.** generally excellent in excellent presentation box including inner packing piece and outer polythene sleeve. **Sold for £120, Griffin's Auctioneers and Valuers, January.**



♣ **Dinky Toys 264 Cadillac "RCMP".** Blue body with white door panels, silver trim, red roof light, white plastic aerial and chrome spun hubs - Good Plus to Excellent lovely example in a Good Plus yellow and red carded picture box. **Sold for £80, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ **French Dinky Toys 32AB Panhard Articulated Truck And Trailer "SNCF".** Blue cab, chassis and trailer, convex hubs, silver trim - Near Mint beautiful example in a Good Plus crisp yellow and red carded picture box. **Sold for £130, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ **Mebetoys A11 Lancia Fulvia Coupe.** Silver body with brown interior, chrome trim and cast hubs - Excellent Plus in a Good Plus to Excellent window box. **Sold for £110, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ **Dinky Toys 161 Austin Somerset.** Excellent Plus overall in a Good Plus lovely example yellow and red carded picture box with incorrect colour spot. **Sold for £90, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ **Dinky Toys 2162 (1/25th) Ford Capri MK1.** Metallic blue body with black roof, pale blue interior, chrome trim - Near Mint including bubble pack Outstanding example. **Sold for £220, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ **Corgi Toys 252 Rover 2000.** Harder to Find Issue with Very dark maroon body, cream interior, silver trim and spun hubs - Near mint in a Excellent blue and yellow carded picture box with collectors club folded leaflet. **Sold for £380, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ **Pathfinder Models (1/43rd) PFM 15 Sunbeam Rapier.** Pale grey with maroon roof, light grey interior, chrome trim - Mint in a Excellent carded box with Certificate LTD 203/600. **Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ **Classic Collectables (Brooklin) ARC 002 1933 Commer Holland Coachcraft.** 70th Anniversary Edition - Red, light brown interior "Cantilever" to sides - Mint including box and outer sleeve with certificate Ltd 400. **Sold for £130, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ **Corgi Toys 808 "Basil Brush" Car.** Near Mint in a Excellent blue and yellow window box (slight crushing to cellophane & small label attached) with Near Mint inner pictorial tray, also with laughing box and pull cord. **Sold for £110, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ **Dinky Toys 944 Leyland Octopus Tanker "Shell/BP".** White, yellow, grey including plastic hubs, silver trim and with metal tow hook - Good in a Good yellow and red lift off lid box with detailed picture. **Sold for £130, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ **Matchbox Regular Wheels 5c London Routemaster Bus "The Baron of Beef".** Good Plus with some small chips & rubs to cast lines in Good Plus type E4 box printed by Bowaters, scuff to one end. Still a nice example of this promotional issue. **Sold for £240, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ **Classic Collectables (Brooklin) ARC001 "The Sensation of Olympia London 1933" Commer Holland Coachcraft "Collars Limited".** black body includes certificate limited LTD 400 - Mint including box with outer sleeve. **Sold for £120, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ **Britains 9527 Ford Super Major 5000 Tractor.** Blue and grey Good overall (missing chimney vent and usual slight melting to rear hubs) in generally Good carded sleeve, inner carded tray is Good Plus. **Sold for £70, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ **Tekno Ford Taunus Van (Type 1) "Tekno".** Two-Tone red and yellow, black base, chrome hubs - Good Plus still a lovely example. **Sold for £45, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ **Matchbox Superfast 75b Alfa Carabo Streakers Issue.** overall Near Mint but does have thin factory paint finish to nearside rear corner of base in Good Plus "New" type J box - some creases. **Sold for £120, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ **Corgi Toys Juniors 3002 "Batman" 2-Piece Gift Set.** conditions are Near Mint to Mint on a Excellent (sealed) blister card (small cracks to bubble side). **Sold for £660, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ **Britains 9527 Ford 5000 Tractor.** Blue, grey including cab roof, plastic figure driver - Excellent overall (usual slight melting to rear hubs) in generally Good pretension window box. **Sold for £80, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ **Tekno 415 Ford Taunus Van (Type 2) "Postbil".** Yellow body, off white interior, chrome hubs with whitewall tyres - Good Plus in a Good carded box. **Sold for £110, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ **Matchbox Superfast Ferrari F40 Trial Model.** Excellent Unboxed - supplied from Ex model making company employee who supplied Matchbox. **Sold for £120, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ **Corgi Toys 267 "Batman" Batmobile.** Near Mint in a Excellent Plus harder to find blue and yellow slimline window box with (sealed) Instruction pack. **Sold for £620, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ **Prameta Mercedes 300 Clockwork Issue.** Hard to find Metallic blue body with silver windows, chrome hubs with white tyres - Good Plus lovely example. **Sold for £160, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ **Matchbox Regular Wheels 27c Cadillac Sixty Special.** Metallic lilac body, pale pink roof, clear windows, silver front and rear trim, maroon base and silver plastic wheels - Near Mint including Type D Colour Picture box. **Sold for £140, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ **Matchbox Superfast 1997 Ford F150 Trial Model.** Near Mint Unboxed - supplied from Ex model making company employee who supplied Matchbox. **Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ **Corgi Toys 497 "The Man From UNCLE" Thrushbuster.** Excellent Plus (very minor stain to bonnet label) in a Excellent blue and yellow carded picture box with a Excellent inner pictorial stand with waverly ring. **Sold for £1,000, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ **Solido 123 Ferrari 250 GT.** Metallic Red body, cream interior, silver trim and wire wheels - Excellent Overall (very slight corrosion to wheels) in a Good to Good Plus carded picture box. **Sold for £120, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ **Matchbox Regular Wheels 4c Triumph Motorcycle & Sidecar.** Near Mint in Good Plus type D1 box printed by Pembroke Abbey - couple of small puncture holes to one striker side. **Sold for £80, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ **Matchbox Superfast 4c Pontiac Firebird French market issue.** Near Mint to Mint in generally Good factory sealed 1978 copyright French bubble pack - stains to backing card. **Sold for £120, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ Matchbox Models of Yesteryear Y12 Ford Model T Van Pre-production Trial model "25 Years by Lesney". yellow body with hand made labels, black chassis & roof, black seat, dark red 12-spoke wheels, gold plated parts, red type 1 rear doors - Excellent Unboxed. **Sold for £90, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ Matchbox Models of Yesteryear Y12 Ford Model T Van Pre-production model with "Suze" tampon print to nearside & "Colmans Mustard". to offside, yellow body with black type 1 rear doors, rare gloss black roof, black Y12 chassis, chrome parts & red 12 spoke wheels - model is loosely assembled - Excellent Unboxed. **Sold for £90, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ Matchbox Models of Yesteryear Y9 Fowler Showmans Engine. Good with some chips to rear of body & on canopy still a Rare genuine factory produced purple body model which still displays well, with Good type D3 box. **Sold for £160, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ Matchbox Models of Yesteryear Code 3 Issue Steam World Steam Road Locomotive & Box Trailer "Ernest Reeves & Co Wokingham". Excellent in Good correct issue box. **Sold for £60, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ Matchbox Superfast 53c Jeep CJ6 Pre-production colour trial. Good Plus with chips to bumper & loss of chrome to wheels, Unboxed. **Sold for £80, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ Matchbox Superfast 62d Chevrolet Corvette. Near Mint in Excellent "New" type K box. **Sold for £240, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ Aristo Craft G gauge Classic Railbus PRR/Pennsylvania maroon 2587 No. ART83106. generally excellent to good plus in good plus box and polystyrene inner. **Sold for £120, Griffin's Auctioneers and Valuers, January.**



♣ Aristo Craft G gauge Alco RS-3 PRR/Pennsylvania black 8832 diesel locomotive No. ART22211. generally excellent to good plus in good plus box and polystyrene inner. **Sold for £150, Griffin's Auctioneers and Valuers, January.**



