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# Longer evenings and little treasures

## EDITOR'S COLUMN



Sunshine, car boot season, football fever, toy fair treasures, and a packed issue full of collecting nostalgia.

Summer finally feels like it's arriving. I don't know about you, but as a football fan, I'm starting to get very excited that we're only a month away from the World Cup. I've already been digging through my football shirt collection, getting a few favourites ready for a rare outing. Whether you're into football or not, hopefully it's a summer packed with sunshine, success, and good memories.

This month's Diecast Collector is packed with new models alongside some classics, including features on the Jowett Javelin and Paul McCartney's Radford-built Mini Cooper S. In our Meet the Makers series, Keith chats to the brains behind Tarmac Works. Elsewhere, there's everything from Corgi's latest aircraft to James Bond's Aston Martin V8.

Over in Collectors Gazette, we celebrate Dennis the Menace's 75th birthday, explore the world of Disney pin badges, and look back at the boom of space-age toys. Car fans amongst you may also enjoy our feature on the LEGO Icons Ford Model T.

We've also received a few bits of feedback recently, both positive and critical, and I wanted to quickly touch on that. Even when opinions differ,

it shows people care deeply about the hobby and the magazine. We genuinely do listen, and constructive feedback really does help shape future issues.

We know some long-time Diecast Collector readers may not always enjoy the wider variety now included through Collectors Gazette content. Some of you simply want wall-to-wall diecast, and we get that. But merging with Collectors Gazette helped keep the magazines alive. Plus, many readers have mentioned how they've discovered something new or nostalgic that they've enjoyed. At the heart of it all, though, we're still collectors. Different shelves, same passion.

You may have noticed the letters page has taken a short break recently, mainly because we simply haven't had enough letters each month to consistently fill a page. One letter that made us smile this month came from Terry Rainer.

Terry wrote: "As a regular subscriber, may I say how splendid the magazine is. Recently, I found a Matchbox Plymouth GTX in 1:43 (ish) scale, part of a collection called Matchbox Models of Yesteryear American Muscle Cars. I have so far collected 11 in the series, but would very much like to know how many were produced."

It reminded us that some of the best parts of this hobby are the shared knowledge and tiny mysteries that collectors help solve together. So, if anyone can help Terry, please write in to [CollectingEditorial@warnersgroup.co.uk](mailto:CollectingEditorial@warnersgroup.co.uk).

**Happy collecting,  
Luke**

# NEWS

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## ORIGINAL SOOTY & SWEEP PUPPETS REACH £11,000

A collection of Sooty and Sweep glove puppets used by the creator of the iconic BBC children's TV show have sold at auction for double the estimate. The puppets are part of an archive belonging to Matthew Corbett, son of Harry Corbett OBE, who invented Sooty while working as an engineer in Blackpool in 1948.

Five puppets were up for auction as part of the collection, which also included a mechanical puppeteer's rod, DVDs of the shows, and other Sooty-related memorabilia. Auctioneers Hansons estimated the collection at between £4,000 to £6,000, but they sold for £11,000 following a flurry of bids. The puppets featured are described to be in good condition and gives the buyer an opportunity to hold a piece of iconic British children's TV history. ■



## FORBIDDEN PLANET OPENS IN NORWICH

THE major comic book and collectable chain have revealed it has opened their next shop in the city centre of Norwich on the 2nd of May. Forbidden Planet is a chain company that specialises in comics, collectables, pop culture merchandise and blind boxes.

Before this launch, collectable enthusiasts had to travel all the way to Cambridge or London to get their Forbidden Planet fix, so understandably everyone is over the moon about the opening of this new location.

This news follows the recent successful opening of their store in Brighton, which saw queues around the block on their opening day

A spokesman for the comic book shop chain previously said: "We're really looking forward to bringing Forbidden Planet to Norwich and, in due course, serving the local community with our full range of comics, pop culture, blind boxes and collectors' merchandise, backed by over 50 years of retail experience. ■

## CAPTAIN AMERICA COMIC PUNCHES PAST WORLD RECORD

A RARE copy of Captain America Comics #1 has sold for a world record \$71,554 at Hake's in the USA. The historic Golden Age comic, published in March 1941, is one of the most iconic superhero comics ever produced. It features the very first appearance and origin story of Captain America, along with his sidekick Bucky and villain Red Skull.

Its famous cover artwork by Jack Kirby shows Captain America punching Adolf Hitler months before the United States officially entered World War II, making it one of the most talked-about comic covers of its era. The copy sold in the auction carried a CGC Qualified Grade of 4.0 and attracted strong bidding from collectors worldwide, eventually setting a new auction record for the grade. ■

# Shaun the Sheep



## SHAUN THE SHEEP IN NEW CORGI RANGE

**THERE'S** a fresh flock rolling into collectors' cabinets this spring, as Corgi unveils a brand-new range inspired by everyone's favourite stop-motion troublemakers.

Leading the charge is Shaun himself, tearing across the farmyard on a bright red quad, joined by Timmy the Lamb in yellow, and the ever-reliable Bitzer the Sheepdog in blue.

Priced at £21.99 each, collectors can also round up the full trio with a quadbike set at £55.97, making it an easy way to bring the whole gang home in one go.

With Aardman celebrating its 50th anniversary this year and a brand-new Shaun the Sheep film set to hit screens in the autumn, demand is expected to be sky-high. Cute, collectable, and just a little bit chaotic. Exactly how Shaun would want it! ■



## SIDECARDS GOES LIVE

**YOUTUBE** sensations the Sidemen have unveiled their latest venture, SideCards, entering the world of trading card breaks via the Fanatics Live platform.

SideCards is a live-streaming service where members of the Sidemen host card breaks, with viewers able to purchase a 'spot' for a specific team or player. As packs are opened live on stream, anyone whose chosen team or player appears wins all associated cards.

As the platform has only just launched, details are still emerging. However, the Sidemen have confirmed that while it isn't guaranteed a livestream will hit every spot purchased, collectors whose choices aren't pulled will still receive free cards.

At the time of writing, only one live card break has happened so far so thoughts from fans are still unknown, but the venture is expected to bring in millions of people to every livestream.

Designed to make card collecting more accessible, fair and beginner-friendly, SideCards aims to appeal to collectors of all experience levels — offering a new, interactive way to get involved in the hobby. ■

## NEW SMITHS INITIATIVE

**SMITHS** News has launched a new initiative called the "Elite Collectors" club. This is going to provide independent stores with extra support for high demand collectables, including Pokémon trading cards and FIFA World Cup sticker collections. This initiative is giving independent stores included an enhanced category insight and advice, even including launch information and emerging trends.

The scheme is live in an initial group of independent stores, but Smiths News has said that subject to levels of engagement and sales performance, the initiative will be expanded to more stores in the future and will also expand into more collectable brands.

Till data from more than 10,000 independent shops shows initial success within the scheme, it shows every Pokémon collection released in the 12 months to this March was the best-selling new product for that month, beating launches from major soft drinks and confectionery brands. ■

# NEWS

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## NEW DOCTOR WHO FIGURE SETS ON THE WAY

BETWEEN July and November this year, there will be five new Doctor Who action figure sets released. These figures will be characters from across the show's history, from the 1960s to the 2020s. They will be available exclusively through the Character Options website, monthly starting in July.

In order of release the sets are: the Cybermen Set, the Fifteenth Doctor Set, Fourth Doctor Set, Season Seven Set, Wirth Set and finally the Collect and Build Yeti figure, the complete Yeti buildable figure can be completed only by collecting the individual body

sections spread across the five sets release throughout the year.

The head features the eyes and prominent fangs of the original Yeti that were near impossible to see on-screen but were unmissable in a behind-the-scenes documentary of the story creation. ■

## NEXT MONTH

**AUGUST 2026**  
Issue 346



### Fiat's forgotten flagship

We take a look at Fiat's stylish but often overlooked 130 range, from the elegant Pininfarina-designed coupé to rare coachbuilt versions and 1:43 scale models

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- Auction results
- All the latest news
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# NEWS

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**AMONG** the more unusual highlights at Vectis was an exceptionally rare mechanical novelty toy from the Victorian era.

The lot, known as “The General”, dates from around the mid-1880s and is believed to have been made in Germany for Britains. It is regarded as one of the earliest toys produced by the company and originally appeared in the Britains catalogue of 1880, although experts believe this version may be slightly later due to differences in the figure’s hat design.

The charming mechanical toy features a soldier mounted on a hobby horse while carrying an umbrella and sword. When activated, the spinning umbrella propels the horse forward while the soldier’s sword arm moves back and forth.

The piece previously formed part of The Arnold Rolak Reference Collection, which was sold by Christie’s in December 2000. Presented in excellent condition with its original tissue wrap and box, the rarity attracted significant interest from collectors of early toys.

Estimated at £2,000 to £3,000, the toy galloped far beyond expectations to achieve an impressive £9,188.

Collectors of antique soft toys were also active, with an early Einco Kiddieland “Fifi the Cat” attracting strong bidding despite condition issues.

Dating from between 1911 and 1914,



## VINTAGE TOYS PROVE TO BE A HIT AT VECTIS

the rare British-made toy featured black mohair, googly glass eyes, stitched facial detailing and a silk bow tie with bell attachment. The seated cat measured approximately six inches tall and retained many original features, although wear, thinning mohair and damage to one eye were noted in the catalogue description.

The toy was produced by Eisenmann & Co under the Kiddieland trademark, alongside the better-known “Tubby the Dog” character. Despite the condition faults, collectors clearly recognised its rarity and historical importance. Estimated at £200 to £300, the charming feline eventually sold for £1,348. ■

## BOXED CORGI SELLS STRONGLY AT WARWICK

A **BOXED** pair of classic Corgi Toys models proved popular at Warwick & Warwick’s latest Diecast sale. The pairing included a Corgi Toys Ghia Flat 600 alongside a Citroën D.S. 19 in Monte Carlo trim. Both models retained their original boxes and were described as very good condition. The appealing duo eventually sold for £350.

Warwick & Warwick’s next diecast auction will take place on 15 July. Check out the catalogue at [warwickandwarwick.com](http://warwickandwarwick.com). ■





## DINKY AND CORGI SELL WELL AT VECTIS

**DINKY** Toys continue to perform strongly when unusual promotional issues or high-grade boxed examples appear on the market, and Vectis Auctions saw exactly that in its 6 May Simply Dinky sale.

One of the standout lots was the rare Dinky 455 Brooke Bond Tea Van, estimated at £700 to £900. The model featured a special roof label reading: "Since 1924 more than 5700 Trojan Little Red Van's supplied. Replaced on long life basis." These labels were originally applied by Trojan Vehicles Ltd before the models were handed out through Trojan dealers, making surviving examples exceptionally scarce today.

Despite its tiny size, the model generated huge interest online. After a fierce bidding battle between two determined internet bidders, the promotional van eventually sold for an astonishing £5,635, many times above estimate.

Another strong result came from a Dinky Toys 145 Singer Vogue in a rare colour variation. Finished in yellow with a red interior, silver trim and spun hubs, the attractive saloon was described as a Good Plus example with only one very minor paint touch-in. It was offered complete with its original yellow and red picture box.

Estimated at £700 to £900, the model climbed rapidly during bidding before eventually selling for £3,920. Rare colour combinations and strong original presentation continue to push desirable Dinky saloons well beyond estimate.

Corgi collectors were also active, with a Corgi Toys 304 SS 350 Camaro proving one of the surprise performers of the sale. The model featured a blue body, white roof and Whizzwheels, and while estimated at just £50 to £60, competitive bidding pushed the final result to an impressive £515.

The sale highlighted how certain late-era Corgi muscle cars and American subjects are increasingly attracting attention, particularly when boxed examples survive in clean condition. ■



## THE FORCE IS STRONG AT C&T

**STAR** Wars continued to dominate the toy market at C&T Auctions during its Retro & Vintage Collectable Toys sale held on 26 April.

Leading the way was a scarce Palitoy Luke Skywalker Farmboy action figure on a 12 Back card, graded UKG 85%. The unpunched carded figure dated from 1978 and featured strong grades across the card, bubble and figure.

Vintage Star Wars collectors remain fiercely competitive for early Palitoy carded figures in high-grade condition, and this example proved no exception. After intense bidding, the figure eventually sold for an impressive £4,000.

Another unusual Star Wars highlight came in the form of a very scarce Brazilian Glasslite Tie Fighter Nave Interceptadora vehicle. Produced by Glasslite TV Toys, Brazilian Star Wars items have become increasingly collectable in recent years due to their rarity and distinctive packaging variations.

Although the boxed vehicle was missing its instructions and battery cover, and the box itself showed reinforcement and wear, collectors still battled strongly for the piece. The vehicle eventually sold for £560. C&T Auctions will hold its next Vintage & Toy Collectables sale live online on Wednesday 17 June, starting at 10:30am BST. More details can be found at [www.candtauctions.co.uk](http://www.candtauctions.co.uk). ■



Nissan has a long history of producing halo cars from its Skyline lineage. The R33 400R was a track weapon on steroids, while the one-off R33 GT-R LM took the DNA of its parent and created a monster rarely seen in public. However, one of the most sought-after iterations came at the very end of the R34 Skyline's life cycle, when Nissan undertook a final and remarkable curation—one that would ultimately define the Skyline's legacy.

The company re-acquired twenty low-mileage, pristine examples and entrusted NISMO to fettle each one into the ultimate expression of the breed—the Z-Tune. Finished in the exclusive KY0 Z-Tune Silver, these cars represented the pinnacle of the Skyline story. One exception does exist: chassis BNR34-006493 (Z-Tune 010), whose owner requested it remain in its original Midnight Purple, making it a standout among an already rare group and adding further intrigue for collectors.

Solido brings into its portfolio a casting of this ultimate R34 in that one-off colour scheme. For those looking to step into 1:18 scale modelling, this offers a well-judged entry point. It lacks the intricate detailing and opening features of premium brands such as AutoArt, Kyosho and Minichamps, but this is not budget modelling either. Instead, it strikes a clear balance between cost and presentation, delivering a model that displays well and justifies its place in any collection.

There are, inevitably, a few compromises. Compared with AutoArt's version, the LM GT4 wheels paired with Bridgestone Potenza RE01R tyres do not sit quite as flush as they could. Some finer details are also absent, such as the NISMO branding behind the front grille,

# New model of the month

Keith D'Souza picks a standout new release. This month, he reviews the Nissan Skyline GT-R.

## Solido

**Nissan Skyline GT-R (BNR34) Z-TUNE (Midnight Purple) 1999**

Scale: 1:18 Price: £49.99

SKU: S1804311

[www.solido.com/en](http://www.solido.com/en)

while exterior badging lacks the crispness of higher-end counterparts. The interior, although well executed and far from basic, occasionally misses the sharpness and precision seen in more expensive models. That said, the front Brembo brakes are particularly well rendered, capturing the purposeful, race-bred stopping power of the real car. There is no opening bonnet to reveal the legendary RB26DETT engine, nor does the boot lift, but few collectors display a 1:18 model with everything on show anyway.

Crucially, the fundamentals are strong. Panel fit, stance and overall presence are all convincing, ensuring it holds its own in a display cabinet. From a typical viewing distance, many would struggle to distinguish it from more premium alternatives. That makes it both an accessible entry point and a smart addition to an established collection—and it earns the Diecast Collector Model of the Month accolade. ■



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1959-64 DAIMLER SP250 (DART) 24.95



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1971-75 JAGUAR V12 E-TYPE SERIES 3 COUPE 24.95



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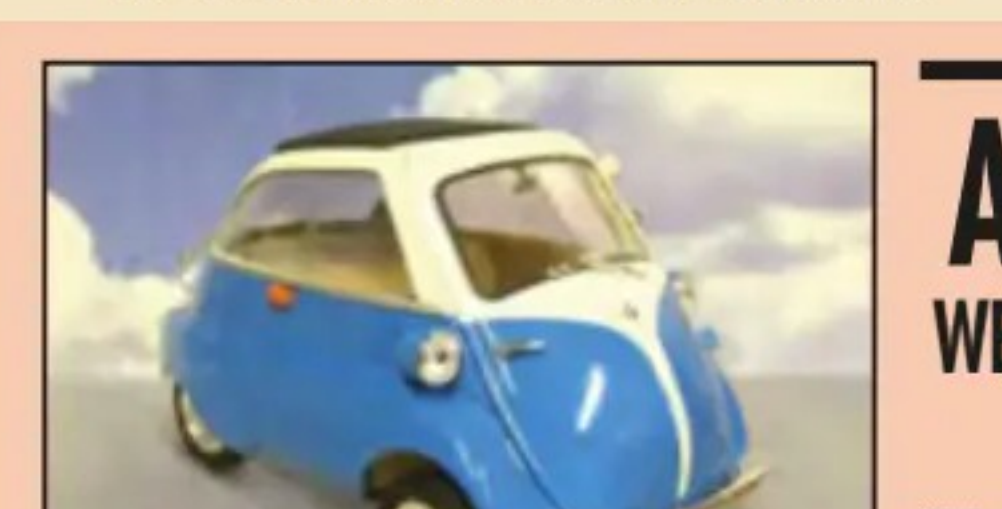
AEC WEYMANN FANFARE SOUTH WALES 43.95



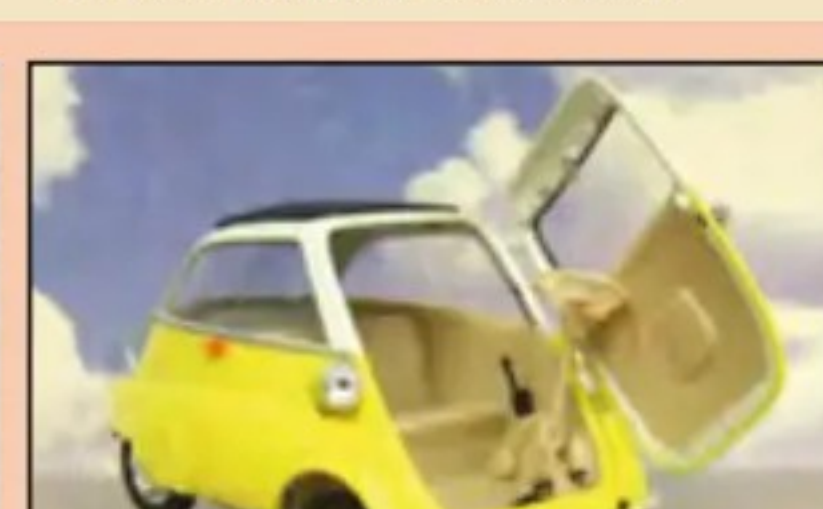
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**CORGI**  
**Ford Escort Mk1 1300 GT**  
 (Marine Blue)  
**SCALE:** 1:43 **PRICE:** £37.99  
**PRODUCT NO:** VA09534

A sporty, entry-level saloon, this impressive Ford Escort was the perfect balance, boasting both convenience and a stylish interior and exterior combo.

[uk.corgi.co.uk](http://uk.corgi.co.uk)



**SPARK**  
**Racing Bulls Honda VCARB 02 6**  
**Isack Hadjar F1 Miami 2025 (Red)**  
**SCALE:** 1:18 **PRICE:** 20,00 €  
**PRODUCT NO:** 18S1221

Driven by Isack Hadjar at the Miami Grand Prix 2025, the no. 6 racer is slim, agile and a beast when unleashed, powered by the Honda RBPT-badged engines.

[miniatures-minichamps.com](http://miniatures-minichamps.com)



**MAISTO**  
**PORSCHE 911 GT3 2022 (BLUE)**  
**SCALE:** 1:18 **PRICE:** £44.00  
**PRODUCT NO:** 36458

A track-focused, high performance car, the Porsche 911 features a 4.0-litre naturally aspirated flat-six engine and a stunningly detailed finish.

[maisto.com](http://maisto.com)



**MAISTO**  
**1969 Dodge Charger R/T Muscle**  
**Machine (Silver)**  
**SCALE:** 1:24 **PRICE:** £19.99  
**PRODUCT NO:** MA39402

Part of the innovative Muscle Machine collection, the Dodge Charger R/T is a classic American muscle car, suped-up with an exposed engine.

[maisto.com](http://maisto.com)



**MAJORETTE**  
**Nissan Z (Black/Red)**  
**SCALE:** 1:64 **PRICE:** 4.29 €  
**PRODUCT NO:** 212084009Q36

This iconic vehicle is known for its performance and affordable reliability. With a V6 engine and user accessibility, this is a rear-wheel drive dream.

[majorette.com](http://majorette.com)



**MAJORETTE**  
**Alpine A110R (Blue)**  
**SCALE:** 1:64 **PRICE:** 4.29 €  
**PRODUCT NO:** 212053052Q45

The Alpine A110R is an incredibly light vehicle, with track-focused additions like a 300 HP engine, sharp handling and extreme aerodynamic downforce.

[majorette.com](http://majorette.com)

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

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



Simply scan this QR code with your phone's camera, then tap the link that appears to visit our online shop. Or turn to page 72 of this magazine.

**Happy collecting!**



**AUTOART**  
**Toyota Sprinter Trueno (AE86) Initial**  
**D Project 30th Anniversary (White)**  
**SCALE:** 1:18 **PRICE:** £11.95  
**PRODUCT NO:** 78787

The legendary, compact sports car is a testament to Toyota's design, with a lightweight body, rear-wheel drive and famous retractable pop-up headlights.

[uk.autoartmodels.com](http://uk.autoartmodels.com)

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1:76 Scale Buses - Due Summer 2026



**E43001** - Daimler Fleetline DMS115 London Transport Route 170 Aldwych.....£39.90



**E43002** - Daimler Fleetline DMS146 London Transport Route 267 Hampton Court Station.....£39.90



**E43003** - Daimler Fleetline DMS141 London Transport Route 46 Farringdon Street.....£39.90



**E43004** - Daimler Fleetline DMS46 London Transport Route 95 Cannon Street.....£39.90



1:76 Scale Buses - Due Summer 2026



**E43005** - Daimler Fleetline DMS Brighton Corporation 91 Driver Trainer.....£39.90



**E36720** - Dennis Dart SLF Pointer 2 Dennis the Menace 75th Anniversary Special.....£50.95



**New Announcements For May** - See the full range and pre order on our website



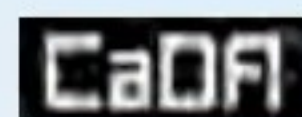
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1:18 Scale Formula 1 Diecast Model



**B18-16816H** - Ferrari SF-25 2025 Lewis Hamilton With Helmet.....£79.99



Plastic Brick Kits



**C61508W** - 1:17 Scale CLAAS Dominator 370 Combine Harvester.....£254.95



**C55039W** - Toyota GR Yaris Rally 1 Car.....£13.49



**C55023W** - 1:24 Scale Suzuki Jimny.....£10.15



**C66026W** - Shell Retail Station.....£67.99



**C59015W** - Set of 3 Dinosaur Eggs with Stegosaurus, Triceratops & Velociraptor.....£19.99



1:24 Scale Diecast Models



**M32914** - 2023 Volkswagen ID Buzz.....£13.49



**M32911Y** - Bugatti Bolide.....£16.99



**M32908** - 1964 Chevrolet Impala SS Light Blue.....£16.99



**M32909** - 2021 Toyota GR Yaris Red.....£16.99



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**CORGI**  
**Aston Martin Valhalla**  
**James Bond 007 First Light (Silver)**

**SCALE:** 1:36 **PRICE:** £39.99 **PRODUCT NO:** CC08101  
 The Aston Martin Valhalla joins the Bond universe in the upcoming 007 First Light video game. Finished in silver with roof-mounted weapons and tactical upgrades, it gives the futuristic supercar a classic 007 twist.

Corgi's model captures the sharp styling of Aston Martin's hybrid performance car, along with the game-inspired gadgetry. Measuring around 13cm long, the model features black wheels, tinted windows and plenty of detail throughout. The low, wide stance and dramatic bodywork help give the Valhalla a real screen-ready presence. The Valhalla is the latest addition to Corgi's long-running James Bond range, which has included iconic vehicles such as the DB5, DBS and Lotus Esprit. With Bond fans eagerly awaiting 007 First Light, this release is likely to appeal to both James Bond and modern supercar collectors alike.

[uk.corgi.co.uk](http://uk.corgi.co.uk)



**OXFORD DIECAST**  
**VW T1 Bus and Surfboards Coca Cola (Red & White)**

**SCALE:** 1:76 **PRICE:** £10.95 **PRODUCT NO:** 76VWS008CC  
 Featuring the classic colours of Coca Cola, this throwback, retro VW bus is a charming, rear-wheel drive automobile with a rear-mounted, four-cylinder engine.

[oxforddiecast.co.uk](http://oxforddiecast.co.uk)



**OXFORD DIECAST**  
**Ford Transit Mk2 London Fire Brigade DCU (Red)**

**SCALE:** 1:76 **PRICE:** £10.95 **PRODUCT NO:** 76FT2003  
 Having gone through multiple facelifts since the 1960s, this Ford Transit Mk2 has been redesigned for the London Fire Brigade, with modifications such as the siren system suiting its needs.

[oxforddiecast.co.uk](http://oxforddiecast.co.uk)



# RETRO BIRMINGHAM RETURN

Following the significant success in launching the brand new casting of the Alexander Dennis Enviro400 MMC model in the liveries of National Express West Midlands, Stagecoach in Oxfordshire, Bluestar, Stagecoach West Scotland, Southern Vectis, Stagecoach South, Ensign Bus, Xplore Dundee, Stagecoach North West, Go North East, Stagecoach North Scotland, Go South Coast, Reading Buses, Greater Manchester Bee Network, McGill's Bluebird, East Yorkshire, Newcastle Busways and Stagecoach Yorkshire and Thames Valley Buses, Northcord Model Company is now releasing the thirtyfirst livery on the 10.9 metre long, single-door casting – ukbus 6546, which is National Express West Midlands, carrying the vintage Birmingham City Transport livery with National Express

West Midlands fleet name on the front panel and on the upper rear window.

The model as replicated is National Express West Midlands 6148 (SN15 LHV) on route 11A to Acocks Green with 'via Kings Heath' carried in the front destination.

6148 was new to Yardley Wood garage in May 2015. It was repainted into retro Birmingham City Transport livery, including trademark khaki roof, in August 2024.

Although appearing to be a manufacturing error, the lack of the blue pinstripe within the advert frames on the upper panelling is a feature that is replicated correctly from the 1:1 scale version.

This is the third NMC model carrying a classic West Midlands livery. The first one is ukbus 9501 Scania OmniCity double-deck model that replicated 4780 (BU08 EHZ) in West

Midlands PTE livery on route 67 to Birmingham. The ukbus 9501 model was launched in August 2023. The second one is ukbus 6205 Alexander Dennis Enviro400 model that replicated 4722 (BU07 LGY) in Birmingham City Transport livery on route 18 to Yardley Wood. The ukbus 6205 model was launched in September 2024.

The Alexander Dennis Enviro400 MMC ukbus 6546 is a one-piece casting whose clean lines accentuate the square, gasket-mounted windows and the livery application on which all logos and lettering are clearly legible. Another main feature of the ukbus 6546 model is its tree protector at the front. The front dome on the model is significant, with curved windscreens on both upper deck and lower deck.

Northcord Model Company is also creating new design

## Northcord Model Company

Vehicle ADL Enviro400 MMC  
National Express  
West Midlands

Scale 1:76

Code UKBUS 6546

Price £56.50

[www.modelbus.uk](http://www.modelbus.uk)

standards within the interior of both saloons. These features, inside the compartments, will represent the real, outstanding layout of the Enviro400 MMC, such as the extensive portrayal of handrails on upper deck and lower deck, etc.

The brand new 10.9 metre Enviro400 MMC bus models will be distributed by John Ayrey Die-Casts Limited (UK), Porte Publishing Company (Japan), and 80M Bus Model Shop (Hong Kong). The ukbus 6546 model is limited to 1008 pieces worldwide. ■



**WSI MODELS**  
**FTF FS 8x4**  
**heavy duty tractor 'Mammoet'**  
 SCALE: 1:50 PRICE: €159.00  
 PRODUCT NO: 410321

This new heavy-duty 8x4 tractor is finished in the historic Mammoet colours of yellow and grey, featuring plenty of fine detailing, including the cabin interior, steering axles, replicated suspension, fifth-wheel coupling and power module.

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



**HEAVY HAUL REPLICAS**  
**1988 Mack RD686SX tandem axle tractor 'DeBerardinis Heavy Haul'**  
 SCALE: 1:50 PRICE: \$259.00  
 PRODUCT NO: HHR136C-1

This DeBerardinis Mack tractor is one of over 20 custom versions, modelled on the real truck with unique parts. Featuring a working fifth-wheel plate, opening cabin doors, and tilting hood revealing the engine bay.