♣ Aristo Craft G gauge (Gauge 1) Rio Grande 805 Freightliner centre cab industrial switcher locomotive No. ART22606C. generally excellent to good plus in good plus box. **Sold for £100, Griffin's Auctioneers and Valuers, January.**



♣ Aristo Craft G gauge (Gauge 1) Lil' Critter Southern Pacific 5121 diesel locomotive No. ART22504. generally excellent to good plus in good plus box. **Sold for £70, Griffin's Auctioneers and Valuers, January.**



♣ Aristo Craft Lil' Critter DRGW/ Rio Grande diesel locomotive No. ART22506. generally excellent to good plus in good plus box. **Sold for £60, Griffin's Auctioneers and Valuers, January.**



♣ Hartland Locomotive Works (HLW USA) G gauge Rail Motor Car green (undecorated) No. 09220. generally excellent to good plus in good plus box. **Sold for £140, Griffin's Auctioneers and Valuers, January.**



♣ USA Trains G gauge EMD NW-2 Calf New York Central 8755 locomotive No. R22017. generally excellent to good plus in good plus box. **Sold for £120, Griffin's Auctioneers and Valuers, January.**



♣ USA Trains G gauge EMD NW-2 Calf Lehigh Valley 110 locomotive No. 62082. generally excellent to good plus in good plus box. **Sold for £140, Griffin's Auctioneers and Valuers, January.**



♣ USA Trains G gauge Pennsylvania (Tuscan) F-3A Unit 1st 9556A locomotive No. R22358. generally excellent to good plus in good plus box. **Sold for £140, Griffin's Auctioneers and Valuers, January.**



♣ Spectrum Bachmann USA HO gauge GP-30 PRR black 2204 diesel locomotive No. 82014. generally excellent to good plus in good plus box. **Sold for £40, Griffin's Auctioneers and Valuers, January.**



♣ Boxed Hornby Live Steam OO gauge Mallard LNER 4-6-2 Class A4 steam powered set, complete. Great condition in a good box. **Sold for £300, Wessex Auction Rooms, January.**



♣ Boxed Hornby OO gauge R1019 Flying Scotsman train set. appearing complete, great condition in a good box. **Sold for £95, Wessex Auction Rooms, January.**



♣ Boxed Hornby OO gauge R1073 Venice Simplon-Orient Express British Pullman The Boxed Set. appearing complete, great condition in a good box. **Sold for £280, Wessex Auction Rooms, January.**



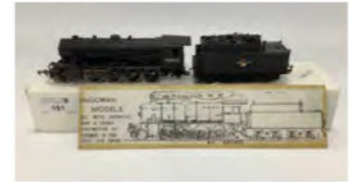
♣ **Boxed Hornby OO gauge R1038 Orient Express The Boxed Set.** appearing complete, great condition in a good box. *Sold for £200, Wessex Auction Rooms, January.*



♣ **Triang OO gauge Stephenson's Rocket locomotive contained within a Dapol box.** great condition in a good box. *Sold for £60, Wessex Auction Rooms, January.*



♣ **A Peco OO gauge Setrack Starter Set.** together with a Setrack box containing approximately twenty-five Setrack double straights and eight points and a boxed Peco "Train Shed" diesel depot kit. *Sold for £75, Sheffield Auction Gallery, January.*



♣ **A kit-built McGowan Models OO gauge WD "Austerity" 2-8-0 locomotive "90012".** Great condition in a good box. *Sold for £40, Sheffield Auction Gallery, January.*



♣ **Boxed Hornby Live Steam OO gauge R2277 Dwight D Eisenhower locomotive.** appearing complete, great condition in a good box, with outer trade box. *Sold for £360, Wessex Auction Rooms, January.*



♣ **Boxed Hornby OO gauge R3672 Kernow Model Rail Centre Exclusive BR Co-Co Class 50 'Monarch' No. 50010.** great condition in a good box. *Sold for £120, Wessex Auction Rooms, January.*



♣ **A boxed Heljan 0 gauge Class 47 diesel locomotive.** in BR Green with full yellow ends, unnumbered, two buffers missing, some detail parts may be missing, otherwise in good apparent untested condition. *Sold for £190, Sheffield Auction Gallery, January.*



♣ **A Bachmann OO gauge "Evening Star" 2-10-0 locomotive and tender.** in good untested condition in a non-manufacturer's box. *Sold for £42, Sheffield Auction Gallery, January.*



♣ **Boxed Hornby OO gauge NRM R2385 BR 4-6-2 Winston Churchill Battle of Britain Class locomotive.** appearing complete, great condition in a good box. *Sold for £85, Wessex Auction Rooms, January.*



♣ **Boxed Hornby OO gauge R1013 Eurostar train set.** great condition in a good box. *Sold for £100, Wessex Auction Rooms, January.*



♣ **A boxed Heljan 0 gauge BR Class 26 diesel locomotive.** in BR green livery, unnumbered with small yellow ends, in apparent good condition, some detail parts missing from accessory pack, untested. *Sold for £210, Sheffield Auction Gallery, January.*



♣ **A Pre-War Hornby Dublo 0-6-2 LNER Clockwork Tank Locomotive.** R/No. 2690. Appears unbroken, however signs of wear and requires a new spring. *Sold for £70, Sheffield Auction Gallery, January.*



♣ **Boxed Hornby OO gauge Special Edition R2678 LSWR 0-4-4 Cass M7 Locomotive 252.** great condition in a good box. *Sold for £85, Wessex Auction Rooms, January.*



♣ **Boxed Hornby OO gauge R1153 London 2012 Electric Train Set.** great condition in a good box. *Sold for £90, Wessex Auction Rooms, January.*



♣ **A boxed Heljan 0 gauge class 37 diesel locomotive.** in "Petroleum Sector" grey livery as "Pectinidae 37418", one set of steps loose in box, no detailing pack, untested in good apparent condition. *Sold for £230, Sheffield Auction Gallery, January.*



♣ **A boxed HO scale 1929 Track Inspection Sedan (Hi-Rail) by Broadway Limited Imports (USA).** brass construction, black painted, unlettered (ref 1912); in very good untested condition. *Sold for £60, Sheffield Auction Gallery, January.*



♣ **Boxed Wrenn OO gauge W2271 2-6-4 Tank LNER green locomotive.** great condition in a good box. *Sold for £340, Wessex Auction Rooms, January.*



♣ **Two Hornby-Dublo three-rail train sets.** "Sir Nigel Gresley" locomotive, two coaches, track and controller; and "Duchess of Montrose" locomotive with two coaches and some track; both in original boxes with missing lids. *Sold for £60, Sheffield Auction Gallery, January.*



♣ **A boxed Heljan 0 gauge Class 31 diesel locomotive.** unnumbered in Railfreight Trainload grey, both sideframes on one bogie are loose in box, other detailing parts missing, untested, otherwise in good apparent condition. *Sold for £210, Sheffield Auction Gallery, January.*



♣ **A Roundhouse Engineering 16mm gauge (32 mm gauge) Live steam 0-6-0 "Lady Anne" style tank engine.** in red livery ("SJH 3638" on chassis), with radio-control system and handset set to "Roundhouse settings", in good uncertified, untested condition. *Sold for £800, Sheffield Auction Gallery, January.*



♣ A Cheddar Models 16mm scale (32mm gauge) live steam "Iver" 0-4-0 tank engine. with radio control handset, battery pack and instructions, in good used, untested, uncertified, condition. **Sold for £320, Sheffield Auction Gallery, January.**



♣ ETS: A boxed Electric Train Systems (ETS). SE&CR Terrier 0-6-0 A1 Green (No. 751). Made in the Czech Republic. 2/3-rail Electric. Original box, light wear to wheels. **Sold for £180, Hansons Auctioneers and Valuers, January.**



♣ Lehmann: A boxed Lehmann (LGB), Motor Works Car and Tower Wagon trailer. Original box, untested for working order, but have been used previously. **Sold for £140, Hansons Auctioneers and Valuers, January.**



♣ Graham Farish: A boxed Graham Farish, N Gauge, Midland Pullman Six Car Unit Nanking Blue. Original box, contents in very good condition, box has some slight wear and tear. Untested for working order. **Sold for £170, Hansons Auctioneers and Valuers, January.**



♣ A boxed kit built (Alan Gibson) 0 gauge LNER J15 0-6-0 locomotive and tender. nicely built, untested. **Sold for £260, Sheffield Auction Gallery, January.**



♣ Bassett-Lowke: A boxed Bassett-Lowke, O Gauge, Standard 0-6-0 Goods Locomotive and Tender. Original box, some wear to labels and lid as expected with age. Locomotive untested for working order, but has been previously used. **Sold for £150, Hansons Auctioneers and Valuers, January.**



♣ Lehmann: A boxed Lehmann (LGB), Season's Greetings 2-Car Set. Original box, untested for working order, but have been used previously. **Sold for £110, Hansons Auctioneers and Valuers, January.**



♣ Graham Farish: A boxed Graham Farish, N Gauge, Class 101 2-Car DMU BR Green Speed Whiskers. Original box, box has some slight wear, contents appear in very good condition. Untested for working order. **Sold for £160, Hansons Auctioneers and Valuers, January.**



♣ A boxed kit-built (Nu-Cast) 00 gauge LNER Sentinel-Camel Steam Railcar in green and cream livery. with fitted Tenshodo motor bogies and two spare motor bogies in box, untested, some small parts may be missing. **Sold for £160, Sheffield Auction Gallery, January.**



♣ Bassett-Lowke: A boxed Bassett-Lowke, O Gauge, 0-6-0 Electric Tank Locomotive, British Railways 41611. Original box, some wear to labels and lid as expected with age. Locomotive untested for working order, but has been previously used. **Sold for £90, Hansons Auctioneers and Valuers, January.**



♣ Lehmann: A boxed Lehmann (LGB), RhB Crocodile Electric Pantograph Locomotive 415. Original box, untested for working order, but has been used previously. **Sold for £210, Hansons Auctioneers and Valuers, January.**



♣ Graham Farish: A pair of boxed Graham Farish. Original boxes, slight wear to box sleeves, contents appear in very good visual condition. Untested for working order. **Sold for £130, Hansons Auctioneers and Valuers, January.**



♣ A boxed Bachmann 00 gauge Collett goods 0-6-0 (2251 class) in BR black. ref 32-311, in very good untested condition. **Sold for £70, Sheffield Auction Gallery, January.**



♣ Lehmann: A boxed Lehmann (LGB), The Big Train, City Express Three Car Set. Original box, untested for working order, but has been previously used. Together with a boxed Lehmann (LGB). **Sold for £85, Hansons Auctioneers and Valuers, January.**



♣ Lehmann: A boxed Lehmann (LGB), Fo21 Rack Electric Locomotive. Original box, untested for working order, but has been used previously. **Sold for £150, Hansons Auctioneers and Valuers, January.**



♣ A Hornby OO Gauge 4-6-2 Merchant Navy Class Locomotive and Tender. Holland America Line', R/No. 35022, BR Green, small parts missing including front steps, vac pipe etc., spares/repair. **Sold for £50, Sheffield Auction Gallery, January.**



♣ Lehmann: A boxed Lehmann (LGB), 2-Car 'Electriche Strassenbahn Weimar' Set. Original box, untested for working order, but have been used previously. **Sold for £130, Hansons Auctioneers and Valuers, January.**



♣ Wrenn: A boxed Wrenn Railways, OO Gauge, 4-6-2 Barnstaple 34005 BR, locomotive and tender. Original box, general wear expected with age. Used condition. Untested for working order. **Sold for £85, Hansons Auctioneers and Valuers, January.**



♣ Graham Farish: A pair of boxed Graham Farish, N Gauge locomotives. Original boxes, slight wear to box sleeves, contents appear in very good visual condition. Untested for working order. **Sold for £180, Hansons Auctioneers and Valuers, January.**



♣ **Solway Firth:** A scratch-built, detailed example of a Britannia Class locomotive and tender, 'Solway Firth' No. 70049. 5" Gauge. Visually appears good, some slight paint loss, some additional loose parts. *Sold for £2,200, Hansons Auctioneers and Valuers, January.*



♣ **A partially complete Gauge 1 live steam model of a Midland Railway compound locomotive.** Built to a very high standard by a former Rolls Royce employee. Measures 60cm over buffers. Comes with custom-made wooden storage box. *Sold for £420, Arthur Johnson & Sons Auctioneers, January.*



♣ **Marklin Mini-Club Z Gauge Electric Passenger Train Pack.** Excellent condition, box is very good. *Sold for £150, Special Auction Services, January.*



♣ **Bachmann Narrow Gauge 009 Double Fairlie Steam Locomotive.** Excellent condition, box is excellent. *Sold for £200, Special Auction Services, January.*



♣ **Bachmann Narrow Gauge 009 Double Fairlie Steam Locomotive.** Excellent condition, box is excellent. *Sold for £230, Special Auction Services, January.*



♣♣ **Sooty:** An original Harry Corbett, Sooty hand puppet, dated circa 1969, given to the vendor personally by Harry Corbett. The puppet has golden mohair, orange and black glass eyes, black stitched nose and mouth, black mohair ears, rexine pads with glue residue, extended long body to hide wrist and small strip of elastic tape, the end of the body marked with a black 'X'. *Sold for £3,000, Hansons Auctioneers and Valuers, January.*



♣ **Sooty:** An original Richard Cadell, Sooty hand puppet, frequently used by Cadell on ITV's 'The Sooty Show', complete with Letter of Authentication signed by Brenda Longman. *Sold for £1,500, Hansons Auctioneers and Valuers, January.*



♣ **Lego #21330 Ideas Home Alone.** Excellent to Mint, within Fair to Good original box. *Sold for £170, Vectis Auctions, January.*



♣ **Lego (Sealed) #21326 Disney Winnie the Pooh.** assumed Mint, within Good to Excellent sealed packaging (some small scuffs and scratches on the box). *Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, January.*



♣ **Lego (Sealed) #10247 Creator Ferris Wheel.** assumed Mint, within Good Plus to Excellent sealed packaging (some small scuffs and creases on the box). *Sold for £190, Vectis Auctions, January.*



♣ **Lego (Sealed) #10259 Creator Winter Village Station.** assumed Mint, within Excellent to Near Mint sealed packaging (some minor scuffs on the box). *Sold for £150, Vectis Auctions, January.*



♣ **Lego (Sealed) Star Wars #75059 - Sandcrawler - Ultimate Collector Series.** assumed Mint, within Good Plus to Excellent sealed packaging, (some scuffs and scratches on the box). *Sold for £340, Vectis Auctions, January.*



♣ **Lego (Sealed) #70810 The Lego Movie - Metalbeard's Sea Cow.** assumed Mint, within Good Plus to Excellent sealed packaging (some scuffs and scratches on the box - mostly on the edges/ bottom face). *Sold for £240, Vectis Auctions, January.*



♣ **Lego (Sealed) #71043 Harry Potter - Hogwarts Castle.** assumed Mint, within Excellent to Near Mint sealed packaging (some minor scuffs/scratches - mostly on the bottom face), also includes Fair transit carton. *Sold for £240, Vectis Auctions, January.*