[www.heavyhaulreplicas.com](http://www.heavyhaulreplicas.com)



**HEAVY HAUL REPLICAS**  
**1978 Mack R600 tandem axle tractor 'Damigella Collection'**  
 SCALE: 1:50 PRICE: \$259.00  
 PRODUCT NO: HHR136I-1

This custom release is finished in the Damigella Collection design and packed with detail and functionality, including sprung suspension, steering front axle, and an opening bonnet with replicated interior engine and cooling systems.

[www.heavyhaulreplicas.com](http://www.heavyhaulreplicas.com)



**HEAVY HAUL REPLICAS**  
**1985 Mack R688ST tandem axle tractor 'F.A. Marchello'**  
 SCALE: 1:50 PRICE: \$259.00  
 PRODUCT NO: HHR136D-1

This Mack R688ST captures the rugged looks of the original with twin exhaust stacks, chromed fuel tanks, detailed cabin interior, opening doors, tilting hood revealing the engine bay, and a functional fifth-wheel coupling.

[www.heavyhaulreplicas.com](http://www.heavyhaulreplicas.com)



**CONRAD**  
**Kobelco SK500 tracked excavator 'Exclusive Delft Blue'**  
 SCALE: 1:50 PRICE: €200.00  
 PRODUCT NO: N/A

To celebrate the opening of their new European office, Kobelco has commissioned a striking keepsake of the SK500 tracked excavator in a white base with decorative blue printing.

[www.kobelcofanshop.com](http://www.kobelcofanshop.com)



**CONRAD**  
**MAN TGX GX 4x2 tractor**  
 SCALE: 1:50 PRICE: €99.90  
 PRODUCT NO: 80000/18

The latest MAN truck styling is evident in this new release from Conrad of the TGX GX 4x2 tractor, finished in a striking Bohnet decoration and featuring low profile tyres and LED light bar.

[www.conrad-modelle.de](http://www.conrad-modelle.de)



**CONRAD**  
**MAN TGX GX 8x4 heavy duty tractor**  
 SCALE: 1:50 PRICE: €117.75  
 PRODUCT NO: 80001/04

This heavy-duty 8x4 tractor features a rear spoiler, LED light bar, protective mesh screens over driving lights, steering front axles, a pivoting fifth-wheel plate, and a power module behind the cabin.

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



**CONRAD**  
**Bucher MaxPowa V120 truck mounted road sweeper**  
 SCALE: 1:50 PRICE: €184.75  
 PRODUCT NO: 81257/01

The Bucher MaxPowa V120, mounted to a 3-axle MAN truck chassis, is the largest road sweeper model to date. It features a tipping body, adjustable main and side sweepers, and a lowerable rear suction bar.

[www.conrad-modelle.de](http://www.conrad-modelle.de)



# British Heritage Models



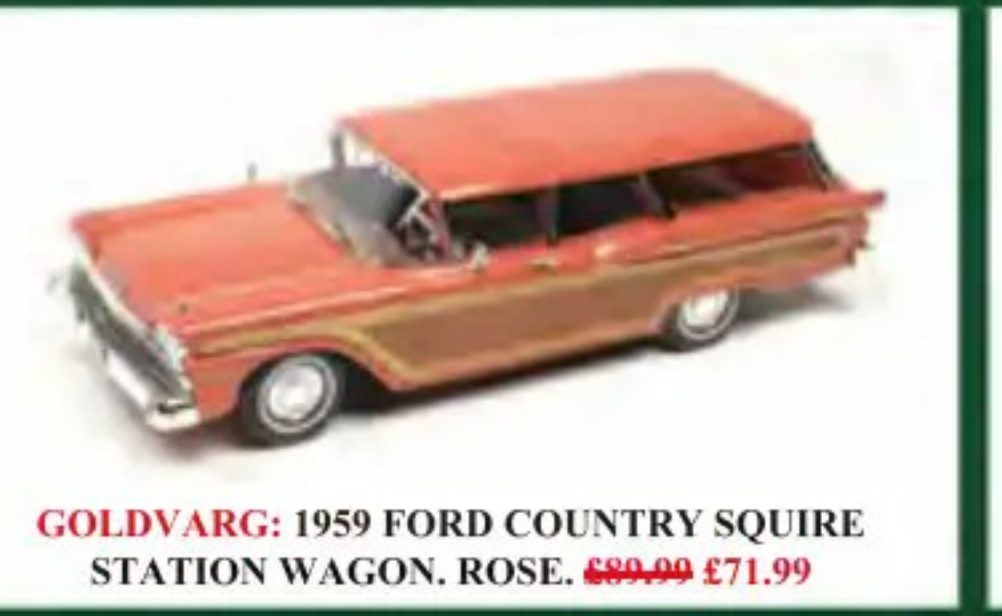
**GOLDVARG:** 1960 MERCURY PARK LANE, 4-DOOR SEDAN, RED. ~~£89.99~~ £71.99



**GOLDVARG:** 1959 FORD STATION WAGON, "FRUITLAND MD" FIRE CHIEF. ~~£89.99~~ £71.99



**GOLDVARG:** 1957 OLDSMOBILE STARFIRE COUPE, WHITE OVER YELLOW. ~~£89.99~~ £71.99



**GOLDVARG:** 1959 FORD COUNTRY SQUIRE STATION WAGON, ROSE. ~~£89.99~~ £71.99



**GOLDVARG:** 1970 FORD GALAXIE STATION WAGON, NASSAU COUNTY POLICE. ~~£89.99~~ £71.99



**ESVAL:** 1958 PEERLESS GT COUPE, #378 RACE TRIM, LTD: 125. ~~£89.99~~ £71.99



**ESVAL:** 1954 BENTLEY R-TYPE COUPE, ABBOT, STEEL GREY, REAR SPATS. ~~£89.99~~ £71.99



**ESVAL:** 1933 FORD MODEL 40 NEW YORK POLICE-CONVERTIBLE, BLUE. LTD: 125. ~~£79.99~~ £63.99



**ESVAL:** 1952 BENTLEY R-TYPE COUPE, ABBOT, SILVER/BLACK. ~~£89.99~~ £71.99



**ESVAL:** 1936 MERCEDES BENZ 540K W29 4-DOOR SALOON, BLACK. LTD: 250. ~~£84.99~~ £67.99



**ESVAL:** STAMP: 1970 CADILLAC ELDORADO BIARRITZ SEDAN, GREEN. ~~£89.99~~ £71.99

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**ESVAL:** 1975 BUICK LE SABRE, CUSTOM, OPEN CONVERTIBLE, BLUE HAZE. ~~£89.99~~ £71.99



**ESVAL:** 1962 AUSTIN MINI BEACH CAR, PALE BLUE/BURGUNDY/BEIGE. ~~£89.99~~ £71.99



**ESVAL:** 1949 CADILLAC COUPE DE VILLE, WHITE OVER BLACK. ~~£89.99~~ £71.99



**ESVAL:** 1960 JAGUAR XK150S 3.8 FASTBACK BY HARTIN, METALLIC BLUE. ~~£89.99~~ £71.99



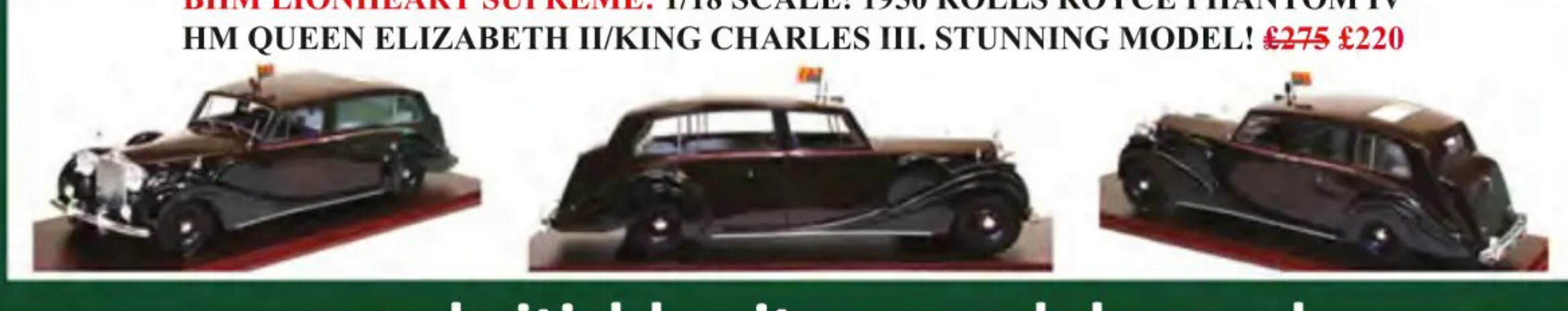
**ESVAL:** 1960 BENTLEY SII ESTATE, STEEL GREY, WENDLER. ~~£89.99~~ £71.99



**ESVAL:** 1964 JAGUAR E-TYPE, COOMBES SPECIAL, FRUA, SILVER. ~~£89.99~~ £71.99



**DERREZ:** 1963 TRIUMPH HERALD COURIER VAN, LIGHT BLUE, TRIUMPH LIVERY. ~~£99.99~~ £79.99



**BHM LIONHEART SUPREME:** 1/18 SCALE! 1950 ROLLS ROYCE PHANTOM IV HM QUEEN ELIZABETH II/KING CHARLES III. STUNNING MODEL! ~~£275~~ £220



**KESS:** 1987 ROLLS-ROYCE SILVER SPUR LANDAU-LETTE, METALLIC BLUE. LTD: 150. ~~£79.99~~ £63.99

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**ROS ENGINEERING SRL**  
**Bednar Omega OO 6000 FL Drill**

PRICE: £78.00 SCALE: 1:32 PRODUCT NO: 602533

ROS's newly tooled model of the Bednar six-metre-wide Omega FL drill has good levels of detailing and is provided with plenty of working features. The model has a metal frame with smaller parts such as individual coulters moulded in high-grade plastic. It's provided with adaptors allowing fitting to either a model tractor's drawbar pin or its linkage. A piped ram, colour coded flexible hydraulic pipework, adjustable stand and fan are provided on the drawbar. Lowering the wings, two plastic straps hold them

in the transport position, into their working position also lowers the platform beside the hoppers. This has realistically sized handrails and checker patterned flooring. There are also fixed access steps to the platform detailed. Lifting the hopper covers reveals the screen inside. Detailed under the hoppers are the metering units and associated pipework. Behind the hoppers the seed and fertiliser distribution units are accurately detailed. There are pipes from the distribution units to each coulter, silver metering discharge tube and Alfa drill 400 unit with hinged steps detailed. From the front, the drill has the crushbar with 25 individual blades, track eradicator tines and 14 freely rotating rubber packer wheels. Two rows of freely rotating turbo discs follow.

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



**UNIVERSAL HOBBIES**  
**Amazona ZA-TS 4201 Ultra Fertiliser Spreader**

PRICE: Around £39.00 SCALE: 1:32 PRODUCT NO: IC407

Detailed spreader with three-point headstock and detachable two-point hitch. The soft PVC hopper cover unfolds, and the silver discs on the spreading units rotate freely.

<https://fanshop.amazone.de/>

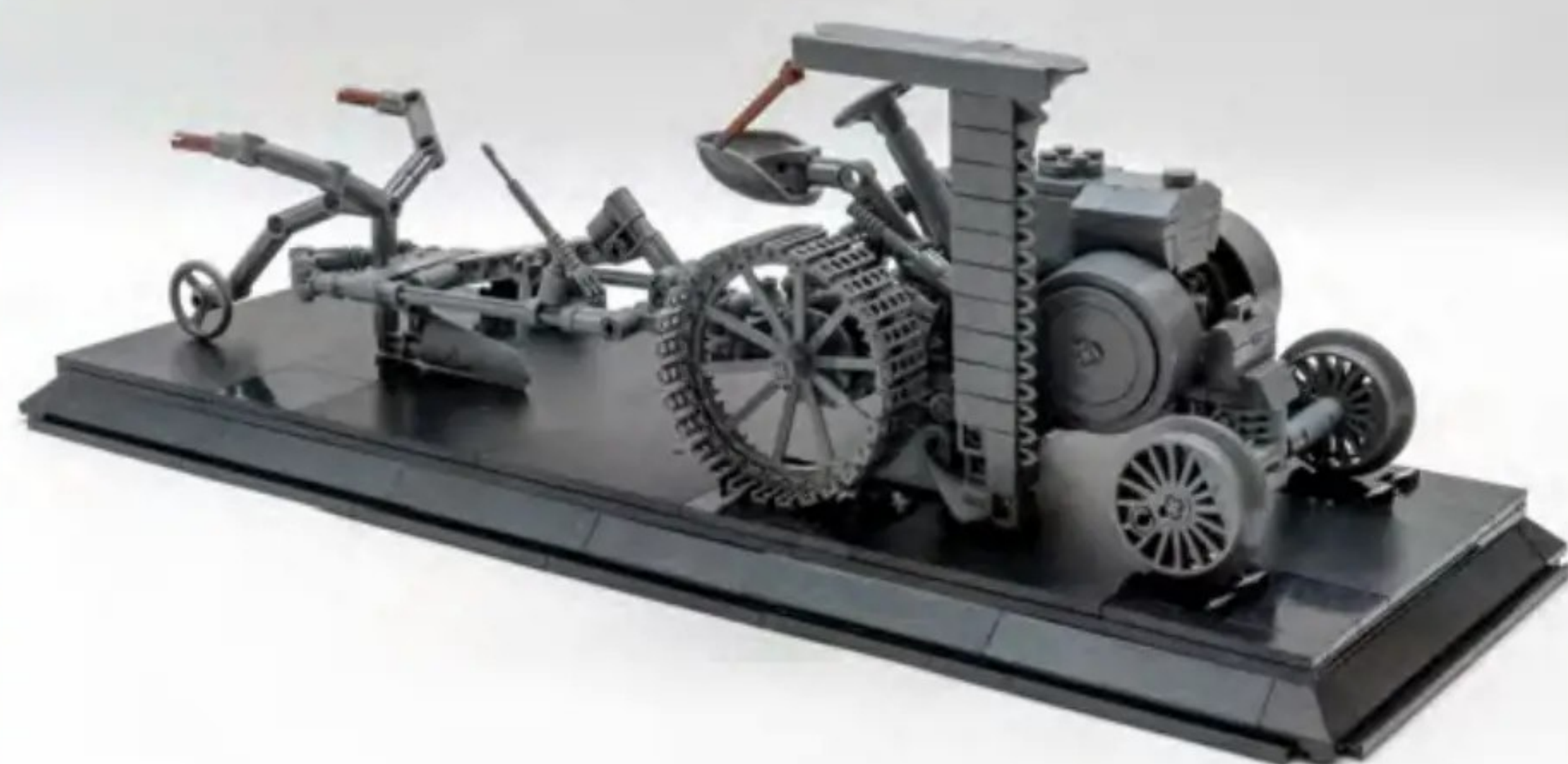


**BBURAGO**  
**Case IH Optum 300 CVX Drive Tractor**

PRICE: £8.50 SCALE: 1:50 PRODUCT NO: 18-31616

Plastic friction-powered model with work lights, driving mirrors and warning beacons. Wheels do not steer, nor do the linkages move.

[www.oneforfun.com](http://www.oneforfun.com)



**BRIXIES**  
**Fendt Dieselross F6 Tractor – Dark Grey Version**

PRICE: Around £60.00 SCALE: 1:16 PRODUCT NO: 222.785

Lego-style brick construction kit with 549 high-grade plastic parts. Kit is easy to assemble with parts that clip together without preparation or glue.

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



**BBURAGO**  
**Case IH Optum 300 CVX Drive Tractor with Front Loader**

PRICE: £9.99 SCALE: 1:50 PRODUCT NO: 18-31639

Good-looking, high-grade plastic friction-powered model with working front loader and muck attachment. Cab interior, finished in light tan, has grey seats and basic detailing.

[www.oneforfun.com](http://www.oneforfun.com)

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<p>MATRIX MODELS 1958-1962 Ford Zephyr Zodiac Mk.II Convertible. Available 2nd Quarter 2026. Available to pre-order.</p>		
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# Evolution until the end

From 1987 to 1996, WRC followed the Group A regulations, based on streetcars with a controlled level of tuning. **Francisco Mota** looks at the final examples of these rally cars as they entered the Evolution era.

**W**hen it all started in 1987, the aim was to have streetcar-based rally cars, with minimal tuning, especially in terms of engine power and inline performance. However, as is always the case when engineers are fighting for the fastest car, it usually comes down to the details. Reading what is written in the rules and what is not is the black art of

any technical department in Motorsport. Even with strong development limitations, the Group A era was one of evolution for many street cars that became rally weapons.

As always in rallying, carmakers want their works cars to be fast, or the fastest, while still maintaining a visible connection to the road car from which they originated. In the beginning, that

connection was as strong in styling terms as it was on the engineering side. However, the development of a certain streetcar would only go so far. There was a limit that not even the best engineering department could surpass. The only way was to produce a faster version of the same streetcar, from which a faster rally car could be made. For lack of imagination, those faster street versions became known as the Evolution version. At the end of the Group A era, many rally cars were already known as Evolutions, with Mitsubishi taking their Lancer to several stages from the Evo 1 to the Evo 8. The series ended later with the Evo



ABOVE From left to right, we have the HPI Tour de Corse Toyota GT-Four, also HPI 1991 1000 Lakes Lancia Delta HF Integrale 16V and the 1990 Neo VW Golf Rallye G60 from the New Zealand rally.

10, after Group A gave way to a new set of regulations. But that is another story. Lancia also developed several evolutions of the Delta HF Integrale; however, only the last of the breed was retrospectively named the Lancia Delta HF Integrale Evo.

#### JAPAN VERSUS EUROPE

During the Group A era, most carmakers in the WRC came from Japan to fight some of the most experienced European brands, like Lancia and Ford. This was a time when Rallying was particularly popular in Japan. Toyota and Subaru were

the brands that gained the most in terms of image, not only due to their great victories, but also because of the charismatic drivers both teams employed.

Colin McRae made his name in WRC during this period, as did Carlos Sainz, Timo Makkinen, Miki Biasion, Didier Auriol and even Juha Kankkunen, the last Group B champion in 1986. Some say this was the golden era of production-based world rallying. It's hard to argue otherwise.

Maybe Group A was so impressive because spectators saw cars, similar to the basic versions they owned, doing things seemingly impossible in rally stages. Safety had also done a giant step forward at this time, with crowd control improving a lot, compared with the previous Group B era. Of course, good memories are always better when thirty years have passed since the last world

‘There was a limit that not even the best engineering department could surpass. The only way was to produce a faster version of the same streetcar, from which a faster rally car could be made. For lack of imagination, those faster street versions became known as the Evolution version, and at the end of the Group A era, many rally cars were already known as Evolutions’



1

1. Toyota started the Group B with the 200 SX RWD coupe before launching three generations of Celica 4WD (models by Bizarre and Ixo.)

2. VW Motorsport tried to play with the big boys, but the Golf Rallye G60 wasn't fast enough (model by Neo.)



2



3



5

3. Ford Escort RS Cosworth and Subaru Impreza GT were two of the main contenders in the Group A era (models by Minichamps and Troféu.)

4. Nissan 200 SX is the lower coupe, a non-turbo RWD, while Pulsar GTi-R had a turbo and 4WD, but still not fast enough.



4



championship was disputed between Group A cars. Today, rally cars are incomparably faster than they were in the nineties. But something is missing, we can hear some rally fans saying.

## SCALE MODELS

To bring back the late eighties and early nineties, there is nothing better than a scale car collection. This is Part 3 and the last of Rallying with Group A, and we start with a picture that somehow escaped our pages last month. It is a pair of Toyotas, the Supra 3.0i and the Celica GT-Four; they are both Safari versions, but if you want to know more about those two, please read the last column of Part 2. The blue and white VW Golf Rallye

G60 you can see in these pages is the first attempt by VW at making a potentially WRC winner. It had a 2.0 turbocharged engine and four-wheel drive, wider wheels and a meaner look than the previous FWD Golf GTI 16V Volkswagen Motorsport had used in the previous years. Unfortunately, the car was not fast enough, and the VW board cancelled this engagement just after a few WRC events entered in 1990. The model is a resin cast by Neo, a high-quality example, featuring perfect proportions, great livery and precious details, like headlamps and front grille. The cabin has all the rally elements needed, from race seats to roll cage and more.

In the second pair of models, we can

see two of the major leading cars of the Group A era, the Subaru Impreza GT and the Ford Escort RS Cosworth. The first is a model by Troféu, and the second was launched by Minichamps. They are both Monte Carlo rally winners, the Subaru driven by Carlos Sainz in 1995 and the Ford by François Delecour the year before. Both are very detailed liveries and good general shapes. The Impreza features a second antenna on the trunk lid, plus four mud flaps and racing seats with safety belts. Both have rollbars, and the Ford has that iconic rear wing well-adjusted to the bodywork and a long antenna, as was usual at the time.

For the next pair, we go to Japan and two Nissan entries in the Safari rally. They feature the same colours but are very distinctive machines. The coupe is the RWD Nissan 200 SX, and the hatchback is the turbocharged 4WD Nissan Pulsar GTi-R raced in 1991. The first was reliable but slow, the second was faster but still not fast enough. Bizarre launched the 200 SX many years ago, as did Provence Moulage with this resin hand-made model. Bizarre did a very nice job with the 200 SX, as the model has all the tubular protections in the front end, plus extra spotlights and searchlights. Maybe the



suspension could be a bit higher. The Pulsar is a high-quality scale model with excellent precision all around. Just look at those thin mudflaps painted in different colours, front and rear. The front “bull bar” is perfect, just like the spotlights and searchlights. The fresh air scoop on the roof and the rear wing also look just like the real things.

In the following picture, we have a poker of Mitsubishi Lancer Evo, entered in the Safari rally in different years. From left, clockwise, #4 is an Evo I, driven by Shinozuka and released by HPI, #7 white is an Evo3, driven by Makkinen and released by HPI, #7 red is an Evo 6,5 by Ixo, also driven by Makkinen in the Safari. Both were winners. The last one is also a Safari winner, in 1998 Richard Burns took this renamed Carisma GT to first place in Kenya, in a model Vitesse Cinerius reproduced. Obviously, the HPI scale models are several steps ahead of the others, with excellent attention to detail. Look at things like mesh grilles, snorkels, searchlights and suspension height to spot the differences in quality these models had.



5. A “poker” of Mitsubishi Lancer in different states of Evolution, from 1 to 6,5, models by HPI and Ixo.  
6. Two generations of Toyota Celicas (Ixo) and the ultimate Lancia Delta HF Integrale Evo (HPI.)

### THE END

To end the story of Rallying in Group A Part 3, we have a standout trio of rally cars. Two Toyota Celica and one Lancia Delta HF Evo. The first Toyota is the GT-Four that won the Monte Carlo rally, driven by Carlos Sainz. It features an easy-to-peel tape over the Marlboro logos, so the collector can choose to display it either way. Ixo released this model a long time ago, but it still looks good for a high production diecast as it was at the time. The Lancia Delta HF Integrale Evo was the car driven to victory by Didier Auriol in the 1992 Monte Carlo rally, in full tarmac spec,

with those wide tracks and brake heat extractors on the front wheels. This is a HPI release, as precise as a diecast can ever be. A special model indeed. The third car is the second-generation Toyota Celica GT4, driven by Didier Auriol to first place in the 1993 Monte Carlo. A release by Ixo that ticks all the boxes of a well-executed Group A rally car. Excellent “frogeyes” in the front headlamps, nice rear wing and close to perfect wheels. A good way to end this series of three articles, where we tried to look at most of the cars that led the Rallying in Group A era. ■



**T**hink of the First World War and then think of a British aircraft, and what springs to mind will probably be the iconic Sopwith Camel. The single-seat Camel was one of the most successful RNAS/RFC/RAF 'scouts' (the period term for a fighter) of the war, but its success was largely due to the delays with its more advanced sibling, the Sopwith Snipe.

Although considered difficult to fly with its big and powerful rotary engine, in the hands of an experienced pilot, the Camel offered unrivalled manoeuvrability. The concentrated firepower from its twin synchronised machine-guns packed a serious punch and was responsible for downing 1,294 enemy aircraft. Later in the war, the Camel also served as a ground-attack aircraft, and it remained in front-line service until the Armistice.

A new release from Corgi represents a particularly noteworthy example of the type,

# Donner-Wetter!

**Jarrold Cotter** looks at Corgi's new release of an iconic 1:48 scale Sopwith Camel F.1.

as it wears a unique paint scheme. Camel F.1 B7190/C *Donner-Wetter!* (AA38111) is a 1:48 scale model of the aircraft flown by an early aviation 'ace', Walter Hinchcliffe.

## HISTORY

Liverpudlian Walter 'Hinch' Hinchcliffe began his military career with a British Army artillery unit, but in 1916 joined the Royal Naval Air Service. After flying training, he was posted to Cranwell as an instructor, where he clocked up an impressive 1,250 flight hours in 13 months of flying.

In January 1918, he joined No.10 Squadron RNAS, at Tétèghem near Dunkirk in France, and scored his first victory in a Sopwith Camel on February 3, 1918. As the commander of 'C' Flight, Hinchcliffe's Sopwith Camel B7190 was one of the most distinctively presented aircraft of the squadron, with its blue and white detailing making it an attractive sight. He used this aircraft to score his second and third victories in France, ending the war with six confirmed victories, confirming him as an ace pilot having scored more than the requisite five.



**ABOVE A nice rear three-quarters view of Corgi's new 1:48 model of Sopwith Camel F.1 B7190/C Donner-Wetter!**

The spine of his aircraft carried a representation of the Liverpool coat of arms, and the wheel covers had little devils painted on them. The name *Donner-Wetter!* was painted on both sides of the fuselage and is German for 'thunderstorm'.

After the war, 'Hinch' was persuaded to fly a wealthy heiress across the Atlantic, as she wanted to become the first woman to do so. Tragically, both aircraft and passengers were lost without a trace during the attempt.

### THE CORGI MODEL

In 1:48 scale, the paintwork on this model is of particular mention. It features a blue spine and top of the nose, with blue and white stripes on the side nose cowlings. Also painted blue and outlined in white is the centre of the top wing. The tail fin and tailplanes are also blue, with the latter again outlined in white. As mentioned, there is a

representation of the Liverpool coat of arms on the aircraft's spine, and the wheel covers feature devils painted on them, both of which are nicely printed in this scale. The name appears behind the pilot's cockpit on both sides and is readable in 1:48. All the above certainly make this an attractive model.

It has a length of 12cm, a height of 6.4cm and a wingspan of 17.7cm. The propeller is also blue and can be rotated. As with other Corgi 1:48 First World War models, this example features fine rigging wire, which is very impressive and adds hugely to the realistic features.

It is a limited edition of just 900 examples, so avid collectors might want to snap one up while they're available. At the time of writing it was still available direct from Corgi or from the usual good stockists, and has a retail price of £64.99.

Note here that to complement the aircraft's overall paintwork, the propeller is blue. ■



**In this view of the model, note the paintwork on the wheels and the pilot's windscreen.**



**A Three-quarter rear view of the model on its supplied sturdy display stand.**



**A Three-quarter front view of the model on its the same display stand.**



**The beautifully decorated box for the Sopwith Camel F.1 B7190/C Donner-Wetter.**



**The Sopwith Camel is considered by many to be one of the greatest fighters of the First World War. It was flown by some of the best known Allied aces, including US pilots flying with RFC units.**

**P**lastic, as we know it, first made serious inroads into toy manufacturing during the late 1940's. It was lighter, cheaper and deemed safer than diecast, sharp tinplate or worse still, lead!

**THE WONDER MATERIAL**

Toy collectors often associate plastic vehicles with the cheaper end of the market. The ex-colony of Hong Kong was once a major manufacturing outpost of plastic playthings. Today, many of these once cheap toys are highly sought after. Plastic also featured progressively in the construction of diecast vehicles. Corgi, launched in 1956, declared their models, "The ones with windows", and everybody followed suit thereafter. Although durable, plastic is susceptible to damage. Whether it is the fabric of a model or its glazing, even minor damage can render a model only fit for parts.

**PARTS AND LABOUR**

The first spares available to replace window mouldings were merely vac-formed bubbles, which, whilst a quick fix, were hardly durable or authentic-looking. Later injection-moulded units came on stream, which were very close to the originals. Better still are the replacement screens for things like the TV-related models and Triang Spot on sports cars.