♣ **Lego (Sealed) #10316 The Hobbit & the Lord of the Rings. Rivendell,** assumed Mint, within Excellent to Near Mint sealed packaging (minor scuffs on the box), also includes Fair transit carton. *Sold for £320, Vectis Auctions, January.*



♣ **Lego (Sealed) #75192 Star Wars Ultimate Collector Series (UCS) - Millennium Falcon.** assumed Mint, within Excellent to Near Mint sealed packaging (some scuff marks on the box), also includes Fair outer transit carton. *Sold for £500, Vectis Auctions, January.*



♣ **Lego (Sealed) #75331 Star Wars Ultimate Collector Series (UCS) - The Razor Crest.** assumed Mint, within Excellent to Near Mint sealed packaging (some minor scuffs on the box - mostly on the bottom face), also includes Fair transit carton. *Sold for £380, Vectis Auctions, January.*



♣ **Lego (Sealed) #10317 Icons - Land Rover Classic Defender 90.** assumed Mint, within Excellent sealed packaging (some small scuffs/creases on the box). **Sold for £170, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ **Ujindou (Sealed) 1/6th Scale MACV-SOG Recon Team in Laos 1967 action figure.** assumed Mint, within Near Mint to Mint sealed original packaging. **Sold for £150, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ **Palitoy (Sealed) Action Man vintage #934838 Special Operations SAS Trooper Outfit.** Condition is Mint, within Fair to Good sealed original packaging (some scuffs and tape repairs on the cardboard, bubble has yellowed slightly). **Sold for £220, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ **Palitoy Action Man vintage loose British Army Officer Figure.** generally Good, some visible playwear - see photos, also includes white card display box. **Sold for £70, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ **Lego (Sealed) #42177 Technic Mercedes-Benz G 500 PROFESSIONAL Line.** assumed Mint, within Near Mint sealed packaging, also includes Fair transit carton. **Sold for £120, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ **Palitoy Action Man vintage loose Commando Figure.** generally Good, some visible playwear - also includes white card display box. **Sold for £70, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ **Palitoy Action Man vintage Talking Commander Figure.** generally Good to Excellent (head is detached), within Fair opened original #934803 Combat Division box (stars removed and some scuffs and creases on the box). **Sold for £120, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ **Palitoy Action Man vintage Soldier Figure.** generally Fair to Good, within Fair original #34014 box (some tears and creases on the box). **Sold for £90, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ **Lego (Sealed) #7261 Star Wars - Clone Turbo Tank (with Non-Light-Up Mace Windu).** assumed Mint, within Good sealed packaging (some scuffs and creases on the box). **Sold for £420, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ **Palitoy Action Man vintage loose Mountaineer Figure.** generally Good, some visible playwear - also includes white card display box. **Sold for £70, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ **Palitoy Action Man The Blues and Royals Figure.** generally Good, some visible playwear, within Excellent Plus Sealed 'reproduction' cardboard display box. **Sold for £120, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ **Lego Technic Bucket Wheel Excavator #42055.** within Good opened box (edge wear and some creases), unchecked for completeness or correctness but includes instructions, Good Plus. **Sold for £120, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ **Lego (sealed) #10246 Creator Detective's Office.** Modular Buildings Series within Excellent packaging, Near Mint. **Sold for £300, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ **Palitoy (Sealed) Action Man vintage Space Ranger Patroller Outfit.** Condition is Mint, within Good sealed original packaging (some small scuffs and tape marks on the cardboard). **Sold for £130, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ **Palitoy Action Man 17th/21st Lancers Figure.** generally Good, some visible playwear, within Excellent Plus Sealed 'reproduction' cardboard display box. **Sold for £120, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ **Lego (Sealed) #10214 Creator Tower Bridge.** assumed Mint, within generally Good packaging. **Sold for £260, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ **Lego (Sealed) #10261 Creator Roller Coaster.** within Good Plus sealed packaging (some light scuffs, creases, tear to back of box - see photo), Excellent Plus. **Sold for £300, Vectis Auctions, January.**



♣ **Lego (Sealed) #10253 Creator Big Ben.** assumed Mint, within Good sealed packaging. **Sold for £260, Vectis Auctions, January.**



↑ **Charlie Bears Mischief Maker Lynx cub.** designed by Isabelle Lee, golden, black, brown and white, brown and black printed plush, with swing label, Excellent. *Sold for £90, Vectis Auctions, January.*



↑ **Steff Danbury Mint Sooty 60th anniversary teddy bear.** yellow and black mohair, carrying wand tipped with diamante, swing label (creased), MISSING certificate, Good Plus to Excellent. *Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, January.*



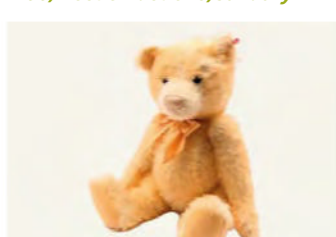
↑ **Steff Classic Teddy Bear 60.** orange mohair with red tip, chest tag, swing labels, Excellent Plus to Near Mint. *Sold for £130, Vectis Auctions, January.*



↑ **Charlie Bears Lord of the Arctic.** white plush, swing label and certificate, Good Plus. *Sold for £120, Vectis Auctions, January.*



↑ **Charlie Bears Ambassador teddy bear.** brown plush, swing label, Good to Good Plus. *Sold for £110, Vectis Auctions, January.*



↑ **Steff Large Teddy bear, Little Tina.** apricot mohair, swing label, MISSING certificate, Good Plus. *Sold for £120, Vectis Auctions, January.*



↑ **Steff Polar Ted.** white alpaca, UK and Ireland Exclusive, certificate, within Good box, Excellent. *Sold for £120, Vectis Auctions, January.*



↑ **Charlie Bears Isabelle Collection Poem panda bear.** pale blonde, black, grey, golden, dark brown and apricot mohair, with swing label certificate (very slight edge wear to some corners), Excellent to Near Mint. *Sold for £800, Vectis Auctions, January.*



↑ **Steff Studio Petsy large Teddy Bear.** plush, brown eyes, swing tag & chest tag (creased), Good Plus to Excellent. *Sold for £90, Vectis Auctions, January.*



↑ **Steff Danbury Mint Nicholas Faberge inspired teddy bear.** mohair, swing tag; MISSING swing label, Good Plus to Excellent. *Sold for £140, Vectis Auctions, January.*



↑ **Steff Walt Disney Convention The Sea Bear.** grey/blue mohair, 1998, white tag 651380, LE 2000, swing label certificate (creased), Excellent. *Sold for £70, Vectis Auctions, January.*



↑ **Whittle-le-Woods Bears; Artist bear "Joe"** by Irene and Mike Whittle. honey rose curl mohair "Chelsea Pensioner" dressed in red and black wool felt uniform with tricorne hat, with swing tags from The Bear Shop and maker. Excellent. *Sold for £190, Vectis Auctions, January.*



↑ **Steff Roald Dahl Willy Wonka teddy bear (from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory).** exclusive to UK, Ireland and the USA, mohair, swing label. *Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, January.*



↑ **Bear Studio Isabelle Collection Henry teddy bear.** beige with brown tip mohair, swing label certificate. *Sold for £170, Vectis Auctions, January.*



↑ **Charlie Bears Bear Studio Isabelle Collection Mimi panda bear.** designed by Isabelle Lee, grey with black tip and cream mohair alpaca and mohair, with swing label certificate, Excellent Plus. *Sold for £500, Vectis Auctions, January.*



↑ **Steff Sweep (from Harry Corbett's Sooty Show).** grey and black mohair, with squeaker, swing label (creased), MISSING certificate, Good Plus to Excellent. *Sold for £140, Vectis Auctions, January.*



↑ **Steff Teddy Clown replica 1926 Teddy Bear.** rose mohair, wearing cream felt hat with black pom-poms and matching cream ruff edged in purple. *Sold for £170, Vectis Auctions, January.*



↑ **Charlie Bears Bear Studio Isabelle Collection Angela teddy bear.** designed by Isabelle Lee, blonde mohair with brown tip and blonde mohair, with swing label certificate, Excellent Plus. *Sold for £520, Vectis Auctions, January.*



↑ **Steff Raffles Teddy Bear.** LE 1847 pieces exclusive to Singapore, rust wavy mohair teddy bear wearing printed silk orange Raffles bear neck-tie, certificate, within Excellent box with outer trade carton, Good Plus to Excellent. *Sold for £110, Vectis Auctions, January.*

# eBuys

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



**Item:** CMC 1/18 Ferrari 312P Berlinetta Rennsport-Coupe 1969 M-096 Red Die-cast Model.  
**Condition:** Brand new in excellent box.  
**Sold for:** £889.00 (6 bids)



**Item:** 1958 Plymouth Fury Christine 1/18 Joyride Lights Working Diecast Model.  
**Condition:** Excellent condition, excellent box.  
**Sold for:** £104.70 (1 bid)



**Item:** 1:18 Diecast Model of Ford MK1 Escort Twin Cam TC (RS 1600), Minichamps.  
**Condition:** Small paint chip on the front, unboxed.  
**Sold for:** £149.33 (24 bids)



**Item:** Trucker Tim Scania V8 Topline Limited Edition WSI 1/50 Scale Diecast Model.  
**Condition:** Mint condition, in original box.  
**Sold for:** £312.70 (16 bids)



**Item:** Moko Excavator Vintage Diecast Ruston Bucyrus 10 RB Model.  
**Condition:** Great condition, small scratches.  
**Sold for:** £320.00 (22 bids)



**Item:** Vintage Diecast Budgie Toys #280 AEC Aircraft Refueler BP British Petroleum.  
**Condition:** Fair, visible rust and chipped paint.  
**Sold for:** £105.00 (17 bids)



**Item:** Corgi Toys, Gift set 48 Ford Car Transporter with 6 Cars, rare Original.  
**Condition:** Good condition, slight wear to the box.  
**Sold for:** £487.77 (34 bids)



**Item:** Corgi Toys, Gift set 37 Lotus Racing Team, rare Original.  
**Condition:** Great condition, with original box.  
**Sold for:** £380.00 (41 bids)



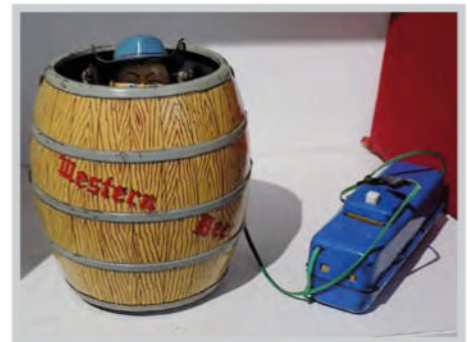
**Item:** CMC 1/18th scale die cast Ferrari 275 GTB/C 1966 model car.  
**Condition:** Excellent as New, with original box.  
**Sold for:** £305.75 (4 bids)



**Item:** Corgi Toys, Gift set 36 Tarzan Set, rare Original.  
**Condition:** Great condition, in original box.  
**Sold for:** £540.00 (42 bids)



**Item:** Ineos Grenadier Minimax Die Cast 1/18 Model Cycling Team BNIB Rare collectable.  
**Condition:** Excellent like new with original box.  
**Sold for:** £603.40 (18 bids)



**Item:** Vintage Rare Tinplate Battery-Op Cowboy in Barrel with Remote, Swallow Toys, Japan.  
**Condition:** In good non-working condition.  
**Sold for:** £202.57 (14 bids)



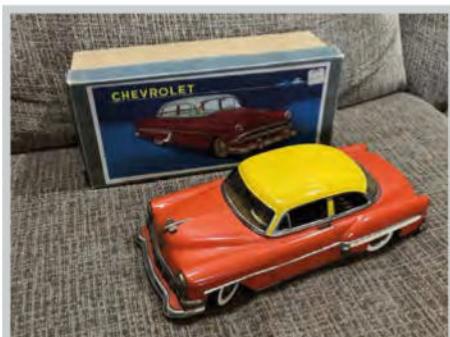
**Item:** Vintage Chad Valley Tin Plate Advertising Van Clockwork Lorry.  
**Condition:** Great condition considering its age, no scratches or marks on it, unboxed.  
**Sold for:** £376.80 (6 bids)



**Item:** Antique German Tinplate Steam Toy Airship Carousel w/ Generator c.1910-1930.  
**Condition:** Rust and visible wear and tear due to age but fair condition.  
**Sold for:** £292.46 (1 bid)



**Item:** Original Vintage Clockwork Tinplate Fire Engine Truck Made In Germany 1940s.  
**Condition:** Good condition, with small scratches and chips to the paint, unboxed.  
**Sold for:** £140.08 (15 bids)



**Item:** Vintage Japan Tin Linemar Chevy Toy Car 11".  
**Condition:** Great condition, slight visible marks but no paint chips, good box.  
**Sold for:** £221.36 (24 bids)



**Item:** Superb Large Antique Seated Bully Bull Dog German 42cm Mohair Toy Rare.  
**Condition:** Great condition considering age.  
**Sold for:** £919.60 (45 bids)



**Item:** Kingsbury Antique Windup Toy Tractor Crawler Cat Vintage Rare.  
**Condition:** Could do with a clean, unboxed.  
**Sold for:** £225.02 (29 bids)



**Item:** Vintage Marx tin lithograph wind-up Popeye toy with parrot cage 1935.  
**Condition:** In working condition, slight wear.  
**Sold for:** £202.06 (38 bids)



**Item:** Vintage Corgi Toys 226 Morris Mini-Minor in Original Box.  
**Condition:** Model in excellent condition.  
**Sold for:** £113.08 (13 bids)



**Item:** Super Rare Orange Variation Bluebird 1996 Polly Pocket Polly Dolphin Island.  
**Condition:** Excellent condition, unboxed.  
**Sold for:** £307.50 (36 bids)

**H**ard though it is to imagine, there was a time when collectors relied on trips to the local hobby shop, buying specialist magazines or resorting to the postal system for product purchase, enquiries and updates. The world of the internet was unimaginable, undreamed of, back then. And it wasn't just the collector who struggled; if you were running a company that was manufacturing collectable toys, just how did you tell the world? In an age where manifold facilities can be conjured up with just the swipe of a finger on a mobile phone, six decades ago, things were very different indeed...

**THE WORD ON THE STREET**

For the smaller manufacturers, back in those simpler times, it must have been tough. Limited budgets and (often) shoestring operations would have left little in the kitty for something as exotic as advertising. Forget that box which was becoming commonplace in the corner of the lounge, up and down the country: when commercial channels were finally made available, a television advert would have swallowed a company's annual profits, and then some, in a second.

Some small manufacturers produced a form of catalogue, typically of simple construction with, if you were lucky, a few line drawings with which to entice the reader. But even this expedient was by no means common: there are many diecast makers, about which very little is known, simply because they produced nothing at all in this medium.

The bigger concerns, the likes of Corgi, Lesney and Dinky, did advertise, of course. For Dinky, it was the Meccano Magazine that became the chosen medium; hardly surprising really, given the company's Binns Road background. The magazine was hugely popular in its day (and what a day - it ran, amazingly, from 1916 up to 1981), and provided the perfect mouthpiece for Dinky Toys. Corgi, in contrast, opted for boys' comics; the Valiant, the Victor and the Eagle all carried monochrome promotions in the early days, while the futuristic TV21, which hit the newsstands in 1965, permitted the use of four colour advertising.