**CRACKING UP**

Overpainting on a model's windows is always problematic. Conventional paint strippers and solvents tend to destroy plastics. There are, however, paint strippers out there specifically formulated to remove paint without damaging plastic, with varying levels of success.

If the overpainting is light, it can be possible to remove much of it with your thumbnail or any other blunt-edged tool. You can also try basically wearing it down using a selection of mild abrasives, starting with a cutting compound such as Farecla G3, followed up with T-cut and then Brasso. Repeated applications should start to break through the paint to the plastic. It can be time-consuming and, of course, not always successful, but when it works, it's very satisfying. For residue left by old accessory stickers, lighter fluid can be a safe and effective way to remove it.

Broken or cracked glazing can be a real problem. Superglue will fog up any clear glazing and likely discolour coloured plastic. Model glues for construction kits can be

**TOP** This Matchbox garage had a loose pane that was covered in factory glue. T-cut removed it in the end, and the pane was reattached.



# The Renovation Game: Part Six

In the sixth part of the series, Ian McDermott looks into the care and repair of plastics.

very good, however, opt for a quality one such as Tamiya. Epoxy resins can be effective but need time to set. The one bonus they have is that they can be removed easily if not successful.

Of course, if the glazing has to come out of a model, you will have to drill out the retaining rivet. Just remember to use a counter sunk drill bit to avoid going through the roof!

**WARP FACTOR**

So many older plastics suffer from warping. Victory models tend to distort very badly, being of a softer material. I've seen collectors try to rectify this by immersing the model in hot water or even using a hairdryer with varying degrees of success.

Harder plastics, such as those used on Triangs 1/20th electric range, suffer from fractures and missing parts. Construction kits can sometimes provide basic parts that can be fashioned into rear lights or door handles. Plastic can be much easier to shape and work with in this regard.



**ABOVE** Cleaning, cutting back and buffing brought back this dirty and scratched Tri-ang Jaguar's shine.

**DUST UP**

One thing often overlooked when it comes to plastics is grime. Plastic models seem to accrue grubbiness like no other. A good deep clean with anti-bacterial spray, a cloth, and some cotton buds can work wonders. Follow it up with a good wax polish and you'll be amazed. Do take care not to snag your cloth on those fragile, detailed bits, though!

Next time, I'll be looking into the world of tyres. ■

# Driven to collect

Stephen Poupart's journey from childhood discovery to a curated 1970 Superfast collection shows how the thrill of the hunt can lead to lasting satisfaction.

## WHAT GOT YOU INTO SCALE MODEL COLLECTING?

It seems I was a collector long before I realised it. At six or seven, on a family road trip from Montreal to Florida, I was given two Matchbox models – MB13 BP Wrecker and MB25 BP Tanker – lifted from a model railway display in an antique shop. They kept me happily silent for the remainder of that journey, and I still have them today. Five years later, another antique store visit changed everything. Bored while my father browsed, I discovered a box of mint boxed Superfast models. I went home with five, including a white MB8 Mustang and purple MB22 Pontiac GP – both now highly prized transitional issues. I barely played with them; I simply admired their colours, detail and quality. In the mid-1990s, six mint King Size models reignited the spark and I began collecting seriously, eventually focusing solely on 1969–70 transitional Superfast releases. eBay fuelled the hunt. Today, I've refined the collection to the finest examples, but the thrill of the chase remains undiminished.

## WHAT DO YOU COLLECT?

I collect 1969–70 Matchbox Superfast models and their "F" and "G" styled boxes. I'm fascinated by the breadth of castings, the vibrant colour palette and the impressive detail packed into such small cars. Matchbox is my sole focus, although a Corgi Mustang has crept in, simply because the Mustang has always been my favourite car. At its height, my collection numbered around 400–500 pieces; today it sits at roughly 200 carefully chosen examples.

I display them in a mint rotating shop display, each model sitting in its correct numbered slot, while a five-foot illuminated glass cabinet houses the empty boxes, gift sets and some of my rarer pieces arranged on a Matchbox garage base. One of my favourite quirks about these models is their suspension. I like lifting the front end of a model and releasing it to bounce on the table top before coming to rest flat. It's childlike, perhaps, but it never fails to make me smile. I even run my rarest cars down the 1970 track sets – paint chips and all. I love seeing the cars race down the loops, even the rare ones.



## WHAT ARE YOUR HINTS AND TIPS ABOUT COLLECTING?

Over the years, I've learned that collecting habits are as varied as the collectors themselves. There is no single "right way" to build a collection. Some people collect for resale potential, others for nostalgia. Some chase a single casting in every variation, while others are happy with well-loved loose examples. Many insist on mint boxed pieces. All approaches are valid. If I could offer just one piece of advice, it would be simple: collect what genuinely brings you happiness. A few years ago I made the difficult decision to downsize my own collection. It wasn't due to space



**ABOVE** This is the very Mustang that my Dad bought on that day long ago in that Montreal antique store.

constraints, but rather a feeling that too many variations were sitting unseen in a cardboard box in the basement where even I couldn't properly enjoy them. Selling more than half my models helped recoup much of what I had spent over the years and allowed me to appreciate what remained without any lingering guilt. I realised I'd rather enjoy the models I could see than keep hundreds hidden away. It wasn't easy. I remember laying them all out on the dining room table before packing them up and sending them off to new homes. But knowing they would be enjoyed in other collections helped me make peace with the decision. The hunt still continues, albeit less frequently. Recently I came across a transitional #6 Ford Pick-Up with an unpainted base from the original owner. It was virtually mint despite being unboxed. I paid \$10 for it and it's worth around \$300 today. Finds like that remind me why the thrill of the chase never truly fades.

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

If I could choose three Superfast models to add, they would be the MB31 Lincoln Continental in aqua, the MB22 Pontiac GP in red and the MB12 Land Rover in blue. The first two are among the rarest transitional issues and sit firmly in dream territory. The Land Rover is more attainable in theory, but it is so frequently faked that buying one without impeccable provenance would be risky. I did hold a red MB22 in my hands last spring while visiting a serious collector. It was a special moment, and likely the closest I will ever come to owning one. Even if the opportunity arose, I am not certain I could justify the outlay. Truthfully, I feel fortunate for what I have been able to assemble over the years. There will always be models beyond reach. That no longer frustrates me. I'm content with the collection I've shaped – and with the knowledge that the hunt itself has been the greatest reward. ■

## What we reckon

Stephen has done something many of us shy away from: curating a collection of the very best examples, rather than trying to own every single variation. Space is always tight, and it's easy to ask yourself, "Do I really need this one?" It can feel a little painful, perhaps even tinged with regret, but there's real satisfaction in knowing you've kept only the cream of the crop. Even better is the peace of mind that comes with passing other models on to a new custodian, knowing they'll be cared for and cherished just as if you still had them yourself. **Keith D'Souza**



It may be a little controversial for saying this, but I'm not a massive fan of James Bond's Aston Martin DB5. Don't get me wrong, I think the DB5 is a beautiful looking car, but for me, Corgi have done it to death! So much so, I've never owned any of the Corgi versions, with the exception of a single Juniors example when I was about seven. My choice of Bond Aston Martin is the Series 4 V8 from *The Living Daylights* (and more recent *No Time to Die*).

#### BOND'S ASTON OF CHOICE

Aston Martin launched the DBS as a successor to the DB6 in 1967. It was intended to fit this new model with a new V8 engine, but this wasn't ready in time, so for the first two years of its life, the DBS was powered by the six-cylinder engine from the DB6. 1969 saw the launch of the V8 powered DBS, known as the DBS V8. With the previous Vantage ending production in 1973, the DBS V8 was rebadged as simply the V8 and given a new single headlight front (Aston had also dropped the six-cylinder DBS a year earlier). The V8 and V8 Vantage, introduced in 1977 as a halo model, remained Aston's core car until 1989, when it was replaced by the Virage.

The fifteenth Bond film, *The Living Daylights*, was the first of two Bond outings for Timothy Dalton as 007. And after a brief flirtation with Lotus, Bond was back in an Aston Martin. It was the only film to feature the V8 until the 2021 film *No Time*

# Aston Martin V8 and V8 Vantage

For this month's Little and Large, **Steve Coles** goes undercover to spy on one of Aston Martin's greatest hits (no, not that one!)

to Die, which saw the (same) V8 once again. Curiously, in *The Living Daylights*, Bond used a convertible V8 Volante to begin with (based on the high-performance V8 Vantage), which 'Q' winterised with a hardtop. These coupes were, in fact, regular V8 models with Vantage badges attached to match the earlier Volante. The models here are a mix from the two films, plus an interloper. We shall, as always, start with the smallest example.

#### LITTLE STANDOUTS

Hot Wheels included the Aston V8 in their premium-branded 2024 Pop Culture releases. The 'Premium' adds real rubber tyres and a host of neat additional detailing that is more than a match for some of the best 1:64 out there. This one is no exception. The front and rear lights, Aston Martin 'winged' badges,

and the rear GB sticker are all superbly done. The bright-work for bumpers and lower side sills is also delightfully done. This also wears the correct B549WUU number plate from *No Time to Die*. Minor grumbles? The 'spoked' wheels are poorly done and grey rather than chromed. There are windscreen wipers cast into the heavily tinted windows, but they'd benefit from being picked out in silver. Overall, though, I think this is a superb little model (and possibly nicer than the very similar looking Matchbox V8 Vantage)

Staying with Hot Wheels, although I am going a little rogue here, is their Premium 1:43 V8 Vantage. I say rogue because this one has no James Bond branding anywhere to be seen, but it does fit very nicely in with the others here. It is also clearly an actual Vantage thanks to the deeper front spoiler and blanked



**MAIN PICTURE** The 1:64 Hot Wheels Premium (front) flanked by (left to right) 1:43 Eaglemoss Bond part-work, 1:36 Corgis (2021 release then 2002), 1:43 Hot Wheels Premium.

off front grille. Whilst not in the same league as other 'premium' 1:43 diecasts, this one is certainly well detailed. Lots of separate parts, including front and rear lights, look great, as do the winged badges. This model's trump card for me is the tiny 'Vantage' badges on the front wing vents. Real tyres and decent-looking spoked wheels finish this model off nicely.

### LARGE SCALE CLASSICS

Back to the Bond cars then, next up is the 1:43 V8 Vantage from the Eaglemoss James Bond Collection. This comes on a superb plinth diorama depicting the car with ski out-riggers as the car is chased across a frozen lake. Cleverly, the skis are actually attached to the diorama base, rather than the car itself. Also present on this are a number of 'Q' weapons and gadgets, including front-mounted missiles and rear rocket motor. Also included, or rather not included, is the missing front nearside tyre that is shot off early in the chase – a really nice touch. The wheels on this model are superb and show how well spoked wheels can be done at the scale and price point. Overall detailing is really good and up there with the best part-work models; lots of separate parts and fine printing make this a truly pleasing model to look at.

Finally, to the largest models here, Corgi's 1:36 example. Rather by coincidence, these two could also feature as a 'Then and now'

pairing too. The earliest is from Corgi's 'Ultimate Bond Collection' from 2002, and the newest is from 2020. The first thing that strikes you about this pair is how heavy they are, and not just because they are larger than the more common 1:43 cars; a metal base at this size makes a difference! The earlier car has some nice detailing; the fabric sunroof has been well represented, and there's silver around all the windows. Sadly, the rear lights are just solid red paint, and the wheels are the awful, generic wheels Corgi fitted to all its 1:36 cars during the late 1990s and into the 2000s. It does, however, have one party piece in the shape of retractable skis. Push each exhaust tail pipe in, and the corresponding ski pops out from the bottom part of the side sill. Neat! The newer model is, as you would expect, much more detailed. The silver paint has more of a chromed shine to it. There is finer detailing all over, with the side and rear lights being of notable improvement. The wheels, whilst a little small in appearance, are at least of a spoked design and shod with actual rubber tyres. This one does lack the sunroof and, as it's from No Time to Die, it also does without the skis. All in all, a well-detailed and nicely finished update to a casting that's over 20 years old.

So, there we have it, a tour of my favourite James Bond Aston Martin. Now, before I get spotted by foreign military, men with metallic teeth, or a large cat, where is the ejector seat switch for this chair? ■



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1 and 2. The improved level of detail on Corgi's most recent V8 release (left) from No Time To Die is most obvious at the front and rear of the car.

3. The Eaglemoss James Bond part-work V8 is the only model here to include the rear mounted rocket as used by Bond to escape the Soviet military in their Ladas.

4. As with all the Eaglemoss James Bond collection models, the V8 comes on a unique display plinth diorama. Here the Aston is about to jump over the waiting military and police.

5. Hot Wheels Premium has the kind of detailing found on more expensive models at this scale. Only the wheels let it down.



No.  
71

# Superfast 1969-1982

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

## STANDARD JEEP

**Production:** 1970-71

**Catalogue:** 1970-71

**Box Styles:** G

Standard Jeep was a regular wheels convert and made its debut in the catalogue with its huge new Superfast boots in 1970, making one more appearance the following year. The only variation during this short stint was to the shade of the yellow paint job, ranging from a bright version (as per its regular wheels days) to the slightly more golden yellow, as shown above.

## DODGE DELIVERY TRUCK

**Production:** 1982

**Catalogue:** 1982

**Box Styles:** L

The Dodge 100 Commando was a mid-size truck produced by Chrysler UK during the 1970s and early 1980s. When Chrysler pulled out of the UK market, its truck division was sold off to Renault, which continued to produce the Renault

Commando for a few more years.

The Matchbox model is based on a two-axle box van version of the truck. It was a fairly lightweight model, with only the cab and deck in diecast metal. The chassis was in black plastic, while the load area was in white plastic. The cab was painted dark red with blue-tinted glazing, and there were a pair of opening rear doors. Large labels advertising Pepsi-Cola were applied to each side of the cargo area.

While Dodge Delivery Truck was not a particularly exciting model, it proved extremely successful as a promotional tool. The large, flat sides proving to be ideal for attaching stickers.

## HOVERCRAFT

**Production:** 1972-79

**Catalogue:** 1972-79

**Box Styles:** I

When it was released in 1972, Hovercraft was the only utilitarian vehicle introduced that year.

Based on the small SR-N6 that operated as a 38 passenger ferry, probably best known to most of us for its use on the Portsmouth to Isle of Wight route. The Matchbox version was quite a good representation, if a little simplified, and was the first craft to run on four concealed Superfast wheels. The body was painted white, the base – or rather, air cushion – was in black plastic, whilst the propeller and shaft were in red plastic (it was shown in the 1972 catalogue as being chromed, but was never issued this way).

The windows were blue-tinted, and there was a sticker with a Union Flag and the letters SRN6 on either side. There were no variations, other than occasional missing stickers or glazing.

Hovercraft was a big success and had a fairly long life due to its novelty value, remaining in the range until the end of the seventies. It also appeared in the Two Packs range from 1976, where it was teamed with The Londoner bus as part of TP-8 Transport Set.

## BOMAG ROAD ROLLER

**Production:** 1979-80

**Catalogue:** 1980-82

**Box Styles:** L

Filling the gap left when the futuristic Rod Roller was discontinued, the new machine was based on a road roller built by the German company Bomag, and was a completely different design to previous models. It was rear-engined, with an enormous front compacting wheel and an enclosed, angled cab.

The model was painted yellow with a red engine block and interior but, unfortunately, the cab was unglazed. The large front wheel was exclusive to this model, and the only variations concern the rear wheels which can have either yellow or chrome hubs.

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

# COLLECTORS

# GAZETTE

JULY 2026 • Issue No 507

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**H**ead to a Disneyland or Disney World and you'll quickly notice that many of the Cast Members, that's the employees who work throughout the parks, are wearing lanyards. These might be designed to help guests identify employees and their specific roles, but they are also present to display collectable pin badges. Because, for many years, there has been a beautiful tradition prevalent throughout the parks, with guests and Cast Members alike trading pin badges.

Indeed, walk up to any Cast Member and ask to trade, and they will do so willingly, swapping one of the pin badges from their lanyard with one of your own. They may even trade with one another, while guests in the parks have been known to create communities, meeting with one another and swapping stories and pins as they enjoy the House of Mouse's attractions. Pin badge swapping and collecting has become a part of the experience unto itself, an age-old tradition that doesn't show signs of slowing down. Where did this tradition come from, how vast is the pin badge collecting community in Disney's fandom and critically, what's so special about the items themselves?

**PUT A PIN IN IT**

One of the very first pin badges ever produced under an official Disney licence was designed for a very special purpose. Back in the 1930s, members of the Mickey Mouse fan club would receive a special Mickey Mouse pin badge. The early versions were black and white and featured an outline of Mickey Mouse himself, alongside a few simple words denoting that the wearer was a member of the important club. The badge would remain largely the same, with a minor modification resulting in Mickey's iconic red shorts featuring in later editions.

It would prove to be a very popular idea; a way of drawing the fan base together and creating a physical embodiment of that shared community. Understanding that pin badges were just one of the ways that fans could share their love for the company and its characters, while also serving as a revenue stream, Walt Disney commissioned the production of a new wave of badges. The jewellery manufacturer, Cohn & Rosenberger, was selected to aid in that mission. From 1931, this partnership began to bear fruit, and a range of stunning pin badges would enter the market, featuring icons like Donald Duck.

Throughout the 1960s and the 1970s pin badges would become a more commonplace item in the Disney Parks.



# Disney's long pin badge history

**George Chrysostomou** talks in detail about The Walt Disney Company's classic pin badge collection.

They were sold as souvenirs as the Disney brand expanded its range of merchandise. The Disney pins were a fun way to represent a wearer's favourite Disney character, movie or TV show, with a vast array of designs available. While they weren't quite the collectable item that they are today, they were nonetheless an important way to mark a visit to Disneyland or Disney World, with some event-specific, special edition pins created as part of that visiting experience. It was Howard Eldon, Ltd that was partnered with Disney to expand its pin badge line, taking a limited design range and building outward.

With some of these pin badges even awarded as prizes, there was a sense of prestige brought to the products. The

1980s marked a significant shift in this space, though, with Disney opting to go all in on the pin badge market. With tie-ins to events like the 1984 Summer Olympics, which happened to be held in Los Angeles, or marketing stunts with brands such as Coca-Cola, Disney had created something truly special. These pin badges represented moments in history, a bit of Americana that celebrated both the company and its place in pop culture. With major milestones like the 15th Anniversary of Walt Disney World promoting further opportunities for the pin badge collecting community, it seemed as if the world of pin badges was about to explode!

1. 2018 Limited Edition Ariel Profile Pin.

## MAKING THE TRADE

1999 marked a massive year for the Walt Disney Company. At least, when it came to the parks themselves. Because the year was marked by the Millennium Celebration, which lasted 15 months. The event was largely a promotional stunt, designed to drive guests into the park to celebrate what was essentially a non-event. The turn of the century was presented as a major deal the world over and this was a fantastic chance to market some of Disney's products. Pin badge trading would become a specific part of the event, designed as a short-term way of creating a sense of community across the celebration and of selling some pin badges along the way.

Under this new system, pin badges weren't presented as mere souvenirs, a token that one might buy to signify the memory of the visit. No, instead, a full-on collecting system was created that would be supported across the majority of the parks. It was established as an interactive experience, with guests encouraged to trade with one another and the staff, much as they do now. As can be assumed, due to the hobby's survival under the contemporary company, the proper start of the pin badge collecting community was a huge hit. It was an additional attraction and way of creating a social atmosphere in an environment where family units could have felt quite detached.

It's genius when you think about it. Part of the Disney Parks experience is about waiting around. Whether it's waiting for a ride, a restaurant or even a meet-and-greet scenario, guests are stuck in queues. Now, they have an excuse to talk to one another, trading pins and stories as they get closer to the next thrill. The pin badges thus took on even more meaning, as those key interactions with newfound friends became part of the pin's history. Now, a badge wasn't just bought from an official pin trading store. It was shared and passed between like-minded fans.

There was a sense of uniformity brought into these new pin designs, with major characters and theme park locations providing inspiration for those early introductions. Through time, a couple of consistent features would be brought into the line, including a Mickey Mouse head protecting the pin at the back of the badge, and a glossy final finish across the whole piece. These badges were premium in their quality, with Disney themselves taking the process in-house to have complete control over the production. These characteristics are particularly useful to look out for, as collectors will be dodging fakes as they look to add to their own archives. Proper Disney pin badges are usually heavier too



2. 20 Years Monsters Inc pin.
3. Lilo and Snitch pin.
4. Oswald 70 year pin.
5. Disney Villains mystery pin collection.
6. Disney Villains pins.
7. Fan Club pin.
8. Elisabete Gomes Series Pinocchio pin.
9. New Year Tokyo Disney badge.
10. Elisabete Gomes Ursula pin.

and will almost always include a piece of iconic imagery in its most recognisable form. If a character silhouette doesn't look quite right, or a castle colour is a little off, it might be a fraud.

## CURRENT COLLECTABLES

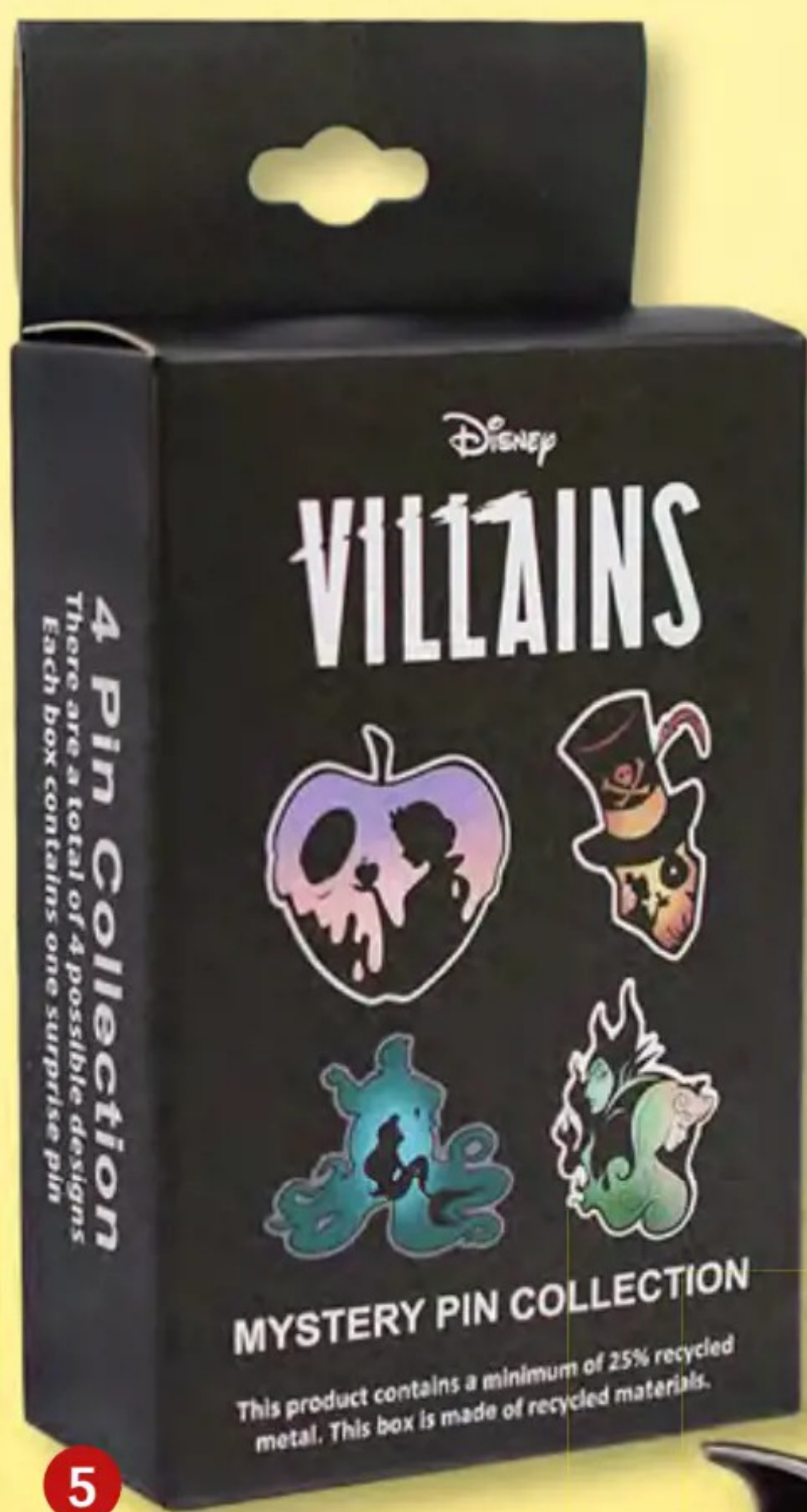
These days, Disney's pin badge collecting community is larger than ever, with countless special edition designs hitting the market every year. Disney has been clever with the way it has bolstered its variety, creating pin badges that are exclusive for specific stores, regions, parks and periods. Whether it's a pin badge to celebrate the latest Disney+ release, or a memorial piece designed to highlight an attraction about to close, Disney has crafted a massive range of concepts, each of which achieves something different.

The Walt Disney Company can take advantage of three key ideas as part of its pin badge collecting range. Firstly, the company is always evolving. Whether it's the debut of yet another land at one of its parks or the release of an additional film, there is always something to celebrate. Secondly, the company still represents pop culture and Americana in all of its glory. It is a critical part of mainstream media

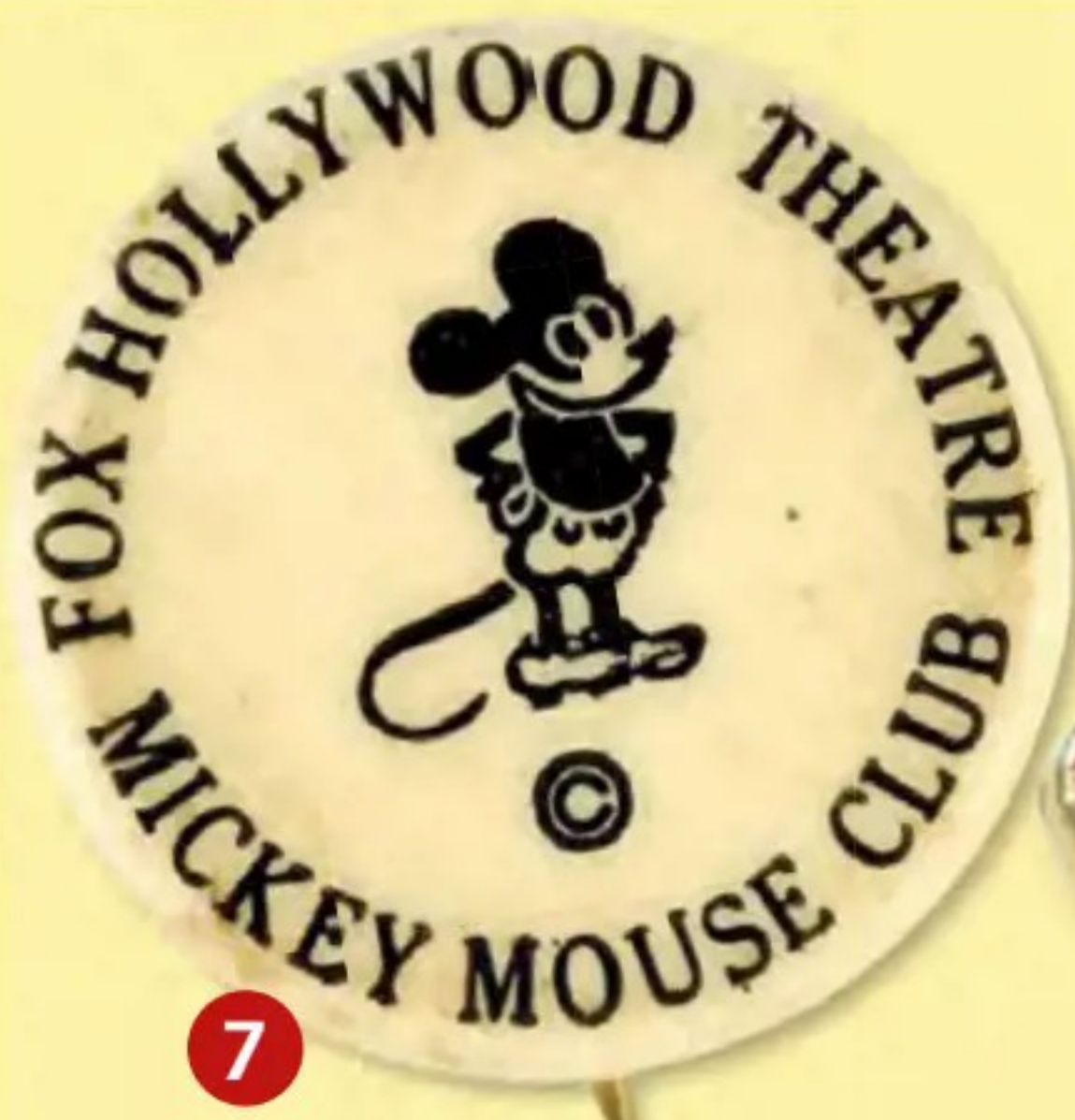


and a brand that fans have connected with in a deeply emotional way. Thirdly, the organisation is always celebrating its own history. Its vault is legendary, and thus its pin badges can reflect that.

Disney has often run its pin badge of the month throughout its stores, a new exclusive or old favourite propped up as the highlight of the season. Its digital website, meanwhile, boasts an official pin badge fan page that offers insights into the design process and teases the products to come. Limited availability is often the key to its success, with only a select few pins available at a time. Pin badges can sell on average, through the official channels, anywhere between £10 and £30, with a few exceptions based on the type of badge. However, out there in the community, pin trading has taken on a financial edge.



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## SHARP PRICES

Naturally, the collecting community has turned to auctions and digital sales to make their trades in the modern industry. Some of the oldest pin badges ever made don't actually retail for as much as you might think, though. While the assumption would be that the likes of the Mickey Mouse fan club badge would be the most expensive, in actuality, there is a high availability of this item, and it is often sold at under £100. Equally, you might be surprised to learn that more contemporary offerings are sometimes the most expensive, based entirely on their accessibility. With some badges limited in their stock, they have quickly risen in value. The irony is, some may have stumbled across one of these rare pin badges purely by trading with other fans or Cast Members.

2018's Limited Edition Ariel Profile Pin is still one of the most expensive on the market today, with only 250 products ever made. Right now, it can retail at over £5000, making it a true heavy-hitter of the collecting space. Indeed, Profile Pins are specifically hard to come by, with the Maleficent variation auctioned at nearly £2000. Much in the same way, the Princess Carousel Pins, which feature iconic Disney princesses riding the famous carousel from the parks, have been sold for anywhere between £1500 and £3000.

The Elisabete Gomes Series is especially sought after, with the 2006 Pinocchio variation retailing at almost £1500. The second series of Reflections, meanwhile, from the mid-2020s, is a pretty contemporary line and yet the Belle iteration has been sold at just over £1000.

Despite the huge range on offer, the highest-selling Disney pin badges continue to be those that celebrate Disney's most beloved characters, with the princesses often coming out on top. So, for those collectors who are looking to hold on to pin badges of their own, those character-led designs will be key.

However, for those simply looking to enjoy this unique hobby, it's best to purchase the pins that have a personal connection to you. Grab them from a Disney park, buy them as gifts for loved ones or even search for designs that speak to you as a lover of the brand. Limited edition versions will always rise in value, but those that resonate emotionally will be timeless. ■

**W**ell, he hasn't got any better behaved, despite his advancing years. Dennis the Menace is still up to mischief wherever he goes, regardless of reaching the grand old age of 75.

His birthday was 12th March, and the year he made his first appearance in the Beano comic was 1951. He was aged ten and doesn't look a day older than he did then!

This year, he's had some very special 75th birthday presents, including a Commemorative 50p Coin issued by the Royal Mint featuring Dennis and his trusty dog, Gnasher. The packaging included an exclusive comic strip depicting Dennis and Gnasher visiting the Royal Mint.

And in honour of Dennis having reached this milestone, Beano publishers, D C Thomson, declared that 2026 was 'Beano's Year of Mischief'.

They also issued a special commemorative issue of The Beano featuring 75 creative mischief makers, voted for by UK children and reimagined as 10-year-olds to help him celebrate his birthday. Amongst them were King Charles III, Ozzy Osbourne, Jo Brand, Beyoncé, and The Beatles.

#### A TALE OF TWO DENNISES

Going back to the creation of Dennis the Menace, it surely has to be the coincidence of all time to learn that the character of Dennis was created by two different illustrators – one in Scotland and the other in the USA. Not only did they have the same name, a stripy jumper, and a dog, but one Dennis had black hair, the other blond; they were released into the world on the exact same day, 12th March 1951, thousands of miles apart, with neither knowing anything about the other.

The American version was created by American cartoonist Hank Ketcham, inspired by his own 4-year-old son's unruly behaviour. It seems Hank Ketcham's wife exclaimed, "Your son's a menace!" and the idea stuck. The American Dennis the Menace debuted in 16 different newspapers on 12th March 1951.

Back in bonnie Scotland, we read that D C Thomson, Beano Editor George Moonie had heard a British music hall song with the chorus 'I'm Dennis the Menace from Venice' which is actually a rather grown-up song about a womanising gondolier who likes to look flash in his blue suit!

#### FROM SKETCH TO STRIP

Nevertheless, the name Dennis the Menace hit a chord and D C Thomson artist David Law was asked to create the Dennis the Menace character. Assisted by Beano Chief Sub, Ian Chisholm, we read that Ian Chisholm finally sketched out his idea for



# Dennis the Menace at 75!

**Ann Evans** celebrates 75 years of Dennis the Menace, from his Beano debut to today's collectables and the enduring appeal of Britain's favourite troublemaker.

what Dennis should look like, on the back of a cigarette packet. After further development, the British Dennis the Menace debuted in The Beano on 12th March 1951. And children everywhere are glad that he did!

First published in July 1938, The Beano is the UK's longest-running weekly comic, and Dennis made his debut appearance in issue number 452. The front page featured Biff the Bear, and the comic would have cost 2d (two old pence). If you still had that comic today, you could get around £845 for it as a collector's item.

#### BEANO SUCCESS STORY

Dennis the Menace's appearance in the Beano saw sales of the comic soar, and he eventually replaced Biff the Bear on the front page. David Law continued illustrating Dennis from 1951 to 1971. David Sutherland took over from 1970 to 1998, and David Parkins from 1998 to 2006, although Nigel Parkinson drew most of the strips after 2002.

**ABOVE** A Robert Harrop figurine with a £1,000 price tag spotted on the internet.



## MEET THE ILLUSTRATOR

The Gazette's team of Ann and Rob were delighted to chat to illustrator Nigel Parkinson at the London Comic Con, Olympia, in November 2025. Surrounded by examples of his many cartoon characters beyond The Beano, Nigel said that he'd been an illustrator for 46 years, and while he's probably best known for illustrating Beano characters, he has worked for countless publishers on many well-known characters.

As we talked, Nigel had the next week's Beano in front of him. He said, "I have always drawn; I started when I was 18 months old. My grandfather was an architect and noticed that I had a skill for drawing. I knew I wanted to be an illustrator from 6-years-old, I knew this was what I was going to do!"

As a child, he used to read the Beano, and his favourites were the Bash Street Kids. Nigel continued, "I have been the official illustrator for the Bash Street Kids, I was that for a time, then they moved me to do Dennis the Menace. I became the official illustrator for Dennis the Menace around 2012.

Asked how he felt about taking on such an iconic character who had been in most people's lives as they were growing up, he added: "It did obviously concern me, and it was important that people liked what I was doing – and recognised Dennis as being the character that they knew and were used to. But I feel very lucky to be doing a job which I enjoy so much."

Talking about the practicalities of drawing the comic strip, Nigel said that he draws Dennis and Gnasher every day and has a lot of fun doing it. "Another Nigel is the writer of the comic strips, I do the illustrations and



a third artist, Nikki, is the colourist. We all have our individual jobs to do and are so busy that we just get on and do our own particular work. We don't really spend time collaborating, we just get on with it."

## FROM COMICS TO COLLECTABLES

The Beano comics and annuals seem to be things that many people hang onto as important memories from childhood. They can also attract high prices when being sold online or at fairs and auctions.

Certain Beano and Dennis the Menace annuals seem to vary greatly in price, no doubt depending on the condition, from just a few pounds to £20, £40 and upwards. The same with comics. I spotted a 1940s

TOP A few of photographer Rob's Beano collection. Photo by Rob Tysall.

ABOVE Dennis on the front and back covers. Photo by Rob Tysall.

Beano – before Dennis was born – asking almost £300. But then there were bundles of comics for just a few pounds. Clearly, it's down to the collector and what they are willing to pay for the item.

Similarly, Dennis figurines can be found at very reasonable prices. You can find some online selling for under ten pounds, while Limited Edition figures from the likes of Robert Harrop can command around £1,000 or more online.

I wonder what Dennis the Menace would make of that! ■

**W**ith almost 200 stalls at the Bulldog Toy Collectors Fair at the Three Counties Showground, Malvern, there was a huge variety of toys to be found at prices ranging from bargain boxes of pocket money toys to rare items in mint condition selling for hundreds.

Diecasts, railways, tinplate, military, sci-fi, lead soldiers, books, Action Man, magazines, dolls, teddies and even coins. Certainly, something for everyone and the crowds of toy collectors and enthusiasts turned up in droves!

Bulldog Fairs began almost 40 years ago and were run by Stuart and Christine Vowles, with their children, Dan and Kirsty, lending a hand. For the last four years, there's been a bit of a change around. Stuart and Christine have taken a step back in the running of the fairs, passing it all over to Dan and Kirsty while *they* lend a hand! This allows Stuart to spend more time on his own stall and collector's items – while Christine covers the door. "They helped us," said Christine. "Now it's our turn to help them!"

Towards the end of the day on Sunday, 25th January, which was the first of 15 Bulldog Fairs for 2026, Dan and Kirsty were very pleased with how the day had gone. "We run fairs at Shepton Mallet, Exeter, Three Counties Malvern and Cornwall," said Kirsty, hinting that there could also be another big event in the Autumn, plus lots going on in 2027 to mark Bulldog's 40th anniversary.

"Most of our events have a waiting list," Kirsty added. "We have very loyal customers who seem to enjoy the show, and we get very good feedback."

So, *Gazette* writer and photographer, Ann and Rob went off to explore the hundreds of stands, looking for the rare and unusual, with photographer Rob having one eye out for certain items that he's after for his own collections of 1960s classics such as *The Avengers*, *Batman*, *The Saint* and *Star Trek* – to name a few of his favourites!

It was great to see so many bargain boxes of sci-fi models, diecasts and model kits. We spotted some 1958 Meccano magazines going for just £1 each, and an entire table neatly covered in Brooke Bond Picture Card books. Brooke Bond Tea started giving away picture cards with various brands of tea from the 1950s. Usually, there were 50 cards in a set, the intention being to educate, as the sets were so informative, covering the natural world in wildflowers, birds and animals to space, history and explorers. The little collectors' albums were available to buy from the grocer where they bought their tea, the cost starting, I believe, at about 3d.



# Bulldog at Three Counties

Every other month, **Ann Evans** and **Rob Tysall** head out to review the UK's finest toy fairs. This month, they explore Bulldog Toy Collectors' Fair held at the Three Counties Showground.

Something else a little unusual, spotted at the back of a busy stand run by Mark Hodder Toys, were two figures on horseback – the models measured about 12 inches tall. On closer inspection and after talking to Mark, we learnt that one of the figures was of *The Rifleman*, an ABC western series that ran from 1958 to 1963 with former professional basketball and baseball star Chuck Connors playing the role of Lucas McCain. The other character was General Custer, the US Cavalry Commander, famous in the American Civil War. Both figures and horses were manufactured by Hartland Plastics Inc., which specialised in making horse and rider sets from durable plastic based on 1950s TV and historical Western characters, such as *The Lone Ranger*, *Tonto*, *Roy Rogers* and *Davy Crockett*, and were known for the quality of their figures.

Other interesting stands that caught our eye included Richard Taylor's. He collects and builds model steam engines and has a number of Mamod steam engines on his stand, as well as engines that he's built

himself. History tells us that Mamod was launched by engineer Geoffrey H. Malins in the mid-1930s. He produced steam-powered stationary engines and mobile models. The company name is a combination of Maline Models.

On another stall run by trader Alex, it was all about speed. Alex had on offer a 1967 Europa Scalextric specially designed for playing with at home. This was in 1:24 scale and going for £75. He also had a model of a Nitro QB quad bike that could reach speeds of 85 mph. Additionally, he was selling a remote-controlled Nissan King Cab made by Tamiya and an impressive looking dragster going for around £300 plus lots more.

It's always good to bump into familiar faces, and we said hello again to Sid Butler of Swansea, who we interviewed some years ago with his amazing tin plate collection. At the Bulldog Fair, Sid had some lovely boxed and unboxed sets of Britain's lead figures, as well as some Mettoy diecast toys, military and farm vehicles.



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1. A selection of Mimic toys.
2. Some Richard Taylor's steam engines.
3. Display of Dublo Trains.
4. For James Bond collectors.
5. A Matchbox Gift Set.
6. A rare Castoys tractor.
7. A variety of aircraft.
8. Some Mamod Steam Tractors.



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There was a fascinating display of dioramas and extra-large military models on the stand run by father and son, David and Callum Murray (aged 15), who had come all the way from Dorset for the Fair. Callum explained that he has been collecting figures since he was three years old! "I have a passion for military history," said Callum, who is a member of the Military History Society.

"My Granny lived in Northern Ireland

through the war; so that got me interested, then my dad's work trips to London usually resulted in him bringing me back a Britains figure or a Thomas Gun Miniature figure. I then started making dioramas," added Callum. "I particularly like Zulu figures. Another diorama here today is the Battle of Thermopylae, the Persian invasion of Greece in 480 BC. As well as being a great collector of scaled model figures, he is an avid medal collector specialising in

the Dorset Regiment and has every medal issued, right from the very first one issued, going from Waterloo to Iraq!

So many stands, so many fascinating collectables and so many knowledgeable stall holders. Another great toy fair from Bulldog. You can find out when their next event will be by visiting their website: Traders can book their table online via the website at [www.bulldogfairs.com](http://www.bulldogfairs.com), or call 07379 578083, or email [info@bulldogfairs.com](mailto:info@bulldogfairs.com). ■



The end of the Second World War marked the beginning of something else. The war produced rockets that could access outer space for the first time. It also produced the atomic bomb. Both events had a profound effect, even stretching to the collectables market, though this would not be appreciated at the time. Suddenly, science fiction was becoming much more real. Toy makers, comics, trading cards, jigsaws, toy soldiers, and others took note. A boom began, slowly at first due to rationing. It later became a tidal wave, and its effects are still being felt today.

**EARLY SCIENCE FICTION ROOTS**

Prior to the war, there was already a niche market for science fiction. The pulps, forerunners of the paperback, had many sci-fi titles. Buck Rogers had been created in 1929 in a pulp magazine. Flash Gordon followed



# The Dawn of the Space Age: Part One

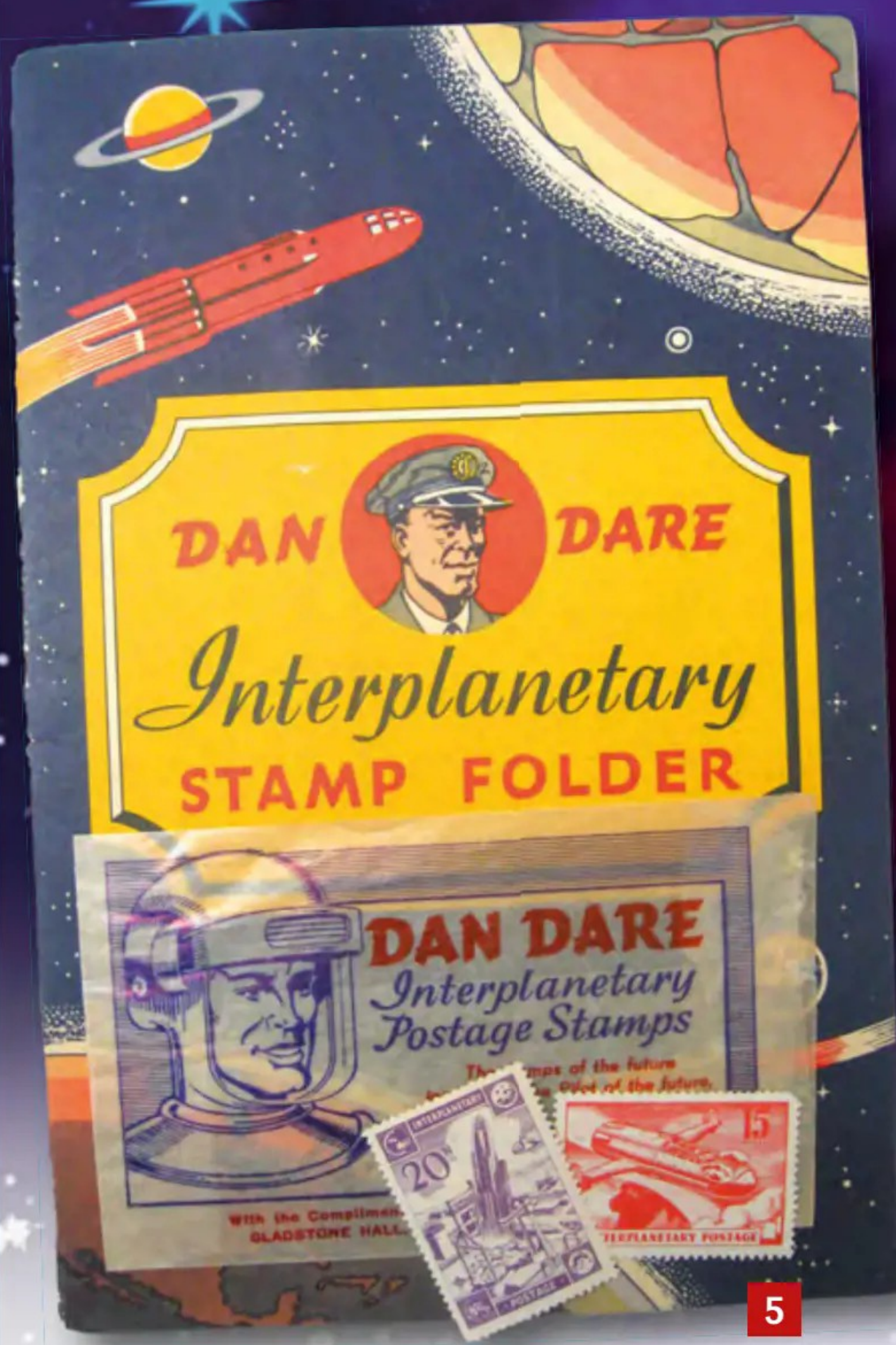
**Gerald Edwards** explores how post-war science fiction sparked a boom in space-age toys, comics and collectables.

soon after. These were major merchandising characters, especially Buck. Mickey Mouse and friends were huge too. The market was primarily in the United States. The British contribution came earlier with H. G. Wells, but this did not spawn much in the way of collectables. Early sci-fi from Edgar Rice Burroughs in the States created more. Few of these items crossed the Atlantic prior to the war. There was little after, until rationing stopped in the early 1950s.

**DAN DARE LEADS THE WAY**

It was therefore left to mainly British makers to introduce toys and games to a public starved of these items in any form. Given the advances in science, sci-fi ideas had an eager audience. The comics were the first to exploit this demand. In 1950, the Eagle comic was launched, and it was no coincidence that its major character and front-page star was Dan Dare, the Pilot of the Future, who was a resounding success. There were sporadic British spacemen

comics prior to this, but none had the impact that Dan Dare did to the extent that he is still well known today. Sales of Eagle were huge, and it did not take long for merchandising to follow on. Many superb items were produced, and the box art was really eye-catching in many cases, almost too good for some of the toys contained within! Amalgamated Press, a rival of Eagle's Hulton Press, had to find an answer to this phenomenon, and it did so in the shape of Captain Condor, who fronted the new Lion comic in direct competition to Eagle. The comic did well, but it never reached the artistic brilliance of Eagle. In a twist, Lion outlasted Eagle and eventually bought it in the late 1960s. Whilst Dan had a ton of merchandise, Captain Condor had almost nothing. There was a proper watch issued and a set of handkerchiefs too. Also, a small set of possibly bootleg figures were made without actually using Captain Condor's name. Dan had just about everything possible! He too had a watch, but also



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ray-guns, jigsaws, games, trading cards given away with toothpaste, interplanetary stamps given away by Lifebuoy soap, toy soldiers, spaceships, dressing up sets, hairbrushes, sweets, fizzy drinks and more. It was a merchandising bonanza. So much was produced, yet some items are now exceptionally rare, and some have never been seen at all. Many toys were advertised in Eagle, so we know they existed, yet some have never resurfaced.

### A BOOM IN SPACE TOYS

Whilst Dan Dare led the pack, there were many other makers of sci-fi toys in the early to mid-1950s. Some big names entered the field. These included Crescent Toys, Palitoy, Tudor Rose, Tri-Ang, DCMT, Merit Toys, Jetex, and many others. Some manufacturers made Dan Dare toys. Many made other space toys without the Dan Dare name to save on merchandising fees. Space toys sold! At that time, it is interesting to note that the planets of our solar system seemed to house no end of alien life-forms. No one really questioned the existence of Martians or Venusians, as space exploration was new. That gave great scope for the imagination. Almost every rocket still resembled a German V-2. It took until the age of Star Wars to break this mould!

Smaller manufacturers could not afford licensing fees, so a “second tier” of space toys and collectables sprang up. Smaller firms produced ray-guns, spacemen, spaceships and the like, whilst many British comics invented

1. A Bell Toys Atom Gun puzzle. 2. A boxed Bell Toys Space-Tele-Talkies set. 3. A rare Peter Pan Toys spaceship puzzle. 4. A Captain Condor Handkerchief. 5. A Dan Dare Lifebuoy soap album, stamps and original wax wrapper. 6. A Winco Condar set. 7. A Selcol Space Ship kit.

their own spacemen strips. Poplar Plastics did a range of spacemen and spaceships. BCM did a superb ray-gun. Merit, Bell and Peter Pan made space puzzles and space toys. Selcol kits issued a range of spaceship construction kits made under licence from Strombecker of the USA, and Kleeware did the same with Comet (US) kits too. Selcol also issued ray-guns and other space toys. At this stage, imports from America were still very thin on the ground so British makers often took up licensing agreements to make US toys available here by obtaining a loan of the moulds.

### DOCTOR WHO CHANGES THE GAME

The 1950s were the high point of all these mainly American-inspired space collectables. It spilled into the early 1960s until the advent of Doctor Who in 1963. This was a British game-changer. Doctor Who was an instant hit, and for the first time ever, a flood of British collectables hit the market, spearheaded by the Daleks. Once again, the shops were stocking up on plastic figures, games, books, comics, jigsaws, ray-guns, annuals, painting books, confectionery and the like. What is more, this property is still selling merchandise to this day, having been current for much of the last few years since

BBC TV revived it. Early Doctor Who items are thin on the ground and command high prices, especially if mint and boxed. The Daleks, in particular, are highly sought after.

In the late 1960s, the American “fightback” took the form of Star Trek. This franchise has been with us ever since and commands its own plethora of merchandise with a loyal band of “trekkies”. Again, the full range of toys and games was available from early on and by this stage, imports of American-produced toys were more plentiful. Many Star Trek plastic kits were made in America, but there was one aberration. Whilst AMT made kits for the States, Aurora’s UK arm made three kits here: Mr Spock, The Enterprise and the Klingon ship. These are now sought after by American collectors, more used to Aurora kits being of US origin. Our own Dinky Toy brand produced some nice Star Trek diecasts as well as Thunderbirds. Corgi was more into character toys, such as the Batmobile, the Green Hornet car, and various James Bond models. These Corgi models were very popular in the USA too, in an export success for Britain.

This article has concentrated mainly upon the toys and the weekly issued comics of the early space age, but there was a huge effort put into making other space-themed items in the 1950s and 60s such as sweets, trading cards, comic and cereal give-aways, other specifically space-related comics and more. In part two, we will explore this field in more detail. ■



1

Some may remember that in the mid-1970s, LEGO® produced two sets that showcased its ambition beyond standard buildings and vehicles — the 1909 Rolls-Royce and the 1913 Cadillac. Both used readily available elements but featured bespoke wheels and tyres, which were a huge draw and now make them highly sought after among LEGO® collectors today.

Almost fifty years on, LEGO® revisits the pre-war motoring era with its Icons Ford Model T. While some may have expected a nostalgic muscle car or European ‘Klassiker’, this set provides a welcome change of direction — particularly in a vehicle line that has, at times, been inconsistent.

This is a smart build. Where previous models have leaned heavily — and occasionally lazily — on the standard parts bin, there is genuine ingenuity here using readily available elements from the brick catalogue. Two features in particular

# LEGO® Icons Ford Model T

LEGO® revisits motoring history with its Icons Ford Model T, delivering a clever, feature-rich build that captures pre-war charm while setting a new benchmark for classic car models.

elevate the model. The folding fabric roof is both intricate and cleverly executed, using a simple rod and connector system to allow fluid, if slightly delicate, movement. Meanwhile, although there are no moving cylinders, the external crank handle spins the cooling fan when turned — not quite a full mechanical symphony, but a satisfying and thoughtful touch.

The interior is equally well judged. The upholstery, which would typically have been finished in leather or leatherette, is recreated using flat one-stud elements — both straight and curved — and works remarkably well. It immediately transports you back to a time when motoring was in its infancy, offering a tangible sense of “the way we were”. Compare that to the

technology-laden cabins of today, and the contrast is striking.

While non-functional, the engine block is a small piece of brick-built art, demonstrating what can be achieved with care and creativity. The use of textured 2x2 elements arranged across a six-stud width perfectly captures the radiator grille and adds a real sense of quality.

What becomes apparent quite quickly during the build is just how well judged the scale and proportions are. The Ford Model T is not an easy car to replicate convincingly, with its upright stance, narrow track and distinctive silhouette, yet LEGO® has got this just right. From the slightly spindly look of the wheels to the tall, almost delicate cabin structure, it all feels entirely in keeping with the character of the original car.

There is also a pleasing honesty in the way this set has been engineered. Rather than overcomplicating things with unnecessary techniques, LEGO® has kept it relatively straightforward and, in doing so, made it all the more effective. That is not to say it lacks sophistication — far from it — but the cleverness lies in knowing when to stop. It feels entirely appropriate for the subject matter; after all, the real Model T was built on simplicity and mass production.

From a display perspective, this is where the model really comes into its own. The more restrained colour palette, combined with the open-top layout and exposed detailing, gives it a presence that stands apart from more modern LEGO® vehicles. It draws you in rather than shouting for attention and rewards a closer look.

For collectors, that is an important distinction. This is not just something to build and move on from, but a model that has genuine staying power on the shelf. It has a quiet charm about it, and in a line-up of louder, more aggressive designs, that actually makes it all the more appealing.

Detailing throughout is impressive, often in subtle ways. The headlights, for example, are constructed from only a handful of pieces yet are spot-on in their execution. The concertina bonnet opens to reveal the engine, while the non-opening driver's door is accurately recreated in line with the original "Tin Lizzie". The folding windscreen is another neat touch.