Lesney was the odd man out here; it appears that because of the product's novelty and successful packaging, Matchbox models pretty much promoted themselves, and so Lesney actually performed comparatively little PR for its products. That rose-tinted outlook would change, though, with the launch by Mattel of its revolutionary Hot Wheels contingent in 1968.



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# Marketing marvels and mishaps

Ever wondered about the world of the diecast in the pre-internet age? **Alwyn Brice** takes us back to model promotion, retail successes – and the also-rans.

**THE MARVELS...**

Moving on from marketing, what about the models that really stood out? Those products of the backroom boys that were truly inspirational?

Corgi's James Bond Aston Martin sits at the top of the tree, you'll have to admit. The most wanted toy at its 1965 release, it was pure magic thanks to that trio of operating features.

Although much copied (the Batmobile tried hard in late 1966), the Aston was the pioneer in gadgetry. Another stand-out creation was the 18-inch Howitzer from Britains. It enjoyed a long production run, initially available in gunmetal finish, then green, but what set it apart was the realistic loading and firing operation that involved a set sequence. Indeed, the

earliest iteration, with its weighty lead ammunition, is quite alarming in action.

A further diecast frontrunner for me is the Deora from Hot Wheels: the real thing was based on a 1965 Dodge A100 truck, and this one-off custom creation was futuristic with a capital F. The inspirational addition of two surfboards to the Hot Wheels model endowed the vehicle with instant West Coast credibility, the whole being complemented by the gaudy Spectraflame paintwork.

Finally, I'd have to include Dinky's FAB 1 in my list of innovations: totally over the top, with its lipstick pink paintwork and sextuplet wheel arrangement, the Gerry Anderson evocation looked just right, all the way down to the sliding canopy and neat method of allowing something



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to fire from the radiator. In many ways, it captured the Zeitgeist: the 1960s were indeed a decade of innovation and progressive thinking.

### ...AND THE MISHAPS

The diecasting companies (in my view, at any rate!) didn't always get things quite right. Some of their creations simply have to be questioned. For example, there's the Dinky model of Ed Straker's car, taken from the television series UFO.

On the screen, it's finished in metallic bronze. Dinky decided on bright gold in their release, making it look like a vinyl-wrapped vehicle (save that vinyl wraps were unknown back then). Not content with that, a yellow version was also produced (cheaper paint?) – and there's even a chrome version logged. But why not the correct colour?

On the subject, the above-mentioned Corgi 007 Aston Martin also benefited from gold, yet it was silver in the film Goldfinger. You could argue that Corgi was trading on the film's title, so it didn't matter; and of course, silver versions would follow. Either way, the colour decision certainly didn't dent sales for this innovative model.

Husky, for reasons beyond me, decided to produce a Mk 10 Jaguar in gold, which looked, well, dreadful. No one, but no one, would have driven a gleaming gold Jaguar back in the 1960s.

The problem with this model is that, over time, if it's not looked after, the layer of gold rubs off, revealing unflattering yellow. You have been warned.

The same colour problem bugs me with Corgi's GS40 Avengers set. Steed's Bentley is red, and Mrs Peel's Elan is white. Okay, Corgi got the latter's costume spot-on, but why the odd car colours? Admittedly,



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1. The only way is down. Dinky's Paramoke was a clever reworking, but it wasn't really built for aerobatics. 2. Husky's Jaguar Mk10 is best kept within its clear bubble if you want its paintwork to remain blemish-free. 3. One of Corgi's greatest gift sets featured the popular Avengers, but oh, those colours. 4. Lesney saw the value of catalogues early on, and began issuing them in 1955. 5. Simply FAB? Dinky won the licensing rights to Lady P's over-the-top daily transport. 6. Simpler times, maybe, but not every manufacturer could afford printed advertising, even in monochrome. 7. The futuristic comic TV21 gave Corgi's advertising some fresh impetus.

most of us would have watched the series in monochrome when it first aired, but we soon found out that the Elan was pale blue and the Bentley green. (And yes, I'm aware that there is a school of thought that claims a green Steed Bentley exists).

Dinky's Paramoke also fascinates me. Dinky produced several Mokes, so they really milked the casting.

The addition of a parachute was truly a brainwave, but the reality must have seen

many a Moke plunge heavily to earth from a bedroom window, regardless of the safety 'chute. Broken Mokes must have abounded – so was this a clever ploy on the part of Dinky to sell more examples?

In the final analysis, let's not forget that here we are discussing children's playthings. Manufacturers took liberties for all sorts of reasons, including both economic and legal ones.

So... did it really matter? ■

The end of the alphabet is nigh, but there remain a few more manufacturers to cover. Almost a James Bond trading company front (!), Universal Hobbies is actually a Chinese concern and has been in business for a couple of decades or more. Its antecedents can be found in the French company Jouef, which ceased trading in 2001. One of its claims to fame, if that's the right description, lies in the fact that it works with manufacturers of the real thing in order to faithfully replicate; in this particular context, we're talking farm machinery in 1/32 scale. But it doesn't restrict itself to this size: smaller ranges exist in 1/64, 1/43 and 1/16. Whilst prices are modest for these replicas in the smaller scales, the attention to detail is, in my view, out of all proportion, for tampo printing, rubber, plastic and other materials are all employed in these models. If tractors are what light your candle, you'll love the 1/16 models of the faithful Fergie, Nuffield and Fordson, the latter finished in its typical striking pale blue and orange colours. Drop down to 1/43, and there's a much wider choice of tractors to drool over.

Aside from tractors, there are small farming trucks, trailers and other attachments – everything for the collector of the bucolic.

Universal Hobbies has also released a number of cars in 1/43 over the last 20 years, a range that seems pretty eclectic, to say the least, as it embraces James Bond film vehicles (like the BMW Z8 and Mini Moke) alongside French classics from the Citroën stable.

#### IN THE VAN

And so to V.Vanguard's ranges of diecast will, I feel sure, be well known to every reader of this magazine.

The brainchild of Jack Odell, the range made its debut in 1996. Odell, as many will be aware, came with cast-iron references: the fellow behind the Matchbox phenomenon (I wonder if he ever thought that some of these little toys would change hands for thousands of pounds?), he went on to establish the Lledo line, and the basic Days Gone brand, in 1986. Although officially retired by then, you can't keep a good dog down – and so Vanguard's came to the toyshop, representing another bite of the cherry for Odell. The aim was one of well-made miniatures in 1/43 scale (other models were released in 1/64), with a competitive price point. A focus on nostalgic transport of the past was a key theme, as evidenced by the very first model, that of a 105E Ford Anglia, itself a bread-and-butter car in its day.



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# A-Z of collecting

Alwyn Brice alphabetical guide to models past and present. This time, we move through U and V.

Lledo did well in the marketplace but succumbed in 1999; by 2008, Vanguard's was seen as a good fit for Corgi (owned by Hornby, by then), which duly stepped in to buy the company.

If you catch the Vanguard bug, be aware that there's an awful lot of models out there. There was a time, when swapmeets were busier (i.e., pre-COVID), that every hall would feature tables groaning under the weight of Vanguard boxes. Not expensive, well-made and with huge appeal to collectors of a certain age, the range fulfilled (and continues to fulfil, since production moves on apace) a useful niche within the marketplace.

#### THE DANISH INVASION

If you're pretty cosmopolitan in your diecast interests, then you'll collect models from all sorts of countries. One country whose wares were never that common on these shores is that of Denmark. Most readers of this magazine will have come across Tekno, arguably the most famous diecaster in that country, but what about Vilmer?

This lesser-known enterprise was

founded by Kaj Christiansen around 1953. Christiansen had been a tool or instrument maker before the Second World War and, as such, was ideally equipped to manufacture diecast models, the first of which, by all accounts, was actually built in his flat in 1952. By the mid-fifties, established in a proper factory, his output was some 15,000 model vehicles a week, with sales predominantly for the domestic market and neighbouring Sweden.