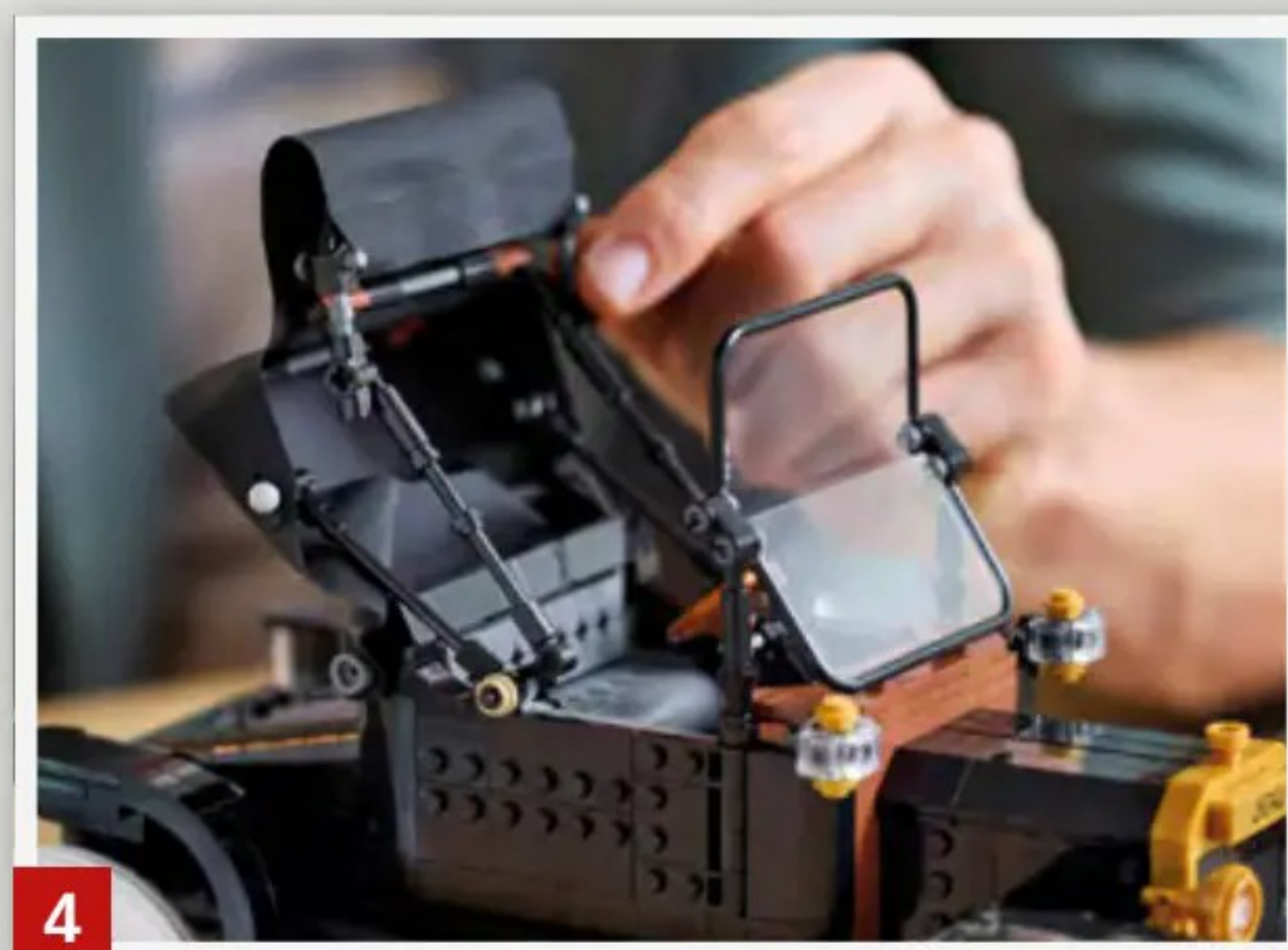
There is nothing especially taxing about the build itself — around three to four hours for the seasoned modeller, perhaps a little longer for the occasional builder. The only real challenge lies in weaving the canopy. While it appears straightforward in the instructions, it can test patience and provoke the odd choice



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**LEGO®**  
**Ford Model T**  
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word, but once completed, the result is undeniably effective.

It is particularly pleasing to see LEGO® step away from the obvious. Another modern classic would have been the easy option, but this set instead highlights the origins of mass-produced motoring — a timely reminder amid today's shift towards electrification. It also raises an interesting question: what next? A 1932 Mercedes SSK, a 1937 Duesenberg J, or even a 1936 Auburn 810 would all be worthy candidates.

This is a well-presented, feature-rich model and an excellent build that rewards patience. It is not one to rush. LEGO® appears to have raised its game here — perhaps with competition such as Mattel's The Brick Shop in mind. Is it still the dominant name in modular brick building? Yes — but this set should now be the benchmark.



5

1. LEGO® Icons Ford Model T.
2. Building time is around three to four hours for the seasoned modeller.
3. The Model T's concertina bonnet opens to reveal the engine.
4. The folding fabric roof is both intricate and cleverly executed.
5. The Model T, introduced in 1908.

Exploring the pre-war era is more than nostalgia; it is an important acknowledgement of the engineering and design journey that brought us to where we are today. In an age where the internal combustion engine is increasingly sidelined, sets like this serve as a valuable reminder of its historical significance. ■



**G**enerally, collectors of old models fall into three categories. The first are those who only buy models in top condition and reject anything else. The second are those who buy models that are maybe not in mint condition, but with a view to upgrading them as and when better examples turn up. The third are restorers who aren't so concerned with condition, as that is the point of the purchase. All the above, of course, relate to vintage models and not new items.

A good proportion of collectors fall into the second category. They do not want to wait until a mint model with a mint box turns up; they want something to admire in their cabinet sooner rather than later. It can also be an enjoyable process upgrading then selling off your surplus models, and it's how many a swap meets stall holder began. Indeed, a fair few businesses have been built on it. It is, however, a process not without its downsides. For example, I remember having a Dinky toy Cydrax van which had a small scratch on one of the decals. I upgraded it with one with perfect decals, but a small factory paint blemish on one rear wing. Which was the better one to keep, and which one would I let go? I think I spent more time ruminating over this than on the purchase of any real car! It's not only the models that get upgraded. Hardy enthusiasts will do a lot of swapping, so a good model will be paired with a good box, and the inferior pairing will then be sold on, etc.

Years ago, I acquired a large job lot of Triang Minics, all loose in a cardboard box. Some had been partly dismantled too.

# Upgrading your upgrades

Ed Karswell ponders the world of model collecting.

Added to this, some had badly tarnished chrome parts and good painted body work and vice versa. I spent several evenings putting together the best models from all the assembled parts. In this instance, it's important not to construct something that would never have left the factory. Luckily, this was a childhood collection, so all the models were from the same short period. The result was worth the hours put in, resulting in a mass upgrade!

There is, however, a lot to be said for the first group that buys it once and buys it right. It may take longer, and patience will be needed, but once it's in the cabinet, it stays there. On the face of it, it appears to be the more expensive route, but rarely does anyone lose much in the upgrading process. There are also those who prefer to play with lightly worn models, valuing the patina and the look of a once-loved toy. Some toys can carry this off, and some just look unattractive, but you know what they say about beauty.

Of course, rarity will sometimes dictate that upgrades aren't really feasible. You may

be just happy to have acquired an example of a particular model, no matter how poor the condition. I suspect the buy-it-once crowd would have to dig deep in these circumstances.

Upgrading can also be a slow or fast process. I know collectors who have upgraded models in their collections more than four times. Each time it's treated as an achievement along with a story to match. After all, this is what the hobby is about: stories.

The last group, the restorers, have of course, a very different view of their acquisitions. Some are looking for a solid basis for restoration and not really wanting to replace lots of parts if they can possibly help it. Others openly acquire models in the most parlous condition that they can find. Either they're after models to convert or for the sheer challenge of bringing something back from the bin. In fact, I had one customer complain that my rough items were a bit too good for him to restore. It takes all sorts, thank goodness! ■

**'I had one customer complain that my rough items were a bit too good for him to restore.'**



# Polly Pocket must-haves

Polly Pocket reached its height of popularity in the late 90s and early 2000s. But they're now having a resurgence. Our Junior Content Editor **Amelia** explores.

Once a staple of bedroom floors and after-school playdates, Polly Pocket is experiencing a full-blown renaissance. The tiny dolls first appeared in the early 1980s, evolving through multiple generations and ownership changes, but their charm has always remained unmistakable. Today, both lifelong fans and new collectors are rediscovering the joy of miniature worlds, driving fresh interest in vintage sets and modern collaborations alike.

From nostalgic compacts to pop-culture tie-ins, here's a look at some of the most sought-after Polly Pocket releases and what they're worth today.

## HARRY POTTER X POLLY POCKET

Among the most memorable crossovers in the Polly Pocket universe is the Harry Potter collection, part of Mattel's wider series of themed compacts. Measuring 7 x 11 x 13 cm, this set packs surprising detail into a tiny space. Inside, collectors will find five character dolls, 11 accessories, and four iconic Hogwarts locations, all peppered with hidden surprises and easter eggs for devoted fans.

Other themed compacts, including

Friends, The Office US and The Addams Family, also remain popular, typically selling for £30–£40. For collectors who love a pop-culture twist, these sets offer a fun blend of nostalgia and fandom.

## THE CRUISE SHIP: A 2000S ICON

For many, the Polly Pocket So Hip Cruise Ship is the definition of early-2000s childhood. Released in 2006, it was one of Mattel's larger playsets and quickly became a must-have. With its parasailing seat, rock-climbing wall, super slide and hot tub, the set felt like an entire holiday in toy form.

It was also one of the earliest examples of colour-changing fashion, with bathing suits that transformed in cold water, mind-blowing tech for the era! But because the Cruise Ship was so widely owned, it doesn't command high resale value today. Most go for around £20–£30.

## POLLY POCKET VEHICLES

Cars, campervans, ice-cream trucks, planes, helicopters – Polly Pocket has always travelled in style! Over the years, nearly every generation of dolls has been paired with its own convertible or themed

vehicle, often designed to reflect the fashion and colours of the time.

Although they remain popular, these vehicles are easy to find online, with many selling for roughly £10. They've also found a second life on social media. For example, creator @morgenmarie has amassed over four million followers while documenting her journey building a life-sized Polly Pocket car.

## DISNEY POLLY POCKET

Before Mattel took over, the early 1990s saw Bluebird Toys release the now-iconic Disney Tiny Collection. This was a series of small houses, palaces and scene-based compacts inspired by classic films. Characters from classics such as Cinderella, Aladdin, The Little Mermaid, Beauty and the Beast and Mulan appeared in miniature form, each set capturing a beloved moment from the movies.

These early Disney compacts are now some of the most valuable Polly Pocket items on the resale market. The Winnie the Pooh honey-pot compact, for example, can fetch around £200 when boxed and unopened. This is a testament to both rarity and enduring appeal.

Whether you're a long-time fan reminiscing about childhood classics or someone discovering Polly Pocket for the first time, there's something endlessly charming about these tiny, detailed worlds. With collector interest growing and new collaborations still being released, now is the perfect moment to explore the universe of Polly Pocket or even start a collection of your own. ■



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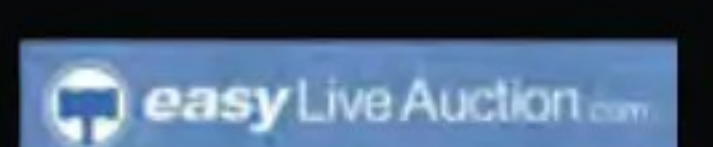
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It was probably inevitable that the Jowett Javelin would enter my consciousness by way of a television screen, rather than in person. Here in the U.S., vintage British cars that turn up at classic car shows, or those seen occasionally on the street, almost always are MGs or Jaguars. Fine for sports car fans, but I'm more likely to have my head turned by a Hillman Minx or a Ford Anglia (or by a Studebaker Lark or a Hudson Jet). The everyday automobiles that most people drove in 1934, 1949 or 1962 tend to fascinate me, so the Jowett is right in my wheelhouse.

It was the BBC Northern Ireland television series *Ballykissangel* that did it. In a 1996 episode, Father Peter Clifford, one of the main characters, was given a 1952 Jowett Javelin by a friend who had entered an assisted-living facility and could no longer drive. Clifford took the car out every so often in his travels, and the Jowett's Art Deco look, and fastback rear end just grabbed me. I thought it was a perfect match for the Clifford character, and it appeared in episodes for a year or so. Sadly for classic car enthusiasts, it was "killed off" by the show's producers due to its unreliability, causing production delays.

That 1952 example actually was from late in the model's production, the car having been introduced in 1947 by Jowett Cars Ltd. in Bradford. Designer Gerald Palmer gave the Javelin innovative features such as a curved windscreen, the first car in the U.K. so equipped, and slippery, aerodynamic bodywork. Early advertisements for the car stated, "It's new right through." It was a thoughtfully designed automobile that was said to be ahead of its time, and its 1.5-litre flat-four engine offered spirited performance to drivers who cared to let it stretch its legs. But Jowett overextended itself by including too many untested and unreliable components in the Javelin. Engine and gearbox failures plagued the car, and just 22,000 or so were produced before Jowett pulled the plug in 1953.

#### THIN ON THE GROUND

Given the low production figures for the Javelin, it's perhaps not surprising that diecast toy manufacturers weren't lining up at the time to make models of the car. But Mettoy, the manufacturer that would launch the Corgi range nearly a decade later, got things started around 1948 with a six and a half-inch long diecast Javelin that came with a clockwork motor and a box sporting the name "The Streamline Car." It featured steerable front wheels and came in colours such as red, cream, and blue. It was number 810 in Mettoy's Castoys range and is often called a limousine. But despite the



# It's new right through!

**Douglas R. Kelly** digs into the Jowett Javelin, an innovative car that inspired a number of excellent miniatures.

back end being too short, collectors have always known it as a Jowett Javelin, as the resemblance is quite clear.

Around the same time, Lines Brothers debuted its Penguin series of plastic models, which included a 4.75-inch Javelin. The Penguins featured an unusual method of propulsion: the models had a crank protruding from the front grille that was connected to a rubber band inside the car. When the crank was wound, the rubber band would twist, which powered a gear assembly connected to the rear axle.

Lines Bros. soon brought the Penguin models into its successful Minic range, re-releasing a number of the Penguins as Minics. The wind-up rubber band arrangement was replaced with either a friction or clockwork motor, and the Minic version featured a tinplate radiator to replace the painted radiator of the Penguin version. Like the Castoys model, the Penguin and Minic Jowetts radiate a wonderful mid-century vibe.

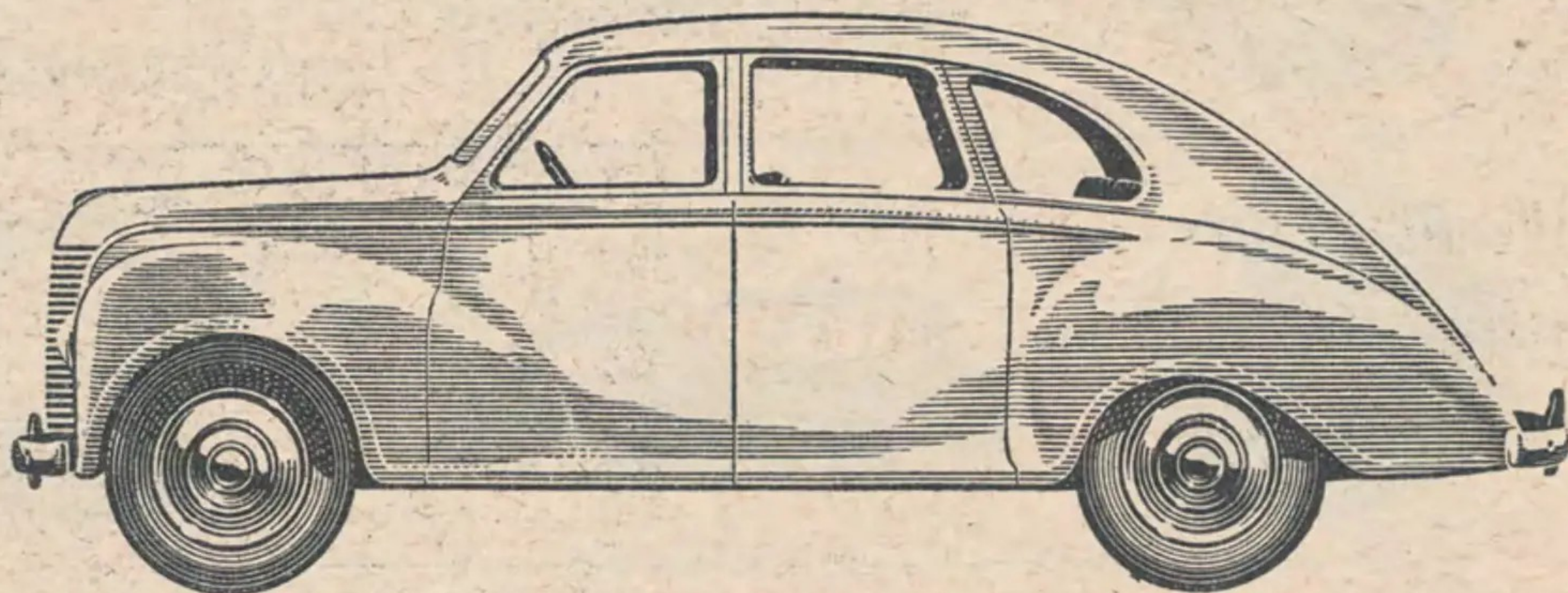
Before we return to the diecast category, two other plastic Javelins must be given their due. Luxor, a toy maker in the Netherlands, made a Javelin in the mid-1950s. At 5 inches long, it's a bit larger than the Penguin/Minic model (approximately 1:38 scale), and its clockwork motor powers the rear wheels. It's made of a translucent, brittle plastic. Some years ago, I came across the Luxor's "twin," a plastic Javelin made of a somewhat softer plastic, but otherwise a very close copy of the Luxor. The twin has no markings other than the friction motor having the legend MADE IN GERMANY stamped on it.

Both the Luxor and the twin are very good likenesses of the Javelin, despite neither having the Javelin's third window over the rear wheels. My guess is that both were copied from the Penguin/Minic models.

**ABOVE** Mettoy was likely first out of the gate with a Javelin toy, releasing this diecast clockwork model around 1948. Photo courtesy Andrew Ralston.

November 19, 1947.

The Motor 3



## The 1½ LITRE JAVELIN

*a driver's car with passenger comfort*

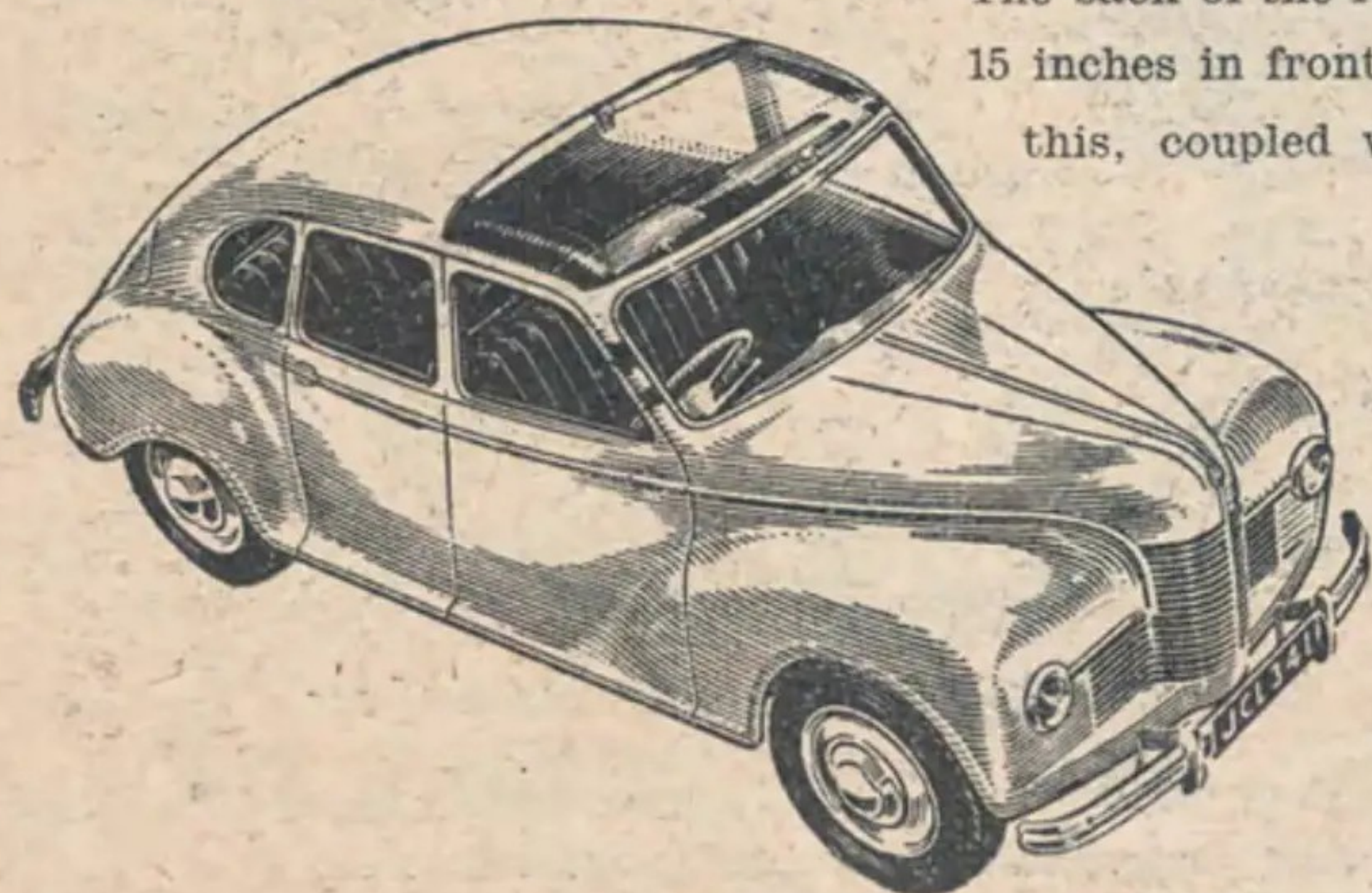
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THE JOWETT JAVELIN

*it's new right through*

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LEFT An ad from the 1947 issue of *The Motor*.

### FAST FORWARD

That was about it for models of the Javelin until a white metal model appeared around 1973 as part of the Mikansue 1:43 scale range of British model cars. It came in kit form and, in terms of overall shape, was a decent rendition of the Jowett.

In 1980, John Hodges launched his Odgi range of models, calling the series “Toys of Yesterday.” He included a Jowett Javelin in 1:43 scale, which he offered in a variety of colours. It was a beautiful and accurate rendition of the Javelin and is now quite popular with collectors.

The 1990s brought what’s generally considered the first high-end white metal Jowett Javelin model, in 1:43 scale from Pathfinder Models. Pathfinder usually made just 600 of each of their models, and this one—number PFM4 in the Pathfinder series—is a very accurate representation of the Jowett. It was joined 10 years or so ago by Brooklin’s Lansdowne model, number

26 in the Lansdowne range, a model that is every bit as detailed and accurate as the Pathfinder. The only negative with the Lansdowne, in my view, is that (aside from a very rare gold version) it has only been made available in an unattractive grayish-black colour. Green or red would be better to feature the car’s lines and details. Brooklin also released the Jowett in a “States of Jersey” police livery.

### THE SMALLEST

Two manufacturers have produced the Javelin in smaller scales. Oxford Diecast put out a 1:76 scale version in a variety of colours, and they made an outstanding job of it, right down to the sharp front grille and windscreen wipers. Oxford also produced the Javelin in the tiny 1:148 scale (N gauge).

The smaller Oxford isn’t alone in the 1:148 scale arena, as John Day Models also has put out a 1:148 scale Javelin as part of its Fleetline Models series. This one is an unpainted white metal casting that the

1. The Penguin 4.75-inch Javelin, made by Lines Bros.

2. Lines Bros. brought its Penguin range of models, including the Jowett, under its well-established Minic name starting around 1949.

3. Jowett Javelin trading card, part of an early 1950s set produced by Geoffrey Michael Publishers in Leeds.

4. An unidentified Jowett model, likely a copy of the Luxor Jowett.

5. The Odgi models were sold under the series name Toys of Yesterday.

6. The Luxor Jowett, made in the Netherlands in the early 1950s.

7. Pathfinder Models Jowett Javelin. Photo courtesy Vectis Auctions.

8. The Lansdowne Jowett came in grayish-black, and in this “Old Gold” colour scheme. Photo courtesy Vectis Auctions.

buyer can paint in the colour of their choice.

What we’ve examined here is a manageable number of models to go after if you’re an admirer of the Jowett. With the possible exceptions of the plastic Luxor and its “twin,” most of these can be found relatively easily. They make for a handsome group in the display cabinet. ■

**R**etro by Ronnie is a unique toy collector's shop. It is more Harrods than a market Emporium; more elegant than any vintage outlet I've come across before.

Located on the south coast in Goring, a few miles from Worthing, the shop, AKA Retro Ronnie, is a former large Barclays Bank set on the main corner of the town's high street. It was superbly converted by today's owner, Glen Howland and his brother back in 2021. The premises opened in December of that year, ready for Christmas.

Retro Ronnie comprises of six main rooms alongside an Aladdin's Cave basement. Offering 41 top-class glass cabinets of every size filled with hundreds of collectables from the 1970s to the present day, a majority of the wide range of items for sale are either mint or mint & boxed, neatly priced and immaculately presented. There is even a life-size Dr Who Tardis door to enter through.

It is a wonder to behold.

Operations Director, Alan Tabbner, joined the business in September 2024 after leaving behind 30 years in the motor trade, where he achieved various prestigious positions. He explained, "I wanted a change in my life. My father had passed away in 2019, and to cheer myself up, I began collecting toys that I remembered as a kid. I had known Glen for 16 years, and after various conversations, I was later hired."

Alan has six people working under him, where on any one day there are three in the premises. A typical day is first making sure the outlet is clean and the items for sale are presentable. Closed on a Monday and Tuesday, Wednesdays are always the weekend debrief.

"This is a busy shop," continues Alan, "where the weekends are always our busiest time. Collectable items are coming in on a daily basis, whether from the general public offering us collections or from wholesale sources. These are then appraised and discussed. Condition is all-important."

He says that collectors travel from as far away as Scotland and Wales for a visit. There've been instances where some have even flown over, especially from overseas.

What makes Retro Ronnie even more different from its competitors is that there is no sales website or eBay shop, and close to 99% of all purchases occur on the actual premises. Alan remarks, "In our first full year of trading, we sold 19,743 items. Last year we sold more than 44,500 with net sales of over £850,000."

To get word out, the shop uses social media as its primary promotional tool, with Facebook (21,000 followers) being its most influential. Others include Instagram and TikTok.

The shop is aimed at all ages, so there are plenty of Star Wars merchandise for sale,



# Collecting Champions

**Chris Stonor** continues his series focusing on people who are keeping the toy and model collectable market alive and thriving. This month, he meets up with Alan Tabbner, Operations Manager of the South Coast collectors' shop 'Retro by Ronnie.'

both vintage and modern; the ever-popular Pokémon cards; Transformers; Turtles; and Funko Pops, as well as some 1970s Superfast Matchbox, Hot Wheels, Action Man, TV/Film related signed merchandise, and Corgi models.

Retro Ronnie also sells work from a leading star in the art field who lives in St Neots, close to Cambridge. His name is Mark Davies.

"Each artwork Mark prints is usually limited to only 45 pieces, but may have up to 10 different variations," explains Alan. "They cost from £395 upwards. One of the most popular pieces of art we sell is called 'Old

School Ford', an artwork we collaborated on and is exclusive to us."

There is a strong TV/Film-related theme amongst his work, from Star Wars and Back to the Future to James Bond and Only Fools and Horses.

Prices range from £395 for a standard non-embellished piece to £2,850 for a spectacular lenticular piece. The shop recently sold its 1,000th Davies piece of artwork. While the artist sells globally through a variety of outlets as well as online, the Goring shop is his Flagship store, where he appears and holds various promotional days throughout the year.



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Meanwhile, Retro Ronnie is a firm believer in charity work, and the shop is becoming well-known locally for life-size Star Wars characters appearing on the street surrounding the shop. Alan explains, “Four or five times a year, we work with the Iconic Legion Cosplay group, who visit the shop dressed as well-known characters from the film. They hold buckets to gather money from passers-by.” He continues, “We raise for charities like WADARS and MIND. Each event has a film theme. These have included Harry Potter, Back to the Future, Ghostbusters and Guardians of the Galaxy. The actors also come into the premises to interact with customers so photos can be taken. These charity days have become very popular with our regulars.” Even so, with all the publicity generated, surprisingly, there are some locals who still don’t know what the building is about.

Alan smiles, “Of course, the Tardis door catches the eye, but some later tell us they’ve always believed the shop was a restaurant or bar. When they do enter, a majority are amazed by what they see and treat the premises more like a museum. They enjoy walking around it. The outlet is now a major talking point on the South Coast.”