In terms of range, commercials (often utilising the same underpinnings, as in the Dodge truck) figured predominantly. The army received its share of models in drab green, too; looking at the radar trucks, rear-mounted artillery and the like, one is reminded of Lone\*Star and even Benbros' output. Very few road cars or allied vehicles seem to have featured: Volvo, Lambretta and Jeep derivatives are what you're likely to come across. Quality-wise, it is generally accepted that they were slightly inferior to Tekno's production (interestingly, Christiansen had a hand in some of the Tekno models), but that aside, they present well.



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1. The army wasn't omitted when Vilmer started production. Does this example look familiar?
2. Old favourite: the family Mk 1 Cortina, in subdued black, from Vanguard
3. Austin's A35 in green was a starter car for many families in the 1960s; the Vanguard model captures its diminutive lines well
4. Landini C25 tractor in garish colour scheme is a 1/43 example from Universal

5. Despite being a re-issue and benefitting from enhanced technology, rough edges are still apparent on this Verem Chaparral
6. How to repurpose your old military truck? Pinder version from Verem
7. Splendid looking Verem Aston Martin DB – the Solido version came in several colours
8. Bright and cheerful box art reflects the product: Vilmer's lorries and trucks could form a collection in their own right

By 1971, the company was winding up; some models were subsequently produced in South America, others in Portugal. Today, they are not exactly common models, and where paintwork is good and the box original, they command a healthy premium.

### DOING IT BETTER

I covered French company Solido in an earlier issue, and the manufacturer remains one of my favourites, both in terms of quality and breadth of offering. Yet Majorette, which bought out Solido in 1980/1981, decided that it could up the ante and improve on the illustrious Solido heritage, and so launched the Verem brand

in 1984.

Its rationale was simple: re-release some of the older models as high-quality updates. It began with some of the latter's 1970s production, and it would, in time, cover the spectrum and embrace road and race vehicles, military models, trucks and vans. Generally considered superior in terms of quality when compared with the original models (and frankly, paint and finishing techniques had moved on by the time Verem started to release its models), these miniatures today are held in quite high esteem. Having said that, prices have remained pretty modest for these improved examples – and there's a wide



8

range to consider. If you fell in love with Solido's track cars (such as the Chaparral, the range which came with half the decals applied), then you'll certainly appreciate the enhancements occasioned by Verem. The company even replicated the famous Pinder Circus models – truly, there's something for everyone here. ■



**T**here's always a special thrill that comes with unboxing a brand-new diecast model — that moment of unveiling something fresh, detailed, and in this case, long-anticipated. But this latest release stands out for several reasons.

And no, this model isn't connected to any movie franchise, nor is it a dune buggy or a true Baja Bug. Instead, it's a finely crafted 1:18-scale replica of Volkswagen's 2014 Dune Concept. Originally developed by DNA Collectables, this project was shelved in 2019, much to the disappointment of Volkswagen diecast enthusiasts. Now, however, Radscale has resurrected it — and the result is well worth the wait.

Radscale's owner, Fendy Hu, proves once again that he's not just a manufacturer, but a genuine automotive enthusiast who understands collectors. Having previously worked with DNA, Revell, and Norev, Fendy brings a wealth of industry experience to Radscale's growing reputation.

Adding to the excitement, Radscale has significantly elevated its packaging standards. Each model now comes mounted on a display plinth, protected by a crystal-clear acrylic cover, and encased in a sturdy, premium card sleeve — an impressive presentation that perfectly complements the quality of the model itself.

# The Return of the Dune

**Colin E Shinkin** takes a look at the Volkswagen Dune Concept, finally resurrected from the DNA Collectables parts bin by Radscale Models.

## A BRIEF LOOK BACK AT THE BEETLE

The Volkswagen Beetle has seen three major generations over its long history. The beloved Classic Beetle debuted in series production in 1945 and became an icon of motoring culture. The New Beetle arrived in 1998, reinterpreting the design for a new era, followed by the "21st Century Beetle" in 2012.

Radscale's Dune represents one of Volkswagen's more imaginative Concept vehicles from this third generation — a concept that, remarkably, did reach production a few years later.

## IDENTITY CRISIS: VOLKSWAGEN'S OFF-ROAD AMBITIONS

Volkswagen has long flirted with the idea of an off-road-inspired Beetle, though not always with consistent results. It began in 1972 with the Baja Champion Edition, celebrating VW's off-road racing victories from 1967 to 1971. Despite its adventurous theme, the model's McPherson strut suspension made it ill-suited for actual off-road use.

In 2000, the company presented the New Beetle Dune Concept, a rugged-looking prototype that sadly never reached showrooms — though AUTOart did produce



**ABOVE.** These front, back and profile views of Radscale models new Volkswagen Dune Concept show how faithfully the proportions of this distinctive prototype have been captured. Originally developed by DNA Collectables, this project was shelved in 2019, much to the disappointment of Volkswagen diecast enthusiasts. Now, however, Radscale has resurrected it.

1:43 and 1:18 scale versions for collectors.

Fast forward to 2014, and Volkswagen unveiled another iteration: the Dune Concept. This version took heavy inspiration from Baja Bugs but leaned more toward a sporty, luxury design than true off-road capability. It finally entered production in 2016, bridging the gap between concept fantasy and showroom reality.

### DEADPOOL COOL STYLE

With Radscale now stepping forward from DNA Collectables' legacy, Volkswagen fans have reason to celebrate. The 2014 Dune Concept returns in diecast form — a model both distinctive and rare, given the limited representation of the third-generation Beetle in 1:18 scale. Welly has produced three more affordable variations of the modern Beetle, and Kyosho has two higher quality officially licensed versions, but none were Volkswagen special editions. Radscale's take is not only authentic and beautifully detailed but also features the R-Line styling and a rear-mounted ski rack that adds a playful "Deadpool cool" aesthetic.

Volkswagen's own press release put it this way:

"In the summer, simply swap the skis for a sandboard."

It also noted that the Dune revisits an idea born with the New Beetle Dune concept, presented in Los Angeles in 2000. While the earlier car was not very utilitarian — particularly its interior and roof design — the 2014 Dune Concept was far more feasible, if not more of a look than being competitive in any way.

### DUNE UNBOXING

Ah, the excitement of an unboxing — and this one has been a long time coming. My sample from RadScale is the gold body-coloured Dune, named by VW as Arizona, a yellow-orange metallic.

Overall, this sealed resin model looks very true to the 2014 original, which is a relief. In the past, plenty of special editions from other manufacturers haven't quite nailed it. Most importantly, the moulding lines look clean and accurate — and as Wheeler Dealers fans know, shut lines matter! The model really captures the raised stance and rugged feel of the Dune, along with the improved R-Line styling.

The matte wheel arch extensions are all present. The alloys are the correct 19-inch Twister style, and a particularly nice touch is that the wheel centres have the badge housings finished in the correct body colour. Brushed chrome side trim panels — tick. Dune logo — tick. Chrome

front apron — tick. Front underbody skid plate — tick. Bonnet/hood with a raised centre section and air vents — tick. It's clear someone paid close attention to the real car, and the detail reflects that. Even the ski mounting setup matches the original and looks exactly as it should.

As for the interior, inspection is naturally limited due to the sealed construction, but everything visible checks out. This includes the grab handle with its contrasting black soft-touch material, Arizona branding, aluminium accents, and the instrumentation. The dash pad is finished in the exterior colour, and the two-tone seating appears correct as well; however, this misses the body colour beading.

### FINAL IMPRESSIONS

Radscale's 1:18 Volkswagen Beetle Dune is a superbly executed and highly accurate representation of the 2014 Concept as it appeared at its world premiere at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit.

The model captures not only the spirit of the car but also the sense of nostalgia and innovation that has always defined the Beetle. It's a must-have for any Volkswagen enthusiast or serious diecast collector — and a clear statement that Radscale is a brand to watch. ■

David Adams tells us about his collection. It would appear that nowadays I am an unusual collector. I was indeed fortunate to have lived in the same large house for the first 30 years of my life, which enabled me to develop a hoarding habit for all my childhood toys. And the same toys are still with me today. This means good and bad news over 70 years of my collecting habit. The bad news is that nearly all of them are play-worn and without boxes, but the good news is that the bulk of them have a wonderful, and therefore, priceless sentimental attachment!

About 90% of my collection is original and purchased in period, but I have been fortunate enough to add the missing links and prizes I didn't manage to own all those years ago.

My speciality is diecast, and after all these years, like all children in the 1960s, I still wrestle with the challenge of who is the best, Corgi or Dinky? With a portion of Matchbox and Spot-On thrown in to make the whole issue more complicated.

Deep down, I suppose I was a Corgi child, which is why I was so keen to bid heavily for a Corgi model of a Corgi logo in a recent auction. Standout favourites were too numerous to mention, but included all the rally cars and the wonderful 20ft Dolphin cabin cruiser in the Riviera set. But I always had a penchant, even then, for TV-themed models. The Saint's Volvo was a must-have, but the two standouts were James Bond's first Aston, of course, and the original Batmobile. These two had top play value, but as a follower of great detail, I never understood why Corgi painted their early Astons gold. Another one for top play value as a child was the brilliant Austin L-driver car. And for me, Corgi always had the top breakthrough features, like those jewelled headlights. Chipperfields was also a brilliant, branded theme, and I have a full



# 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](mailto:CollectingEditorial@warnersgroup.co.uk)

set of everything in period. Their Mack truck was probably one of their best-ever models. How times change nowadays, with thoughts of lions, tigers or elephants in cages an absolute no-no. All the above are still highly prized in my collection, and most are in good order.

Dinky had their own delights. Again, TV-themed models were the top attraction for me, and standouts included Lady Penelope's Rolls. Come to that, as one of Gerry Anderson's biggest fans, anything to do with him was on my wanted list. And when it came to cars, Dinky was always best at big Yanks. Plus, they were the top choice for any military vehicles, with top possessions for me including the French Dinky bridge-builder truck and the Mighty Antar tank transporter. I have all

three Mighty Antars and a superb French Dinky BP tanker.

Pride of place, however, is my selection of *The Prisoner* Mini Mokes. I was planning to stop at six, but I'm now up to eleven, and ten of those are boxed. I had one in period, and the rest were picked up at auctions. Why *Prisoner* Mokes? That would be telling!

Outside period, I have subsequently built up some older Dinky Navy and shipping sets, plus a newer, rare model of the liner *France*.

Like every youngster in period, my collection would have started with Matchbox. Surely there was no child of the 1950s and 1960s without a Lesney creation they valued. I favoured their commercial vehicles the most. It seemed like they were





late with branded and themed models, but I do have some Beales-branded Pickfords removal trucks and one or two pieces that are simply rare because they had the “wrong” colour of wheels or bodies. Top choices for me from my originals are the larger-scale Hoveringham truck and the refreshment trailers in white and silver. Very crude in casting though it is, I also value the old Meteor Sportsman speedboat and trailer. And, of course, no Matchbox collection would be complete without Tracy Island and the Marineville Headquarters. Fortunately, although both were heavily used in period, they are in marvellous condition, with their boxes intact, including all that wonderful artwork.

Basically, I was born an advocate of anything Tri-ang, so it was only natural that I was a dedicated fan of Spot-On as their rival to the dominant diecast manufacturers. As the brand launched later, it introduced some immediate standout features, such as battery-powered lighting. Every model had proper weight and presence, as well as superb casting detail. Of the various brands I’ve collected, without any doubt, the

Spot-Ons have the most dents and scrapes. While this might be bad news in terms of values, it undoubtedly means they were the most played with, so some of the models are definitely play-worn! Stars of my version of banger racing were the Humber Snipe, Rover, Vauxhall Velox and grey Land Rover. Fortunately, my most prized maroon Rolls-Royce escaped the scrapes and bumps, but not so the hefty Jones crane.

While strictly outside diecast car collecting, in period my father very kindly supported my collection of Tri-ang Minic Ships. I have a complete collection of every listed first-issue model, including the accessories, and this even includes one of the original tugs with a fat diecast funnel, as all the later ones had Bakelite-type funnels. I still have the whale with the factory ship and the little blue lifeboat with its house. These are complemented by several other ranges of the same scale, mostly from Hansa (superbly detailed German ships), Tremo and Crescent.

A rather random collection of toy soldiers started in the late 1950s with some marching RAF flyers from a huge collection my father owned as a boy. Then, throughout childhood,

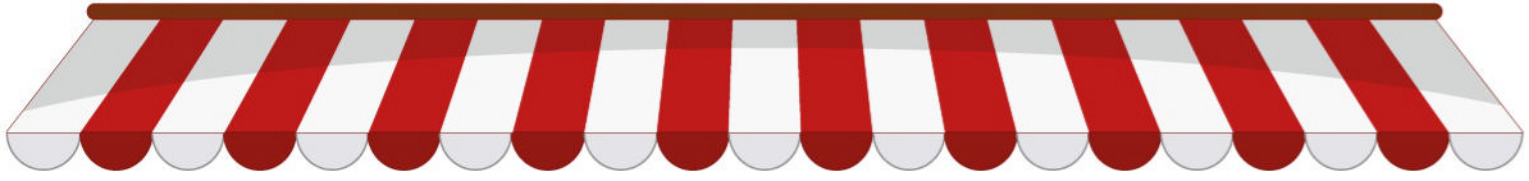
these were supplemented by many and varied Britains serving forces, Cowboys and Indians, etc. Prized in this section are my four Beetles, but what I’d give now for the display box they came in. Maybe one day I’ll find one.

Nearly all the above are original toys from the period of release, but subsequently, over the last 20 years, I have become an avid and enthusiastic collector of all sorts.

So nowadays, I’ve expanded, space permitting, in all directions. Notable among current toys are Britains, especially their motorcycles and gardening series.

I have been very fortunate to supplement my childhood collecting habit in recent years by following specialist toy auctioneers online. Today, the collection extends to tinplate boats, including all the Sutcliffe variants and many Tri-ang and other moulded-plastic ships. Perhaps most valuable sentimentally, however, is a collection of figures made by Sacul (Lucas backwards) of *The Flowerpot Men*, *Andy Pandy* and *Captain Hook* – all synonymous with my early, formative years. ■

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Jim Corr  
07504 035955

• Windsor  
Windsor Toy & Train Fairs  
07810 513576

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### 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

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• Rayleigh  
KRJ Vintage Toy Fairs  
07534 939022

• Walsall Wood  
Transtar Promotions  
01922 643385

### 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

• Hook  
Steve Clements Fairs  
01380 725322 / 07732 330305

### 15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

• Port Sunlight  
Jackson & Jackson Events  
07967681080

• Spalding  
J & J Fairs  
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### 17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

• Wootton Bassett  
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**ABOVE:** This impressive boxed Lego Creator Big Ben set sold for £260 at Vectis Auctions in January

### 29<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

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• Rainton  
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### 2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL

• Theydon Bois  
Joe Lock  
07866 641215

### 3<sup>RD</sup> APRIL

• Deeside  
Tony Oakes  
01270 652773

### 5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

• Potters Bar  
Joe Lock  
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### 11<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

• Pudsey  
Rod & James Fairs  
R.ash@tinyworld.co.uk

### 12<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

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R.M Toys  
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### 18<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

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Mike Spencer  
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### 9<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

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01270 652773

### 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

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