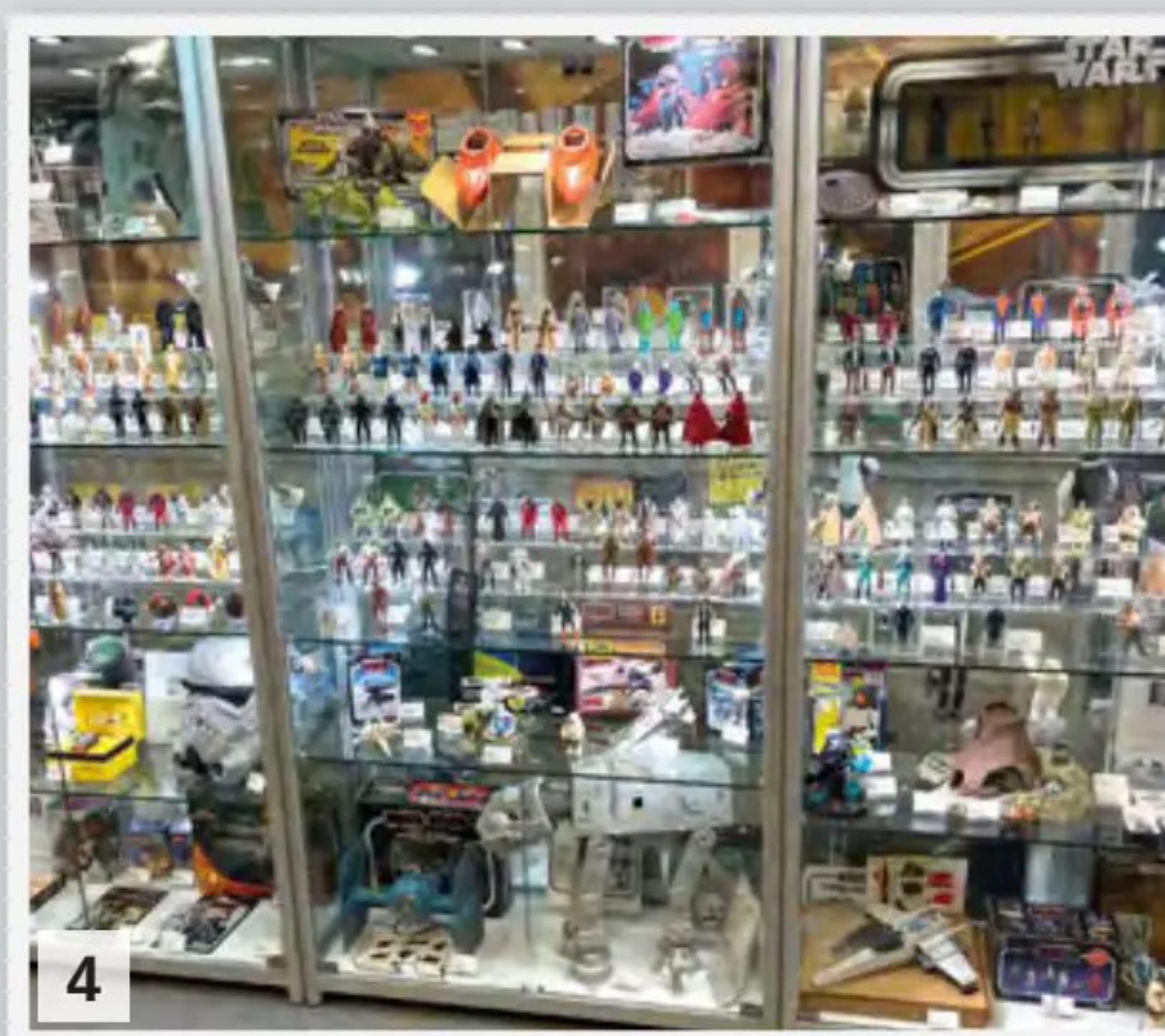
So what is the most expensive item sold?

Alan’s face lights up. “That was a bespoke half-scale Mk 1 Ford Escort produced by a motor colleague of mine. You can actually drive it! We sold that for £9,000. He made it specially for the shop.” Then there is the full-size Iron Man figure priced at £10,000. “This was bought just before the shop opened,” he continues. “It is more of an exhibit now where people like to be photographed alongside it.”

Meanwhile, vintage Star Wars items can range from as little as £3.99 to a whopping £7,500. The shop has an ‘Easy Pay’ function where customers can initially place a non-



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refundable deposit on an item/s worth 25% of the value. This allows the rest of the interest-free payment to be paid over a six month period. The item/s are locked safely in a vault, ready for the new owners to pick up once achieved.

I leave the most sensitive question to last by pointing out that a common criticism of the shop is the high prices of the items for sale.

Alan quickly responds. “I disagree. We sell quality items at a price that reflects their condition. We pay good prices for such collectables, but if multiples like the boxed Transformers we have in stock, then we price them accordingly. And if the item is not mint, then a cheaper charge is reflected.”

To be fair, some of the shop collectables are not only competitive with eBay ‘Sold For’ prices, but in some cases, actually cheaper. A case of some gentle digging and searching is required.

So what of the future?

“While the rent and general overheads are expensive, after close to five years, the shop is holding its own,” says Alan. “We continue to discuss setting up a specific sales website, but



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1. Alan Tabbner, Operations Manager, standing in-front of the shop’s Dr Who Tardis door entrance. 2. Mark Davies standing next to examples of his artwork. 3. A colourful display of vintage Matchbox models. 4. Vintage and modern Star Wars figures and vehicles. 5. A selection of Pokémon cards. 6. The full-size Iron Man figure is a popular photo exhibit.

we much prefer to focus on our present in-store experience.” Adding, “This is old-school trading at its best.”

You must go and visit Retro by Ronnie. It will become a memory well served. ■

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# PRICE GUIDE

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



◆ Matchbox Regular Wheels 1a Aveling Barford Diesel Road Roller - Stannard Code 2 - dark green body with gold trim, straight canopy ends, light tan driver. Excellent, in Excellent Type A Moko Script Box. *Sold for £130, Oberon Auctions, April.*



◆ Matchbox Regular Wheels 14b Daimler Ambulance. Excellent (some paint chips to body raised outlines) in Excellent earlier period Long Type B2 Box. *Sold for £130, Oberon Auctions, April.*



◆ Matchbox Regular Wheels 22b Vauxhall Cresta PA. overall Excellent (some tiny pin size chips to body raised outlines & usual chip to both rear fins), in Good Plus Type C Lesney Box. *Sold for £120, Oberon Auctions, April.*



◆ Matchbox Regular Wheels 50a Commer Pick-up Truck. Excellent, in Good Good to Good Plus later period Type D1 Box. *Sold for £1,200, Oberon Auctions, April.*



◆ Matchbox Regular Wheels 3b Bedford TK Tipper Truck - light grey cab & chassis with silver trim, maroon tipper body, gloss black base, 24-tread grey plastic wheels. Excellent Plus, in Good Type C Lesney Box. *Sold for £110, Oberon Auctions, April.*



◆ Matchbox Regular Wheels 19b MGA - off white body with mask sprayed silver trim, tan Type B driver, red interior & base, rare 20-tread silver plastic wheels. Excellent Plus, in Good Plus Type C Lesney Box. *Sold for £170, Oberon Auctions, April.*



◆ Matchbox Regular Wheels 27b Bedford Articulated Low Loader. Excellent Plus with some paint loss to silver trim, Trailer has 200-tread grey plastic wheels with rounded axles and only Good with some play wear, in Good Plus to Excellent Type B4 Box. *Sold for £190, Oberon Auctions, April.*



◆ Matchbox Regular Wheels 55a DUKW Amphibian. Excellent Plus (couple of small yellow paint marks to load bed), in generally Good (creased, scuffed & a little stained) rare type D1 box. *Sold for £1,100, Oberon Auctions, April.*



◆ Matchbox Regular Wheels 5c London Routemaster Bus "Baron of Beef" Promotional Issue. Excellent Plus (crack to left hand front wheel) in Fair to Good Type D1 Box. *Sold for £1,400, Oberon Auctions, April.*



◆ Matchbox Regular Wheels 19c Aston Martin DBR5 Racing Car - Unlisted Stannard Code. Near Mint (driver has been glued into position), in Excellent Type D2 Box printed by Bowater's. *Sold for £480, Oberon Auctions, April.*



◆ Matchbox Regular Wheels 19c Aston Martin DBR5 Racing Car. Near Mint (driver has been glued into position), in Excellent Type D2 Box printed by Bowater's. *Sold for £480, Oberon Auctions, April.*



◆ Matchbox Regular Wheels 53a Aston Martin DB2/4. Excellent Plus in Fair to Good (scuffed & stained with a couple of small tears) rare type D1 box. *Sold for £320, Oberon Auctions, April.*



◆ Matchbox Regular Wheels 5c London Routemaster Bus "Drink Peardrax". Near Mint (couple of minor marks to roof), in Excellent Plus Type D2 Box. *Sold for £1,600, Oberon Auctions, April.*



◆ Matchbox Regular Wheels 22b Vauxhall Cresta PA - Unlisted Stannard Code. Fair to Good playworn, in generally Good but stained/discoloured Type B4 Box. RARE unlisted variation of this very rare colour with crimped axles. *Sold for £520, Oberon Auctions, April.*



◆ Matchbox Regular Wheels 47a Trojan Brooke Bond Tea Van. Generally excellent condition, in generally Good Plus very rare late issue type D1 box. *Sold for £750, Oberon Auctions, April.*



◆ Matchbox Regular Wheels 56a London Trolleybus. Excellent Plus (axles a little rusty & tiny chip to base), in Good Plus Type B3 Box. *Sold for £520, Oberon Auctions, April.*



♣ Matchbox Regular Wheels 8e Ford Mustang - Unlisted Stannard Code. Good with some light play wear, in Fair tape repaired Type F2 Box. **Sold for £1,300, Oberon Auctions, April.**



♣ Matchbox Regular Wheels 14d Iso Grifo Factory Pre-Production Colour Trial With Polychromatic Lime Green Body. Excellent (scratch to leading edge of nose & trunk), in Fair "New Model" Type E4® Box. **Sold for £640, Oberon Auctions, April.**



♣ Matchbox Regular Wheels 14d Iso Grifo Factory Pre-Production Colour Trial With Polychromatic Light Gold Body. Excellent (scratch to leading edge of nose & trunk), in Excellent "New Model" Type E4® Box, complete with letter of authenticity signed & dated 12th April 2017 from Diecast Toy Exchange York Pennsylvania USA. **Sold for £620, Oberon Auctions, April.**



♣ Matchbox Superfast 32a Leyland Tanker "N.A.M.C. The Miniature Vehicle" Promotional Issue. Excellent Plus (has a few tiny chips to tank), in Excellent Plus "New" type G box. **Sold for £660, Oberon Auctions, April.**



♣ WSI 1/50 scale No.1843 DAF XF Super Space Cab Twin Steer and Live Stock Trailer in Bert Christie. housed in plastic display card box with a certificate. **Sold for £120, Lacy Scott & Knight, April.**



♣ WSI 1/50 scale No.2004 DAF XF Super Space Cab Twin Steer and Tank Trailer in Murphy Transport livery. housed in plastic display card box with a certificate (box with a tear to one corner of the front). **Sold for £160, Lacy Scott & Knight, April.**



♣ WSI 1/50 scale No.2014 Volvo Fh4 Globe XL TAG Axle and Reefer Trailer in Harrisons livery. housed in plastic display card box with a certificate. **Sold for £190, Lacy Scott & Knight, April.**



♣ WSI 1/50 scale No.2143 Volvo FH4 Globe Twin Steer and Bulk Trailer in John McCurry and Sons livery. housed in plastic display card box with a certificate. **Sold for £140, Lacy Scott & Knight, April.**



♣ Matchbox Regular Wheels 33a Ford Zodiac. Good Plus to Excellent with some small paint chips in Excellent Scarce type D1 box printed by Pembroke Abbey - small marks to light striker side. **Sold for £320, Vectis Auctions, April.**



♣ Matchbox Regular Wheels 66a Citroen DS19. Good Plus to Excellent with a few small paint chips in Excellent Plus Rare Late Issue Type D1 Box printed by Pembroke Abbey - Nice example of this Rare box. **Sold for £2,600, Vectis Auctions, April.**



♣ Matchbox King Size K4 Leyland Tipper Truck "Wates". Near Mint in Good type F window box with pictorial header card illustrating maroon & silver model with Wates labels. Nice example of this rare colour combination. **Sold for £150, Vectis Auctions, April.**



♣ Matchbox Regular Wheels 29b Austin A55 Cambridge. Near Mint in Excellent type D2 box with matching artwork printed by Bowaters. **Sold for £60, Vectis Auctions, April.**



♣ Matchbox Regular Wheels 11a ERF Tanker. generally Excellent, axles appear to of been cleaned in Poor to Fair B1 box. **Sold for £380, Vectis Auctions, April.**



♣ Matchbox Regular Wheels 22b Vauxhall Cresta. generally Excellent to Excellent Plus in Good to Good Plus Type B5 box. **Sold for £260, Vectis Auctions, April.**



♣ Matchbox Regular Wheels 19c Aston Martin DBR5 Racing Car. generally Near Mint in Excellent to Excellent Type D box. **Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, April.**



♣ Matchbox Superfast 7c Volkswagen Golf. Near Mint in Good to Good Plus Rare late issue type L box with matching model artwork. **Sold for £80, Vectis Auctions, April.**



♣ Matchbox Superfast 12d Citroen CX Estate. Near Mint with some factory casting flaw in Excellent to Excellent Type L box. **Sold for £140, Vectis Auctions, April.**



♣ Corgi, a 1:43 scale No. 36502 "The Italian Job" three-piece Mini set with Blue and White coach. Condition generally appears Excellent in box which is Good to Excellent condition, showing some light edge, corner and flap wear consistent with handling and storage. **Sold for £130, Vectis Auctions, April.**



♣ Kyosho, a boxed 1:12 Scale 08601S "James Bond" BMW Z8 "The World is Not Enough", finished in silver/grey, black with chrome trim with many operating features and detachable hood. conditions generally appear Near Mint in a generally Poor box with internal polystyrene. **Sold for £160, Vectis Auctions, April.**



♣ J & M Classics precision model car, including Speed Twenty Five Charlesworth Saloon (1938) "Brooklands Green". generally appears Excellent in Excellent outer box. **Sold for £150, Vectis Auctions, April.**



♣ BoS-Models, a boxed 1:18 Scale BOS348 Volkswagen VW Karmann Ghia T34 year 1961 "White / Black". conditions generally appear Near Mint to Mint in a generally Excellent box with internal packaging. **Sold for £60, Vectis Auctions, April.**



♣ Otto Models, a boxed 1:18 Scale OT1066 Renault 16 TX "Prune" Met 708 1974. conditions generally appear Near Mint to Mint in a generally Near Mint box, Excellent outer box and inner packaging. **Sold for £90, Vectis Auctions, April.**



♣ Brooklin Models - Rod 43rd (Rod 13) 1961 Ford Capri Coupe "Mellow Yellow". Condition appears Excellent to Near Mint in Good Red card box. **Sold for £110, Vectis Auctions, April.**



♣ Corgi, a boxed 36502 "The Italian Job" Three Piece Mini Set & Blue and White Coach. conditions generally appear Near Mint in a generally Good Plus to Excellent box. **Sold for £140, Vectis Auctions, April.**



♣ Radscale (DNA Collectibles), a boxed 1:18 Scale Volvo 960 Estate with Display Case, Bag and Accessories. conditions generally appear Near Mint to Mint in a generally Near Mint Display Case with slight cracking, Near Mint box and Good outer box. **Sold for £90, Vectis Auctions, April.**



♣ Otto Models, a boxed 1:18 Scale OT403 Ford Fiesta MK7 ST "Metallic Blue". conditions generally appear Near Mint to Mint in a generally Near Mint box, Excellent outer box and internal packaging. **Sold for £70, Vectis Auctions, April.**



♣ Brooklin Models - Rod 43rd (Rod 15) 1952 Morris Minor "Gasser" in Copper Brown Metallic. Condition appears Excellent to Near Mint in Good Red card box. **Sold for £80, Vectis Auctions, April.**



♣ Corgi, a boxed 36502 "The Italian Job" Three Piece Mini Set & Blue and White Coach. conditions generally appear Near Mint in a generally Good Plus to Excellent box. **Sold for £160, Vectis Auctions, April.**



♣ Otto Models, a boxed 1:18 Scale OT994 Ford Escort RS Cosworth "#8 3rd Network Q RAC rally 1993 Wilson, Thomas". conditions generally appear Near Mint to Mint in a generally Near Mint to Mint box, Excellent outer box and internal packaging. **Sold for £110, Vectis Auctions, April.**



♣ Corgi Aviation Archive, a boxed die-cast model aircraft Avro Vulcan B Mk2 XL321, 617 Squadron, RAF Scampton, Lincolnshire 1964, model AA27202. Model generally appears Excellent in Good outer box. Contents unchecked for completeness. **Sold for £120, Vectis Auctions, April.**



♣ Brooklin Models - Rod 43rd (Rod 01) 1952 Muntz Jet in Raven Black. Condition appears generally Good although does have door handle and part of bumper broken off (present in box) in Good Red card box. **Sold for £60, Vectis Auctions, April.**



♣ Spark S0286 1/43rd scale 1970 Lotus Team Transporter Truck. Near Mint in Good rigid plastic display box. **Sold for £150, Vectis Auctions, April.**



♣ Otto Models, a boxed 1:18 Scale Peugeot 406 Team Peugeot "ESSO Ultron N 12 BTCC Season 1997 Tim Harvey". conditions generally appear Near Mint to Mint in a generally Near Mint box, Excellent outer box and internal packaging. **Sold for £130, Vectis Auctions, April.**



♣ Pathfinder Models (1/43rd) PFM 33 Sunbeam Rapier - Metallic blue body. Near Mint to Mint in a Excellent box. **Sold for £90, Vectis Auctions, April.**



♣ Pathfinder Models PFM6 - 1958 Vauxhall Cresta PA. Pale Yellow (Lemon). Condition although not checked for completeness is generally Fair in Good box with price sticker (no inner foam packaging - bubble wrap only). **Sold for £70, Vectis Auctions, April.**



♣ GT Spirit, a boxed 1:12 Scale GT 183 Stingray Silver Blue. conditions generally appear Near Mint in a generally Near Mint box with Good outer box and internal packaging. **Sold for £260, Vectis Auctions, April.**



♣ Crossway Models, a boxed 1:43 scale CM10 Morris 1300 GT (Blaze 1972) with Orange body and Black roof. Condition appears Excellent to Near Mint in Good box with paper label and Information Card. **Sold for £120, Vectis Auctions, April.**



✦ **Pathfinder Models (G&W Engineering Ltd)**, a boxed 1:43 scale Vauxhall Cresta Friary Estate (1962). Condition although unchecked for completeness appears Excellent to Near Mint in Good box with writing. **Sold for £110, Vectis Auctions, April.**



✦ **Corgi 436 Citroen Safari "Wildlife Preservation"**. Yellow body with green and brown interior with figures, silver trim with luggage and spun hubs, good plus (one tiny pin-prick chip and slight degradation to edge of bonnet decal), in good box. **Sold for £30, Griffin's Auctioneers and Valuers, April.**



✦ **Minichamps 1/12th scale 1981 Kawasaki KR350 A Mang No. 122 814002** (Classic Bike series No. 53). generally excellent in excellent presentation box including inner packing piece and outer polythene sleeve. **Sold for £60, Griffin's Auctioneers and Valuers, April.**



✦ **J & M Classics Alvis "Woody" 1947 Estate Car**. dark green, with pale green interior and wood effect to sides and rear, - otherwise a Excellent Plus including black card box with inner packaging. **Sold for £60, Vectis Auctions, April.**



✦ **Corgi 218 Aston Martin DB4**. yellow with red interior and silver hubs, good (odd pin prick) in good box (odd light crease). **Sold for £20, Griffin's Auctioneers and Valuers, April.**



✦ **Corgi No.925 "Batman" - Batcopter**. black, red with "Batman" figure, good in fair to good box (some crushing to cellophane window and some creases to box). **Sold for £40, Griffin's Auctioneers and Valuers, April.**



✦ **Minichamps 1/12th scale 1999 Aprilia 250ccm V Rossi No. 122 990086** (Classic Bike series No. 34). generally excellent in excellent presentation box including inner packing piece and outer polythene sleeve. **Sold for £60, Griffin's Auctioneers and Valuers, April.**



✦ **Matchbox Lesney G1 Service Station Gift Set containing 3 vehicles**. No. 13 Dodge Wreck Truck, No. 32 Leyland Petrol Tanker, and No. 56 Fiat 1500 Saloon in red. Box in worn condition, cars paly worn. **Sold for £45, Potteries Auctions, April.**



✦ **Corgi 267 Batmobile**. fair to good (Some damage to window behind batman figure), missing Robin figure, in reproduction window box. **Sold for £55, Griffin's Auctioneers and Valuers, April.**



✦ **Minichamps 1/12th scale 1970 MV Agusta 500 G Agostini No. 122 700001** (Classic Bike series No. 18). generally excellent in excellent presentation box including inner packing piece and outer polythene sleeve. **Sold for £90, Griffin's Auctioneers and Valuers, April.**



✦ **Corgi Major Toys 1120 Midland Red Motorway Express Coach**. red body/black roof, cream interior, flat spun wheel hubs in near mint original condition. General wear to box. **Sold for £35, Potteries Auctions, April.**



✦ **Corgi No.270 "James Bond" Aston Martin DB5 2nd Issue**. silver, red interior with "James Bond & Bandit" figures, gold front and rear bumpers - 2nd issue with wide arches, about good (some pin-pricks) in fair to good box (light creases). **Sold for £30, Griffin's Auctioneers and Valuers, April.**



✦ **Western Models K3X Chevrolet C10 Suburban**. A boxed white metal model. Conditions generally appear Near Mint in a Good box. **Sold for £90, Griffin's Auctioneers and Valuers, April.**



✦ **Corgi Toys, 151 Lotus Mark Eleven Le Mans Racing Car**. in blue/grey and red interior, with original box. In fair/good condition, with small chip to paint work around the front right grill. **Sold for £35, Potteries Auctions, April.**



✦ **Corgi 412 Bedford Utelecon Ambulance**. cream body with glazing and flat spun hubs complete with ambulance decals, excellent in good plus box (has "A-5" in ink to top of box). **Sold for £60, Griffin's Auctioneers and Valuers, April.**



✦ **Minichamps 1/12th scale 1997 Aprilia 125 V Rossi No. 122 970046** (Classic Bike series No. 21). generally excellent in excellent presentation box including inner packing piece and outer polythene sleeve. **Sold for £65, Griffin's Auctioneers and Valuers, April.**



✦ **Lansdowne Models (Brooklin) LDM98 1947 Bedford Utilicon "Moore & Bush" Loudspeaker** (Dark Blue). Near Mint in Excellent Plus box. **Sold for £40, Vectis Auctions, April.**



✦ **Corgi 475 Citroen Safari Corgi Ski Club**. Excellent, box excellent. **Sold for £60, Tennants Auctions, April.**



♣ Corgi 497 Man From UNCLE Thrushbuster. in display box with Waverley ring and internal packing (Excellent, box Excellent.) **Sold for £140, Tennants Auctions, April.**



♣ Corgi 261 James Bond Aston Martin DB5. in display box with two spare men, lapel badge and leaflet (Excellent, box Excellent.) **Sold for £110, Tennants Auctions, April.**



♣ Bachmann 00 gauge 31-204 Patriot Class in LMS crimson late livery. housed in the original box, in excellent condition. **Sold for £60, Lacy Scott & Knight, April.**



♣ Hattons H1408, 00 gauge Class 58xx in BR lined black. No. 5816, all housed in the original box with instructions, in Near mint-Mint condition. **Sold for £80, Lacy Scott & Knight, April.**



♣ Corgi Gift Set N0.31 Buick Riviera With Boat, Trailer And Water Skier. in display box (Excellent, good box). **Sold for £120, Tennants Auctions, April.**



♣ Mamod LM1 Le Mans Racer. blue (Excellent, box good). **Sold for £440, Tennants Auctions, April.**



♣ Bachmann 00 gauge limited special edition A4 locomotive and tender in LNER garter blue. running No.4469 "Dwight D Eisenhower", with transfer steel cut-out letters, housed in the original limited edition wooden case. **Sold for £55, Lacy Scott & Knight, April.**



♣ FIA Trains limited edition 2007 LMS black class 10,000 Co-Co diesel locomotive. housed in foam-packed card box with a certificate. **Sold for £180, Lacy Scott & Knight, April.**



♣ Mamod LM1 Le Mans Racer. red (Excellent, box Excellent.) **Sold for £500, Tennants Auctions, April.**



♣ Bachmann 00 gauge limited edition set, comprising an A1 class in BR green running No. 60143 "Sir William Scott". some light corrosion on handrails, together with a Class 40 in BR unlined green, late crest, running No. D396, both housed in the original wooden limited edition case. **Sold for £75, Lacy Scott & Knight, April.**



♣ FIA Trains limited edition LMS black class 10,001 Co-Co diesel locomotive. housed in foam packed card box with a certificate. **Sold for £210, Lacy Scott & Knight, April.**



♣ Dinky 918 Guy Van Every Ready. Excellent, good box. **Sold for £50, Tennants Auctions, April.**



♣ Mamod PO1 Post Office Van 'Royal Mail'. Excellent, box excellent. **Sold for £380, Tennants Auctions, April.**



♣ Heljan 00 gauge English Electric DP2 prototype in early BR green livery. running No.DP2, housed in the original box, in Near Mint condition. **Sold for £65, Lacy Scott & Knight, April.**



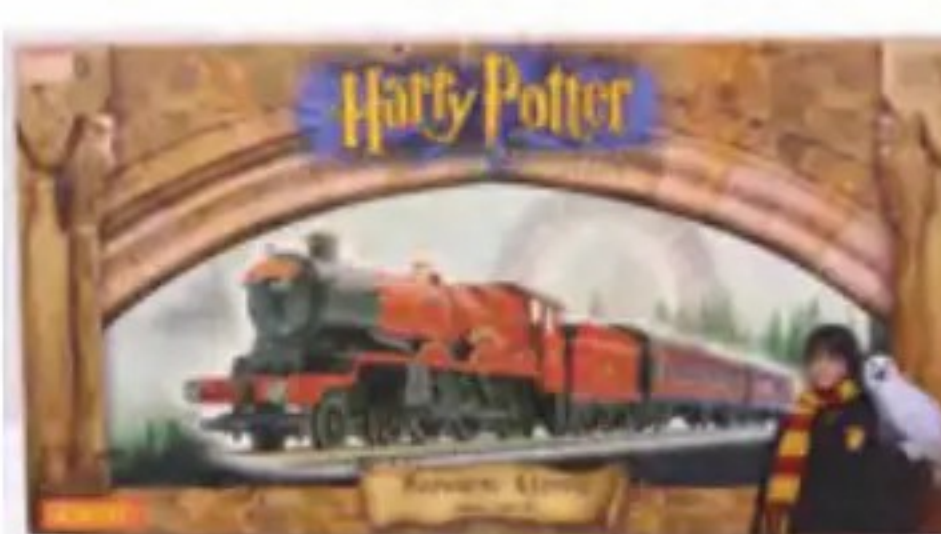
♣ A Bachmann 'N' Gauge Ref No 372-934DS 'N' Class 2-6-0 Steam Tender Locomotives. SE and CR Southern Lined Maunsell green with R/No 1823 DCC sound fitted, good untested condition. **Sold for £150, Sheffield Auction Gallery, April.**



♣ Corgi 448 BMC Mini Police Van With Tracker Dog. in display box (Excellent, box Excellent).



♣ Hornby 00 gauge R3203 BR 4-6-2 rebuilt West Country Class locomotive and tender in BR lined green late crest. housed in the original box, in excellent condition. **Sold for £90, Lacy Scott & Knight, April.**



♣ Hornby 00 gauge Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone train set, comprising a Hogwarts Castle, Castle Class loco in red livery, running No. 5972 and two coaches. housed in the original set box, controller and track missing. **Sold for £50, Lacy Scott & Knight, April.**



♣ A Bachmann 'OO' Gauge/4mm Class 7F 2-8-0 Steam Tender Locomotive. S.D.J.R. blue with R/No 88, a limited edition No 0617 of 1250 with certificate; contained in a wooden presentation box, good untested condition with paperwork. **Sold for £130, Sheffield Auction Gallery, April.**



♣ Corgi 336 James Bond Toyota 2000GT. with figure, four missiles and leaflet (Excellent, box Good). **Sold for £100, Tennants Auctions, April.**



♣ Bachmann 00 gauge 31-727 City Class locomotive and tender in GWR lined green Monogram livery. housed in the original box, in excellent condition. **Sold for £80, Lacy Scott & Knight, April.**



♣ A Brawa 'G' Gauge Rh.B. (Rhaetian Railway) Class 4/5 2-8-0 Locomotive "108", without a tender. in black with a green cab, untested, damage to cab roof (pieces in box). **Sold for £160, Sheffield Auction Gallery, April.**



♣ A boxed Dapol 0 gauge Class 121 diesel railcar in BR Green livery. "DCC fitted" on box (ref 7D-009-002D), untested, some accessory parts missing, otherwise appearing unused. **Sold for £160, Sheffield Auction Gallery, April.**



♣ Hornby Dublo BR (WR) brown and cream Restaurant Car W1910, catalogue number 4070. suitable for 2-rail or 3-rail running, excellent in good plus box with two packing rings. **Sold for £45, Griffin's Auctioneers and Valuers, April.**



♣ Hornby Dublo 3-rail EDL7 0-6-2 Southern N2 Class Steam Tank Locomotive No. 2594. about good in good box with internal packing and instructions. **Sold for £130, Griffin's Auctioneers and Valuers, April.**



♣ A Boxed Dapol 'O' Gauge 14x 0-4-2 Tank Engine. "1421" in BR green (ref 7S-006-027), untested, some small accessory parts may be missing, otherwise appearing unused. **Sold for £110, Sheffield Auction Gallery, April.**



♣ Bachmann Spectrum Series G Scale 0-4-0 0-4-0 Shay Geared loco. Pardee & Curtin Lbr. Co. No.11 Black livery, excellent in excellent box with outer card shipping box. **Sold for £160, Griffin's Auctioneers and Valuers, April.**



♣ Hornby Dublo 3-rail 6231 Duchess of Atholl locomotive (possibly repainted/reouched) and tender. with instructions, in reproduction box. **Sold for £90, Griffin's Auctioneers and Valuers, April.**



♣ Hornby Dublo 3-rail West Country Steam Locomotive. 4-6-2 BR No.34017 "Ilfracombe" repainted (to an excellent standard) loco with 3-rail chassis and scale wheels to tender, in reproduction box, with instructions. **Sold for £190, Griffin's Auctioneers and Valuers, April.**



♣ A boxed Dapol 0 gauge Class 121 Diesel railcar in BR Blue/Grey livery. untested and appearing unused. **Sold for £150, Sheffield Auction Gallery, April.**



♣ Bachmann Spectrum Series G Scale 2-truck 'Climax' Logging Locomotive. in black Pardee & Curtin Lumber Co livery as No 6. No box or instructions. **Sold for £140, Griffin's Auctioneers and Valuers, April.**



♣ Hornby Dublo 3-Rail OO Gauge L30 1000 BHP Bo-Bo Diesel Electric Locomotive. No. D8000, BR Green, excellent in good plus box with two packing rings and instructions. **Sold for £45, Griffin's Auctioneers and Valuers, April.**



♣ Hornby Dublo 3-rail 3250 SR green Electric Motor Coach. Brake 2nd, excellent in good plus box, with instructions. **Sold for £140, Griffin's Auctioneers and Valuers, April.**



♣ A Boxed Dapol 'O' Gauge 3F "Jinty" Locomotive, in BR black, "DCC and sound fitted" on box. untested, some small accessory parts may be missing, otherwise appearing unused. **Sold for £170, Sheffield Auction Gallery, April.**



♣ G Scale J & M Models 90201 Deutsche Reichsbahn brass baggage coach. Good condition and unboxed. **Sold for £110, Griffin's Auctioneers and Valuers, April.**



♣ Hornby Dublo 3-rail 3218 2-6-4 BR lined black Standard Class 4 Steam Tank Locomotive No.80059. nearly excellent in good box with two packing rings. **Sold for £90, Griffin's Auctioneers and Valuers, April.**



♣ Hornby Dublo 3-rail 3234 Co-Co BR two-tone green Deltic Diesel Locomotive No. D9001 "St. Paddy". very good in fair to good box, with instructions. **Sold for £120, Griffin's Auctioneers and Valuers, April.**



♣ Hornby Dublo BR maroon Restaurant Car E1939, catalogue number 4071. suitable for 2-rail or 3-rail running, excellent in good plus box with two packing rings. **Sold for £70, Griffin's Auctioneers and Valuers, April.**



♣ Hornby Dublo 3-rail pre-war EDL7 GWR loco in GWR shirt-button green, No.6699. good plus in fair to good box, with instructions. **Sold for £160, Griffin's Auctioneers and Valuers, April.**



♣ Hornby Dublo 3-rail 3221 4-6-0 BR Castle Class Steam Locomotive No. 5002 "Ludlow Castle". nearly excellent in good plus box, with instruction booklet. **Sold for £170, Griffin's Auctioneers and Valuers, April.**



♣ Hornby Dublo 3-rail 3224 2-8-0 BR 8F Class Steam Locomotive No. 48094. excellent in very good box, with instruction booklet. **Sold for £150, Griffin's Auctioneers and Valuers, April.**



♣ Midsummer Models, a boxed MSM007 1:24 Scale Burrell Scenic Showman's Engine No.4000 "Ex Mayor". condition generally appears to be Good in a generally Excellent box with internal Polystyrene (no mailout). **Sold for £260, Vectis Auctions, April.**



♣ Wrenn W2213A 4-6-2 NE A4 Class Steam Locomotive No. 4900 "Gannet". excellent in good plus box with "Packer No.2" stamp to base of box. **Sold for £120, Griffin's Auctioneers and Valuers, April.**



♣ Bachmann Spectrum Master Railroader Series G gauge 1:20.3 scale narrow gauge model railways. Shay locomotive Oregon Lumber Company #110 black, boxed. Untested. **Sold for £190, Potteries Auctions, April.**



♣ Hornby Dublo 3-rail 3226 4-6-2 BR maroon Princess Coronation Class Steam Locomotive No. 46247 "City of Liverpool". tender is fitted with metal type coupling, generally good in fair box. **Sold for £95, Griffin's Auctioneers and Valuers, April.**



♣ Bachmann Spectrum Master Railroader Series G gauge, 1:20.3 scale narrow gauge model railways. 81297 DCC ready, Silverton & Northern no.34, boxed. Untested. **Sold for £150, Potteries Auctions, April.**



♣ Midsummer Models, a boxed MSM004 1:24 Scale Burrell Road Locomotive Engine No.2789 "The President". condition generally appears to be Excellent in a generally Excellent box with internal Polystyrene and generally Fair to Good mailout box with foam packing. **Sold for £140, Vectis Auctions, April.**



♣ Bachmann OO gauge 31-3211DS Class J11 64377 BR Early Assembled Weathered. DCC ready, boxed. Untested, but like-new condition. **Sold for £100, Potteries Auctions, April.**



♣ Midsummer Models, a boxed MSM001 1:24 Scale Burrell Showman's Engine No.2668 "Britannia". condition generally appears to be Excellent in a generally Excellent box with internal Polystyrene and generally Fair to Good mailout box with foam packing. **Sold for £170, Vectis Auctions, April.**



♣ Bachmann OO gauge 31-186ASF LMS Jubilee Class Hood BR Lined Green late crest. DCC ready, boxed. Untested, but like-new condition. **Sold for £110, Potteries Auctions, April.**



♣ Roundhouse Engineering "O" Gauge/7mm 0-4-0 Bulldog diesel shunter locomotive. finished in red and black, no insignia. Untested but in very good condition. **Sold for £110, Potteries Auctions, April.**



♣ Bowman O gauge Model No. 234 live steam 4-4-0 locomotive in green livery. incorrect tender, locomotive seems complete, but not guaranteed. Untested. **Sold for £70, Potteries Auctions, April.**



♣ Bachmann OO Gauge 30420 Western Pullman Ultima Set. Excellent, lacks control unit, box excellent. **Sold for £160, Tennants Auctions, April.**



♣ Bachmann OO Gauge 31235Z Class 205 2 Car DMU Set. Good, excellent box. **Sold for £120, Tennants Auctions, April.**



♣ Bachmann OO Gauge 31426A Class 411 4 Car EMU Set. Excellent, box excellent. **Sold for £90, Tennants Auctions, April.**



♣ Bachmann OO Gauge 32485SF Class 40 Diesel BR D365. Excellent, box excellent. **Sold for £120, Tennants Auctions, April.**



♣ Broadway Limited Imports HO Gauge 019 PRR T1 Unlettered Locomotive. Excellent, box excellent. **Sold for £170, Tennants Auctions, April.**



♣ Broadway Limited Imports HO Gauge 2502 Baldwin Centipede A-A Set. Pennsylvania Railroad 5829 and 5817, Sound & Operation for DC and DCC. **Sold for £160, Tennants Auctions, April.**



♣ Broadway Limited Imports HO Gauge 5930 PRR PSA Boxcab 4733. Excellent, box excellent. **Sold for £100, Tennants Auctions, April.**



♣ Broadway Limited Imports HO Gauge 6976 Union Pacific 4-12-2 Locomotive 9079. Excellent, box excellent. **Sold for £280, Tennants Auctions, April.**



♣ Broadway Limited Imports HO Gauge 7800 PRR Q2 Duplex Locomotive 6131. Excellent, box excellent. **Sold for £320, Tennants Auctions, April.**



♣ Broadway Limited Imports HO Gauge GG1 Electric PRR 4876. Excellent, box excellent. **Sold for £120, Tennants Auctions, April.**



♣ Annette Himstedt Doll 'Esme' (1997). presented with long auburn hair, dressed in her original dress and pinafore. complete with box and certificate of authenticity. **Sold for £70, Potteries Auctions, April.**



♣ Annette Himstedt Doll 'Marile'. presented in her original dress, pinafore and boots complete with original box. **Sold for £90, Potteries Auctions, April.**



♣ Annette Himstedt Doll 'Krissi 1'. presented in blue silk dress with pale blue over pinafore complete with original box. **Sold for £80, Potteries Auctions, April.**



♣ Hildegard Gunzel Doll 'Binella II'. from Walterhausen in Germany presented in a silk embroidered dress and hat with blonde hair, complete with original box. **Sold for £75, Potteries Auctions, April.**



♣ **LEGO Ideas, The Office** 21336. has been built once. Not guaranteed for completeness. **Sold for £80, Potteries Auctions, April.**



♣ **LEGO Marvel, Daily Bugle** set no.76178. has been built. Looks complete but not guaranteed. **Sold for £170, Potteries Auctions, April.**



♣ **LEGO Ideas, Home Alone House**, no.21330. sealed. Excellent condition. **Sold for £240, Potteries Auctions, April.**



♣ **LEGO Star Wars Mos Eisley Cantina**, no.75290. sealed. Excellent condition. **Sold for £300, Potteries Auctions, April.**



♣ **LEGO Ideas, Medieval Blacksmith**, set no.21235. sealed. Box has shelf wear and creases to due shipping. **Sold for £110, Potteries Auctions, April.**



♣ **LEGO Ideas, Pirates of Barracuda Bay**, set no.21322. sealed. Excellent condition. **Sold for £240, Potteries Auctions, April.**



♣ **LEGO Lion Knights' Castle**, set no.10305. sealed. Excellent condition. **Sold for £340, Potteries Auctions, April.**



♣ **LEGO Icons, Eldorado Fortress**, set no.10320. sealed. Excellent condition. **Sold for £200, Potteries Auctions, April.**



♣ **Steffi Teddy Baby Blue**, white tag 037085, LE 1500, 2007. Good Plus to Excellent, within Fair Plus box. **Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, April.**



♣ **Charlie Bears Dylan**, CBM 16070, LE 26/200, 2006. a little duty otherwise Good to Good Plus. **Sold for £240, Vectis Auctions, April.**



♣ **Charlie Bears Biddles**, CB 083847, designed by Lisa Rosenbaum. a little dusty otherwise Good to Good Plus. **Sold for £70, Vectis Auctions, April.**



♣ **Bear Studio Isabelle Collection Bhada** artist designed panda bear (pre-Charlie Bears). a little dusty otherwise Good to Good Plus. **Sold for £260, Vectis Auctions, April.**



♣ **Charlie Bears Bear Studio Marina** panda bear. a little dusty otherwise Good to Good Plus. **Sold for £80, Vectis Auctions, April.**



♣ **Charlie Bears GumBoots Red Fox**. Excellent, slight storage odour, with carry bag. **Sold for £120, Vectis Auctions, April.**



♣ **Charlie Bears Runes Dragon**. canvas bag, Excellent Plus to Near Mint. **Sold for £540, Vectis Auctions, April.**



♣ **Lego Technic Car Transporter - Set 42098 - New in box.** Set - Excellent, Box - Opened one end and a little scuffed. **Sold for £120, Best Model Toys, April.**



♣ **Lego Technic Land Rover Defender - Set 42110.** New in sealed box - Set - Excellent, Box - Very Good. **Sold for £140, Best Model Toys, April.**



♣ **Charlie Bears Rodders cat.** plush, swing label, Excellent to Excellent Plus. **Sold for £110, Vectis Auctions, April.**



♣ **Steff Studio Disney Dumbo,** yellow tag 501067. plush, wired ears (left ear is floppy), swing label, chest tag, Good Plus to Excellent. **Sold for £190, Vectis Auctions, April.**



♣ **Charlie Bears Isabelle Collection Amos teddy bear.** UK Exclusive, designed by Isabelle Lee, grey mohair with black tip and brown backing, with swing label certificate, carry bag, Excellent Plus to Near Mint. **Sold for £300, Vectis Auctions, April.**



♣ **Mattel Barbie 1965 Barbie Collector.** within Good box (edge wear mostly to corners), Excellent. **Sold for £120, Vectis Auctions, April.**



♣ **Mattel Silkstone Barbie Mad Men Betty Draper.** within Good Plus to Excellent box (some edge wear to corners), Excellent to Near Mint. **Sold for £190, Vectis Auctions, April.**



♣ **Mattel Silkstone Barbie Preferably Pink, Gold Label, Robert Best Collection.** within Good Plus to Excellent Box, unchecked for completeness or correctness, Excellent to Near Mint. **Sold for £240, Vectis Auctions, April.**



♣ **Mattel Silkstone Barbie Palm beach Coral, fashion model collection.** within Good Plus to Excellent Box, unchecked for completeness or correctness, Excellent to Near Mint. **Sold for £200, Vectis Auctions, April.**



♣ **Marx (British) boxed Automatic Fire Station, 1950s.** 1950s, tinplate tin printed Fire Station with red plastic doors, friction driven Fire Chief car, good condition. **Sold for £110, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, April.**



♣ **Mettoy tinplate clockwork Fire Engine, 1950s.** tin printed in red with white details, extending ladder and three seated Firemen, Dunlop 90 wheels, 34cm (13 3/8") long, very good working condition. **Sold for £120, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, April.**



♣ **Louis Marx tinplate model of a crawler tractor.** comprising silver body with black tracks, fixed key mechanism. **Sold for £10, Lacy Scott & Knight, April.**



♣ **Kosuge miniature tinplate and clockwork model of a Campbell's Land Speed Record Car.** The clockwork motor still works. **Sold for £30, Lacy Scott & Knight, April.**



♣ **Joustra No.2003 Radar Car,** tinplate and clockwork model. two tone green body, housed in the original box, box Average. **Sold for £10, Lacy Scott & Knight, April.**



♣ **Doll & Co Tinplate model of a water pump with a tap mechanism and a bucket.** in green and light green body, heavily corroded and fatigued model. **Sold for £15, Lacy Scott & Knight, April.**



♣ **A well made plastic and wooden radio controlled model of a 6 wheel military truck with matching 4 wheel trailer.** finished in maroon with hand set. **Sold for £40, Lacy Scott & Knight, April.**



♣ **Kingsbury of America, tinplate and clockwork model of Bluebird Land Speed Record Car.** blue body with driver figures, with American Flag to rear fin, mechanism in working order, silver hubs and black tyres. **Sold for £180, Lacy Scott & Knight, April.**



♣ **Tinplate Penny toys clockwork Racing boat, German 1920s,** three wheel boat. lithographed in brown, white and yellow, with pilot and no.5 flag in good working condition. **Sold for £160, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, April.**



♣ **Tinplate Penny toys clockwork two funnel Steam boat.** German 1920s, lithographed with red and orange lining, portholes and anchors - fair to good condition, spring broken. **Sold for £70, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, April.**



♣ **Schuco (US zone) 1012 Mirakomot Tinplate Motorcycle.** litho printed tin, beige rider, with white helmet, red motorcycle, in good used original condition, surface rust to tank, working clockwork mechanism, with a key. *Sold for £60, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, April.*



♣ **Hudson Scott & Sons (Carlisle England) Tinplate Truck.** litho printed tin, eight spoke wheels, working clockwork mechanism with fixed key, in very good original condition. *Sold for £160, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, April.*



♣ **Yoneya (Japanese) Vintage Tinplate Jumping Rocket RS-45,** circa 1960's. litho tin printing, working clockwork mechanism, with fixed key, in excellent original condition, some patina. *Sold for £170, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, April.*



♣ **Wells-Brimtoy Tinplate Mickey Mouse Handcar,**(England) circa 1936. tinplate lithographed, working clockwork mechanism, with key, handcar with Pluto and Horace Horsecollar to sides and moulded painted composition Mickey and Minnie figures, in good original condition. *Sold for £400, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, April.*



♣ **A tinplate clockwork Carousel.** German circa 1910, the cream and gold painted Carousel with decorative pierced base and canopy, good to fair working condition, some paint loss. *Sold for £160, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, April.*



♣ **A Boxed Codeg Product (England) Tinplate Caravantics Eccentric Mechanical Toy.** litho tin printing, working clockwork mechanism, with fixed key, in very good original condition, illustrated box is in good original condition, complete with all end flaps, some edge/age wear. *Sold for £130, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, April.*



♣ **KO Yoshiya clockwork tinplate High Wheel Robot,** Japanese 1950s. the black Robot with red wheels, red eyes, plastic pincers hands and gear machine to stomach, when wound walks forward whilst gears rotate. *Sold for £110, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, April.*



♣ **Masudaya Modern Toys tinplate friction driven Police Motorcyclist P.D 26,** Japanese circa 1960. tin printed in bright colours with details, blue Police rider, good working condition. *Sold for £85, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, April.*



♣ **Scarce W&R Jacob & Co Ltd Railway Passenger coach Biscuit tin.** circa 1910, the four wheel First Class No.1 Dining Saloon car with lithographed details including Guards, Chef and passengers, fair to good condition, some wear to be expected. *Sold for £880, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, April.*



♣ **Lehmann (Germany) EPL 700 Also Tinplate Automobile.** yellow/red lithographed tin motor vehicle, with driver, green spoked tin wheels, working clockwork mechanism with fixed key, in excellent original condition. *Sold for £260, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, April.*



♣ **Marx (New York) tinplate clockwork Police Motorbike with sidecar.** 1950s, yellow tin printed No.3 motorbike and sidecar with details, seated Policeman, stop/start lever and working siren, good working condition. *Sold for £190, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, April.*



♣ **Boxed Schuco 1055 clockwork Go-Kart,** W.Germany circa 1960. tinplate Go-Kart with tin printed detailed rear engine with clockwork motor, red plastic driver and steering wheel, very good working condition, in a good original box with instructions and key. *Sold for £100, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, April.*



♣ **A Rare Burnett (England) Clockwork B Type London General Double Decker Omnibus.** circa 1920's lithographed tinplate body, Highgate Stn, route 27A 'Bovril & Nestle' side adverts, with driver, fixed key, working clockwork mechanism, balloon tin plate wheels, in excellent original condition. *Sold for £5,800, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, April.*

# eBuys

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



**Item:** Kyosho 1/12 Scale Diecast 08603S2 Aston Martin V12 Vanquish Road Version.  
**Condition:** Excellent condition, unboxed.  
**Sold for:** £156.70 (1 bid).



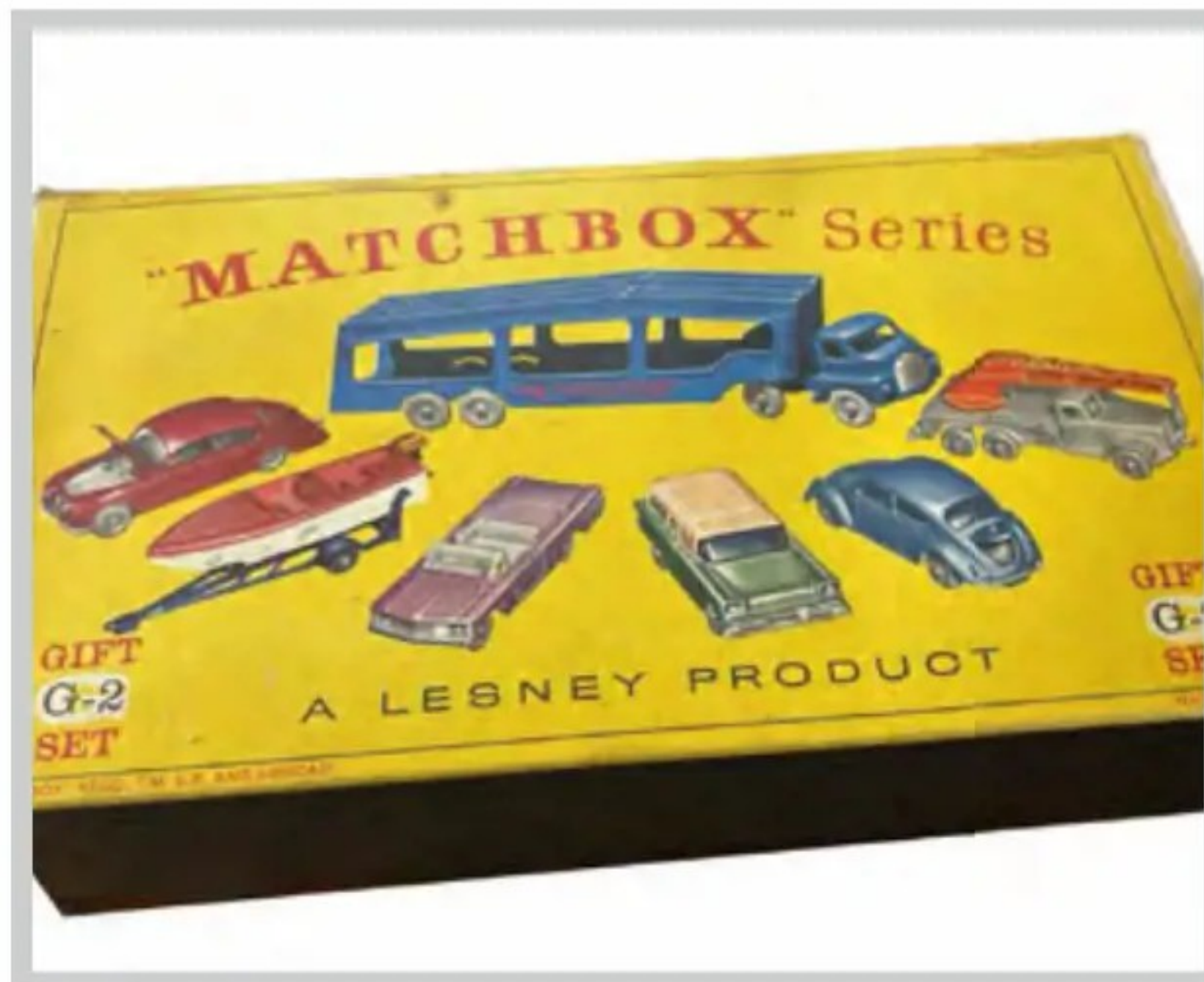
**Item:** Sun Star - 1963 Morris Minor 1000 1:12 Scale Diecast Model Replica.  
**Condition:** Excellent condition, in original box.  
**Sold for:** £156.01 (27 bids).



**Item:** Hot Wheels Elite Herbie Volkswagen Beetle Diecast Boxed Very Rare 1:18 Scale.  
**Condition:** Near mint condition, in original box.  
**Sold for:** £305.20 (4 bids).



**Item:** Fordson model tractor unknown make.  
**Condition:** Fair condition, unboxed, needs repairs.  
**Sold for:** £305.20 (16 bids).



**Item:** Matchbox Series G-2 Gift Set by Lesney.  
**Condition:** All Original with Box - Not Perfect.  
**Sold for:** £512.94 (15 bids).



**Item:** Hot Wheels Hunt Ferrari F40 Competizione.  
**Condition:** Brand new, unopened.  
**Sold for:** £185.30 (14 bids).



**Item:** Tekno Rare Muller Muhammad Ali With Fridge Trailer.  
**Condition:** With signature and in mint condition.  
**Sold for:** £291.20 (17 bids).



**Item:** Kyosho 1:18 Austin Healey 3000 MK III Red.  
**Condition:** Near mint condition, only some dust due to being in storage, in original display box.  
**Sold for:** £323.92 (12 bids).



**Item:** Spot On Aston Martin diecast car.  
**Condition:** In very good condition and in original box.  
**Sold for:** £133.08 (19 bids).



**Item:** Vintage 1968 Louis Marx & Co. "Thor" Tin.  
**Condition:** Super Rare, First Marvel Toy. Very few are For Sale, fair condition due to age.  
**Sold for:** £519.21 (1 bid).



**Item:** Masudaya Modern Toys 60s Capsule 6 Space Tin Toy boxed working -battery Operated.  
**Condition:** Great condition for age, the box is fair.  
**Sold for:** £377.77 (13 bids).



**Item:** Hot Toys - Star Wars Boba Fett 1/4 Scale Special Edition Figure.  
**Condition:** Mint condition in original box.  
**Sold for:** £247.00 (5 bids).



**Item:** LEGO 910054 - Bricklink - The Art Factory.  
**Condition:** In brand new, sealed and still in original box.  
**Sold for:** £260.26 (21 bids).



**Item:** Dinky Toys 28k Delivery Van Type 1 "Marsh And Sausages" Made In England.  
**Condition:** Peeling paint, slightly damaged.  
**Sold for:** £737.40 (1 bid).



**Item:** Jellycat - Syllabub Swan - Chime Plush Soft Toy 8.5" Retired Pink Swan Baby.  
**Condition:** Good condition, needs a wash.  
**Sold for:** £213.90 (35 bids).



**Item:** Antique Schuco German Walt Disney Donald Duck Tinplate Clockwork Toy.  
**Condition:** Great condition considering age.  
**Sold for:** £311.00 (17 bids).



**Item:** Vintage Jouets Citroen B-14 Coupe French tin-plate clockwork toy car.  
**Condition:** Average condition, missing parts.  
**Sold for:** £567.20 (26 bids).



**Item:** Vintage Tinplate Battery-Operated Fred Flintstone's Bedrock Band, Alps Japan.  
**Condition:** IVery good with minor playwear..  
**Sold for:** £262.00 (21 bids).



**Item:** Tekno Scania R Next Gen 6x2 with 3 axle tipper trailer Patrick Van Der Hoeven.  
**Condition:** Great condition, unboxed.  
**Sold for:** £132.08 (7 bids).



**Item:** ERTL / Joyride 1:18 Diecast - Pontiac Trans-Am - K.I.T.T. Knight Rider.  
**Condition:** Great condition, in original display box.  
**Sold for:** £200.00 (30 bids).



**Item:** Corgi Toys, Gift Set Number 8 Lions of Longleat, rare Original.  
**Condition:** Great condition, in original box.  
**Sold for:** £254.00 (30 bids).

**F**ounded in 2014, Tarmac Works have raised the bar in terms of level of detail, which was previously only reserved for a few select brands. Indeed, this is shown through their HOBBY64 series, with the Group B rally cars displaying exceptional modelling in 1:64 scale. The opportunity to discuss all things diecast with Director Felix Kwong and the team was too good a chance to miss and we are delighted to share our exclusive interview in our 'Meet the maker' series.

**DC: Tarmac Works has built a very strong identity in a relatively short time. How did the brand originally come about, and what gap were you trying to fill in the market?**

A decade ago, detailed 1:64 scale model cars were a rare genre, with only a few brands making them in several regions. So, a few car enthusiasts got together and looked to create a different kind of model car company. The aim: to create models that we and other fellow collectors would love, because nobody else in the world is making these models. And thus, the dream was conceived: to bring premium-quality 1:64 scale model cars to car lovers around the world.

**DC: At the very beginning, what mattered more to you: accuracy, packaging, or subject choice – and has that balance changed over time?**

Choosing the first model was a really hard choice. With so many cars to pick from, we began our first model with one of the most under-appreciated cars in the model car world – the Honda Civic EG6. In Southeast Asian markets such as Hong Kong, Malaysia and the Philippines, this car brings so many fond memories because we have either owned one or have a friend who has had one. So, to many, it is a model car that we must have.

From then on, we've had many more decisions to make, along with much thought that goes into each choice of subject or packaging. One thing that hasn't changed over the years is the importance of the community's voice. We are always listening to collectors around the world for their honest opinions. We understand we can't please everyone, but we try to do so one step at a time.

One example is that we recently announced we will add blister packs as a regular packaging option for our GLOBAL64 line. Many collectors worldwide have shown interest in collecting blister packs for their more appealing, larger designs, as they can display the model inside the blister alongside the packaging art. That's



# Tarmac Works

Few model brands have made such a direct impact on the 1:64 scene as Tarmac Works. **Keith D'Souza** speaks to Felix Kwong and the team behind the brand.

why we are now making the previously regional exclusive blister available for all our collectors around the globe.

**DC: Collectors often talk about 'the Tarmac Works look'. How would you personally define that, and how do you make sure it stays consistent across different ranges and scales?**

That's an interesting way to describe us. It's always challenging to define us as a fixed style – Tarmac is a very flexible brand that adapts in different ways. If there has to be a 'Tarmac Works look', it will be the first impression of you seeing the collectable in person. We put a lot of thought into designing the diecast packaging and bases, making them stand out in the current market. We never cut corners in our products' packaging designs to give collectors the whole package. We want every collector to fully experience the story that goes behind each car, no matter if they are opening up a new diecast or ripping open a card pack.

**Felix Kwong:** "In this sense, I would say the 'the Tarmac Works look' is not only about producing the model car or the cards, but to take a step further as every model and card reflects the

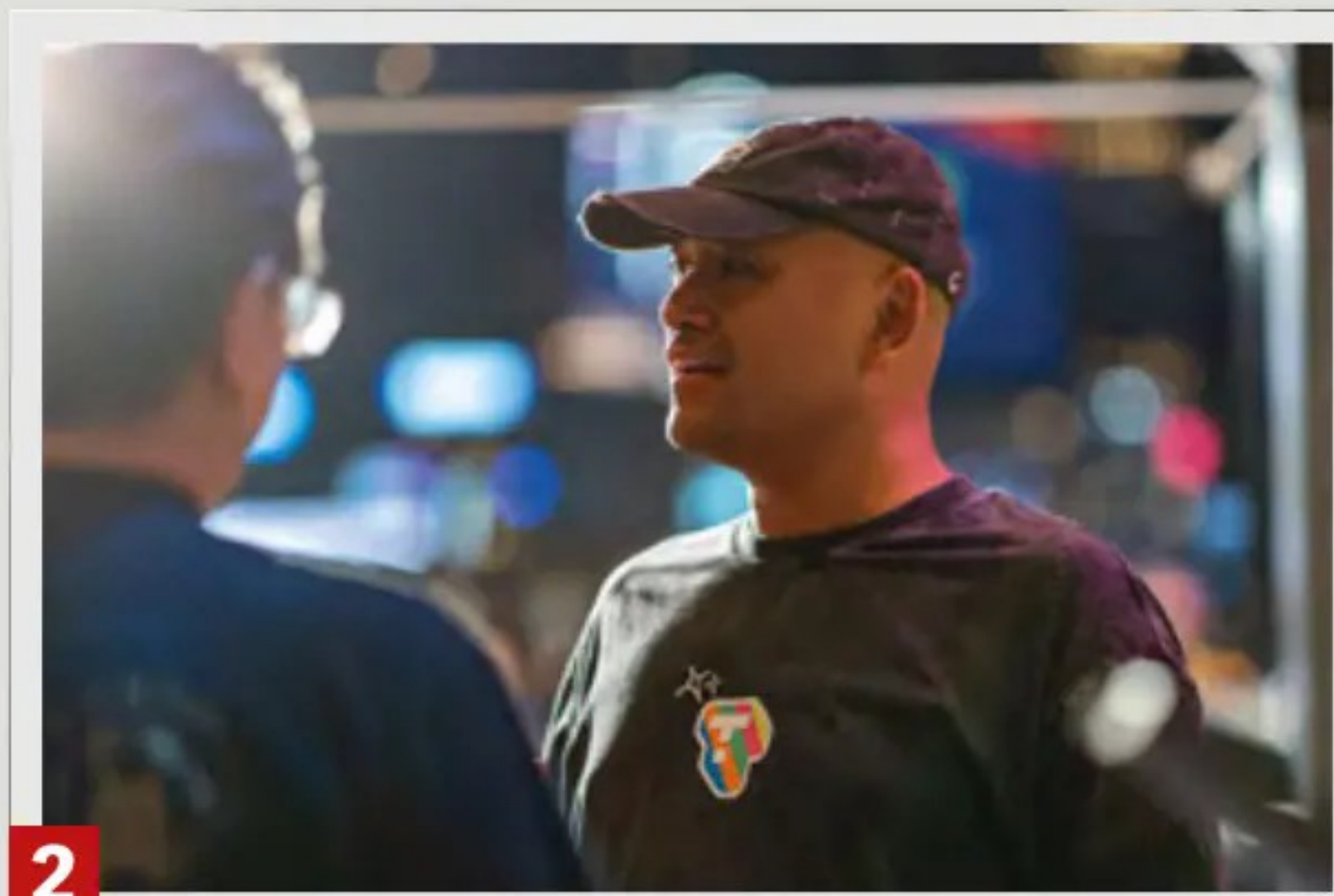
*real vehicles we admire, capturing not just the physical details but also the spirit and essence of each car and share it through the overall design from outside the packages to the inside matters to us as well."*

We aim to share a story with our collectors, creating an immersive experience that resonates with their passion for car culture. It's this attention to every aspect of our products that embodies what we consider to be the true Tarmac Works look.

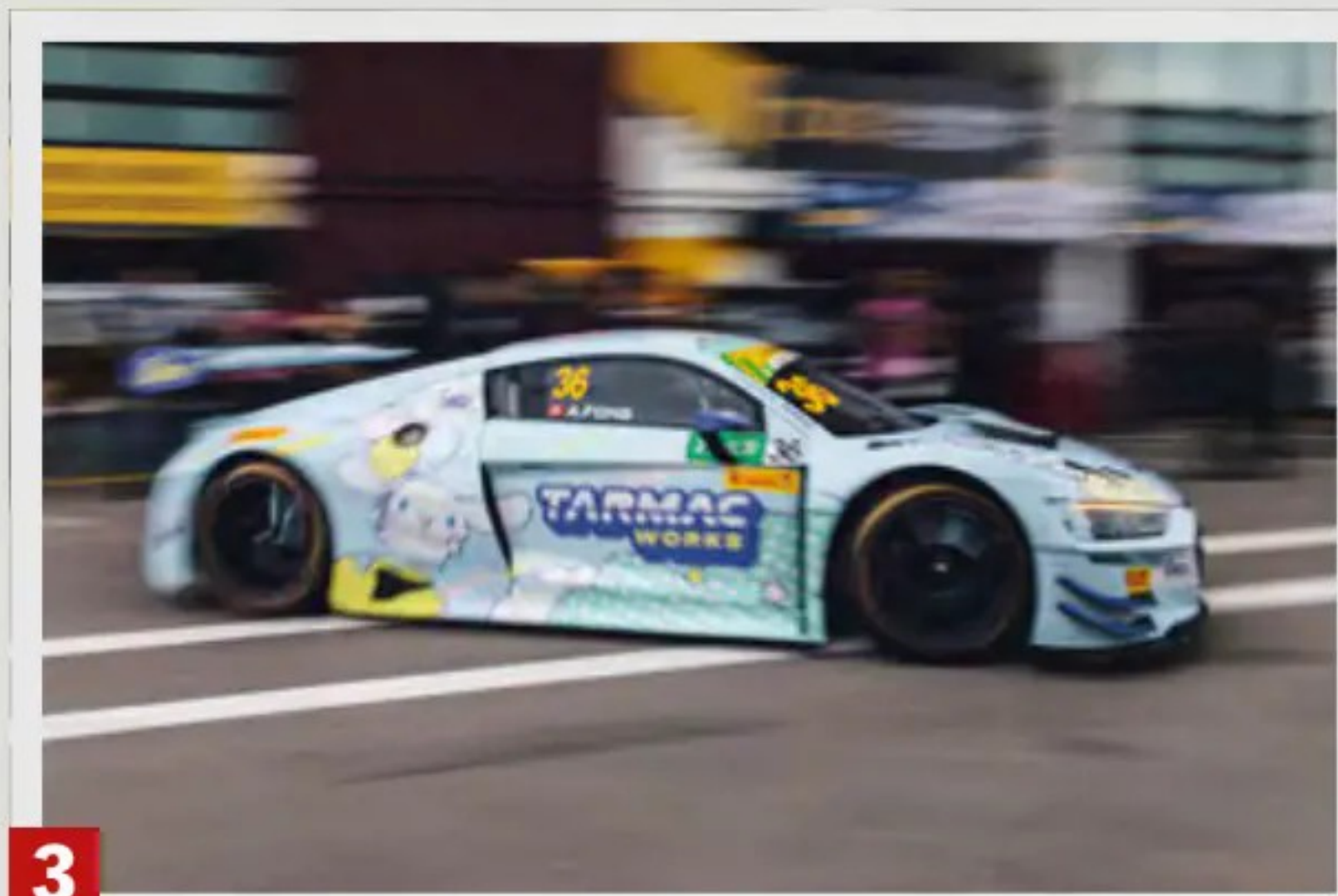
**DC: What part of the model-making process tends to generate the most discussion internally – tooling, tampo design, colours, or something else?**

It's always the car selection that gets the most heated discussion in the team, and we all have our favourites. Sometimes there'll be hot debates on which model or which racing livery to do next. Of course, we want to do them all eventually, but picking who's going to go first is always an interesting and fun process within the team. But I guess that's part of the result of having a team full of passionate people who love what they do.

1. Tarmac Works HQ.



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- 2. Director Felix Kwong, Tarmac Works.
- 3. Tarmac Works sponsored Audi R8 at the 2025 Macau GP.
- 4. Never one to follow the path – the Citroën Type H pre-pro shows how Tarmac Works captures the mainstream and the forgotten in 1:64 scale.
- 5. Tarmac Works portfolio covers the breath of road, race and rally in small scale.

*market's first premium automotive collectable cards. And now the cards lineup spans across tuning giants like Liberty Walk, RWB, Top Secret, and Vertex, as well as manufacturers like Honda, Koenigsegg, Mitsubishi, and more. The possibilities are simply endless for collecting cards with so little limitations in comparison to model cars. We have been introducing the collecting cards into the diecast world with the Combo Sets, and in the future, we will be building a stronger bond between our diecast models and the cards as well. I want to keep things a surprise for now, so we encourage collectors to check out specials for what is coming soon."*

**DC: Licensing and collaborations are a key part of your portfolio. How do you decide which partners are the right fit for Tarmac Works?**

We are always looking for like-minded people to work together and share the joyfulness of the car community and beyond. That's why we have worked with anime, characters, fashion and lifestyle, gaming, charities, and so much more to spread happiness within the collecting realms.

**DC: Tarmac Works has a very engaged collector base. How important is direct feedback from collectors when shaping future releases?**

We are very thankful to have a loyal and supportive fan base ever since we started. Our team is always scrolling through the comments and is also very active in different online groups and forums. We appreciate everyone giving their time and

effort to share feedback. It's our driving force to be better and better in our journey to constantly improve our product offering.

**DC: Can you recall a situation where collector feedback directly influenced or changed a model or range?**

In our earlier years, we often share our model making process on our Facebook page with collectors, one time we shared an early deco sample and kind fans were there to comment and remind us of the differences it had with the real car, although many differences were already on our list of improvement, we still had missed the sunroof detail, which we added later on the production model. It wouldn't have happened without the fans' caring feedback.

**DC: Looking ahead, what excites you most about the future of Tarmac Works over the next few years?**

We will continue to explore new genres of cars no one ever expected, like the Citroën H Van we are announcing in 2026. We also plan to be more active in bringing famous IPs and our unique livery designs to motorsports such as Initial D, Sanrio and others.

**DC: Finally, what would you like to say to collectors who are only just discovering Tarmac Works now?**

As a team, we are delighted to have every single diecast hobbyist join the fun of collecting, no matter which of our scaled model portfolios excites you the most now. We hope our hard work will make you enjoy the collectable in your hands more. And our wish is that you would find yourself having a collection of diecast and cards that you would be proud of, no matter if you are sharing it with the world with a reel, or admiring it alone on a breezy afternoon with a cup of coffee. ■

**DC: As the brand has grown, what have been the biggest challenges behind the scenes that collectors might not immediately see?**

To always keep moving and be willing to jump out of the box. We started from doing replicas of real-life cars, to creating our own livery designs with brands outside the model car circle. We then expand our reach by sponsoring real-life and sim racing teams and making our own liveries through collaborations that no one expected, such as the Hello Kitty's debut at the Macau Grand Prix 2022 and the more recent Bathurst 12 Hours with Initial D, which is a testament to that.

**Felix Kwong:** "It's one thing to keep doing model cars after model cars, but it's a whole new world to explore more outside the box and reach new areas. That's also part of the main thinking behind Tarmac Cards - our two-year-old new venture into collectable cards. I've always been a fan of trading cards since I was a kid, so it's deep down a dream fulfilled for me as well. We see many people want to chase after the thrill of finding surprises from blind boxes and card packs, so we decided to combine our existing connections with automotive licensors and the brand's fun and flexible side to create the

Inevitably, with such an undertaking as the A-Z, a number of companies didn't get a look-in. A handful of these are presented here to conclude my trawl through the alphabet - although I'm very well aware that lots of others are lurking about! But pagination space in the Diecast Collector is finite...

Let's start with Agora: founded during Covid in the UK, this enterprise brings to the market very high quality kits in large scales (think 1/8 for most), primarily utilising diecast parts. Sports cars, track cars, commercials, ships and even a robot or two can be found; assembly relies mostly on bolts and screws, and the detail is impressive, as indeed is their cost. Ideal for those with limited modelling skills, the build-up results are something to drool over.

From Belgium comes Gasquy SepToy (or rather, came, for the company was wound up in the 1950s). Output from this company was in the ever-popular 1/43 scale and was focused on American marques in the main, with the occasional aberration, such as a Czech car. Both road and track cars were covered, and there was a smattering of commercials, too. Quality was so-so, and, like early Matchbox miniatures, the models lacked interiors and glazing.

London-based Agasee & Brooks possibly won't be known to many readers. Founded in 1947, Samuel Agasee and Alfred Brooks went their separate ways a year later. Identification of these Lesney scale miniatures is difficult, and it's extremely likely that some models were retailed under other manufacturers' names. The range includes motorcycles, a tipping lorry and a fire engine; under the solo Agasee moniker, more items were added, including a road sweeper, a monkey on a soapbox racer (!), a bulldozer and various double-decker buses. Output ceased in the early 1950s.

Bradshaw Model Products was yet another company to arise from the ashes of post-war Britain. In all, just five models in 1/76 scale were released, all reflecting popular British cars: an Austin A30, a Riley 1.5, a Morris 6, a Morris Minor and a Jaguar Mk VIII, although this latter (and final model) was



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# A-Z of collecting

Alwyn Brice's presents a quick round-up of some of the diecast names that slipped through the net.

billed as a plastic car. Fairly rough and ready, nonetheless, they doubtless plugged a vital gap in those austerity years.

For Arbur, I'm indebted yet again to colleague Robert Newson, who specialises in digging up details of obscure manufacturers long defunct, usually the ones you've never heard of. Established in 1946 by two bus drivers (yes, really), this again was another example of a London-based enterprise, albeit one that also died a death around two or three years later. The range produced in 1/76 is very Lesney-like, it has to be said, but there is plenty of innovation apparent in these simplistic models. A fire engine, various lorries and a box van may be par for the course in terms of modelled miniatures, since many companies made such items; but Arbur also manufactured a replica of the Gardner

MG Magnette record-breaking car and even tooled up for an articulated log carrier.

Revalo is the British company behind the amazing Amalgam range and manufactures in 1/5, 1/8, 1/12, 1/18 and 1/43 scale. Racing cars, luxury cars and historically significant cars are its stock in trade, but before you get too excited, it's worth mentioning that these miniatures are simply exquisite in their build and detail - and on a different plane. Thus, if you want a 1/8 scale model of the championship-winning 2025 McLaren as driven by Lando Norris, that'll set you back a whisker under £9,000. However, should the 1930s exert a pull, try the divine Bugatti Type 35 in 1/8; but if the £18,000 price tag is hard to justify to the other half, you might opt for the Bugatti Type 59 in 1/18 at a mere £1,200. (Failing that, browsing the



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- 1. Unusual trade box of Bradcars, showing several varieties of the very limited range.
- 2. This motorcyclist is from Agasee & Brooks; a swivelling stand was also incorporated.
- 3. Delightful Arbur log carrier dates from a simpler age.
- 4. A pair of Arbur open-backed lorries; like most of the range, brass hubs were utilised.
- 5. Clown and a dog with a penny farthing – an unusual model combination from Agasee.

- 6. Lamborghini's Revuelto in 1/8 scale might be the closest you'll ever get to the real thing.
- 7. Ferrari's 250LM was (and still is) a stunning creation, despite its age.
- 8. This 1959 Cooper T51 in 1/43 from Biante shows the company's attention to detail.
- 9. Holden ZB Commodore from Biante in stunning 1/18: there's plenty to delight here.
- 10. Diapet's Mitsubishi Fuso Greyhound bus: a bit different from the American cross-state staple.

company's website will be a cheaper option!).

Brighton Manufacturing operated between 1916 and 1934, but not much has come to light about this particular UK company. Military figures, plus Wild West subjects, have been noted; it also produced waterline ships, rather akin to those of Tremo and Tri-ang.

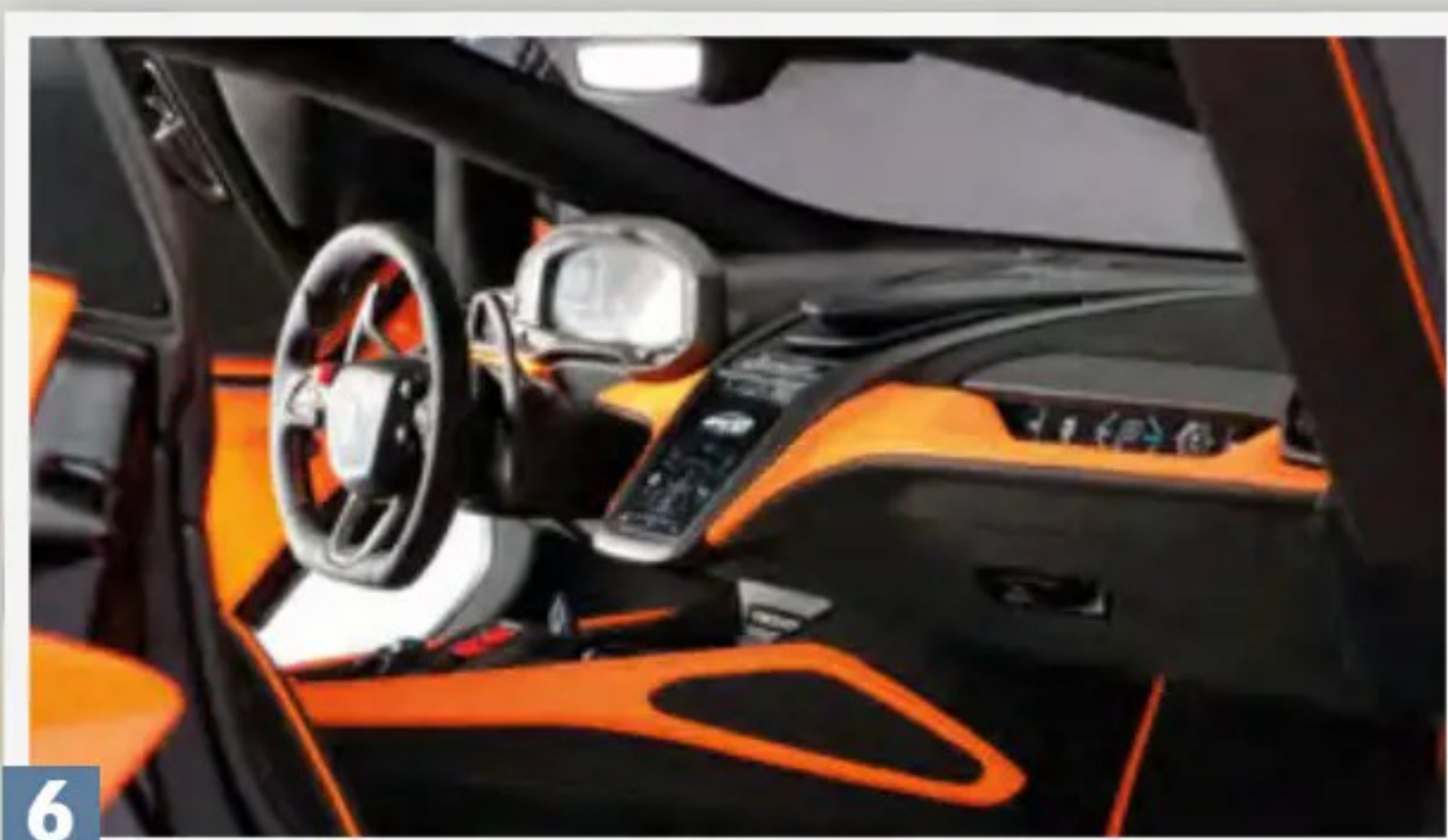
Hailing from Perth in Australia, Biante is by all accounts one of the leading brands down under, one that dates back to 1998. Scales range from 1/18 through 1/43 to 1/64, so there's pretty much something for everyone. If your particular bent is that of Australian cars, then this company is worth checking out; and if it's the liveried rally cars that turn you on, then you'll be saturated with choice. Colourful and well-detailed, these replicas really look the business, and a few on a shelf will stand out in any collection. These are, to

my mind, in the mid-price bracket, although I imagine that buying one from Oz, bearing in mind postage charges and customs fees, might make the final acquisition a tad costly.

Finally, Diapet is the name of a series of diecast toys which were produced by Yonezawa Toys of Japan, when the latter company (renowned for its tinplate models) took over the Cherryca Phenix brand. Utilising (mostly) the slightly odd 1/40 scale, the range encompasses cars (often Japanese), commercial vehicles and the like, whilst other scales have brought earth-moving equipment, emergency services and coaches to the mix. Quality-wise, the small scale range is pretty good, with opening features evident. Cost-wise, the majority are inexpensive but may be difficult to track down on these shores. ■



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# Paul McCartney's Mini

Sometimes an exciting must-have release inspires a new collecting theme, and Matrix's exquisite model of Sir Paul McCartney's green 1965 Radford Mini Cooper S, a few years back, rang bells for previous efforts by Corgi and Vanguards, which were recently reinforced by Corgi Model Club's reissues of the period #334 Mini Cooper Magnifique, an enigmatic identity which never quite made sense.

## CELEBRITY MINIS

Many celebrities owned Minis during - \*\*\* cliché alert \*\*\* - the Swinging Sixties, usually after lavishing lots of dosh on bespoke luxury upgrades by prestigious coachbuilding firms. Possibly the first famous example was Peter Sellers' black 1963 Morris Mini Cooper, prepared by Hoopers, who created another for Lord Snowdon and Princess Margaret and then withdrew from such projects. Harold Radford and later Wood & Pickett picked up the baton, creating further Minis for Sellers, then the Beatles, George Best, Steve McQueen, James Garner, Mike Nesmith of the Monkees, Mick Jagger, Elton John, and even the Sultan of Brunei. Other celebrity Mini owners included Lulu, Twiggy and Spike Milligan. Due to the extra weight, most were based on the Mini Cooper S in either Austin or Morris versions; however, the differences were trivial.

Paul McCartney's Radford-built Mini Cooper S became one of the most recognisable celebrity Minis of the 1960s. **David Lynn** compares versions from Vanguards, Corgi and Matrix.

The Beatles had several Minis, but the famous quartet were all 1965-66 Radford de Villes commissioned by their manager Brian Epstein. John Lennon's was an all-black 1965 Austin, with a 1966 plate LGF 696D, and appears in several archive clips. Brief 1968 footage shows it was later reworked into cream over pale green with a tailgate and treble tail-light format, but its fate is unknown. Ringo Starr's elegant silver over maroon Austin (LLO 836D) received a tailgate and sliding rear seat to accommodate his drum-kit and is now owned by former Spice Girl Geri Halliwell. George Harrison's Austin LGF 695D was metallic black with horizontal VW rear lights, but in 1967 was resprayed red and given an (in)famous psychedelic colour scheme for the "Magical Mystery Tour" film. It is still owned by Harrison's widow, Olivia, but is rarely seen.

Paul's Mini, GGJ 382C, was the only Morris-badged representative. As he was an Aston Martin enthusiast, it featured their California Sage metallic green and DB5-like treble round rear lights in a small hooded extension; ironically, the DB5 actually used

Lucas-supplied units from the Hillman Imp. An online auction notice from 2018 provides a stunning selection of pictures for assessing the models; it sold for £182,500, a world record for a classic Mini.

## EARLY VERSIONS

The first modern release came from Vanguards for the Mini's 50th anniversary in 2009, as VA02531 in an edition of 2300. This is nicely done, with a good representation of the colour and simple but effective details such as Morris badges, the closed sunroof as a black pad, twin spotlights (although on the bumper rather than sitting in the grille), black-centre Minilites as seen in the 2018 pictures, and the treble rear lights as red printed dots on smoothed wings to remove the normal Mk1 nodule, albeit without the hood or recognising the lowest were white reversing lights and the door windows are normal Mk1 sliders instead of bespoke quarterlights. These are trivial points, and it's probably one of Vanguards best liveries from this extensively used casting.

Corgi's second interpretation appeared in



2011 as CC82284K in an edition of 5000 and was initially released through the Argos retail chain. Being based on the toy-like 1:36 Mini Mania casting, it is crippled with inaccuracies derived from its 1970s Mk3 Mini features, including the later grille shape, larger rear lights and concealed door hinges; it doesn't even have wipers or mirrors, the opening doors are a shoddy fit, and the green is far too dark, so it is best regarded as only a tokenistic attempt.

However, despite its flaws, it is neatly delivered with several trim highlights, the colour is very rich, especially under natural light, and for those of us who religiously collected the mountain of 1:36 Minis over the years, it was one of the more elegant and quietly understated liveries. It may be an unconvincing McCartney Mini, but it has a charm of its own.

### MATRIX INTERPRETATION

The finale is Matrix's masterpiece, released in their Mini Mania sub-brand (MXMM430031, edition size unknown). It cost over £100 at launch, so very different standards of expectation apply, and the 2018 photos were used to capture every intricate detail, even though some require a magnifying glass to appreciate. The colour has a gorgeous depth, the chrome trim is precisely replicated, including GGJ 382C's particular fittings (hooded rear lights, front spots inset into the grille, badge bar, etc.). The open Webasto sunroof gives a full view of the interior upgrades, including the woodgrain veneer for the Radford dashboard, instrument cluster and door fillets, Moto-Lita wood-rimmed steering

wheel and gear knob, plush bucket seats and central armrest, plated door handles and window winders.

My favourite inclusions are the tiny parking lights on the B-pillars and the wheels - both Corgis and the 2018 auction photos show black Minilites with silver rims, which complement the colour perfectly, but Matrix used earlier archive pictures to reproduce the original sculpted Cosmic alloys. A bonus is a replica of Paul's favourite guitar - a Höfner 500/1 Violin Bass - in a sachet taped to the plinth.

Apart from its wallet-busting price, two issues prevent an unqualified recommendation, with the first being that the front wing and bonnet profiles are a bit blocky, where the Mini shape was more rounded, so some views don't look quite right. The more concerning problem is that the components are too fragile - one door handle fell off when I looked at it too hard, hence there is no passenger side photo, and the radio aerial pinged off during the photo session - so it becomes a look-but-do-not-touch model, which limits its enjoyment.

### MAGNIFIQUE LINK

Corgi's 1968 #334 "Mini Cooper Magnifique" and its recreation by Corgi Model Club can be nominated as a previously unrecognised derivation from McCartney's Mini, particularly in the metallic green livery offered alongside its blue alternative. This was an appropriately magnificent model with a full complement of opening features and deliberate Cooper S detailing. It deviates a bit by mixing Mk1 elements (small rear lights, narrower back window, handlebar bumpers) with those from the October 1967 Mk2 facelift, such as the newer grille shape and boot badging, plus an incongruously striped sunroof, but its luxury Radford-like interior with posh seats and door panels, "wood-rimmed" steering wheel and a fully equipped dashboard creates a strong connection.

However, the clincher is that the casting has a subtle but specific representation of the segmented rear lights rather than the usual small Mk1 oval. It's as if Corgi created the McCartney Mini and then superficially disguised it, perhaps to avoid licensing issues - neither the original nor the reissue ever referenced any connection.

Some of the other celebrity Mini strands mentioned earlier can be followed in miniature form, although the only other Beatles example is Harrison's psychedelic Mini; there are various Sellers Minis, a couple of depictions of McQueen's distinctive "coffee'n'cream" livery, a pink Twiggy promotional, and Spike Milligan's charming bright yellow 1988 Mini Mayfair. However, these are stories for another day. ■



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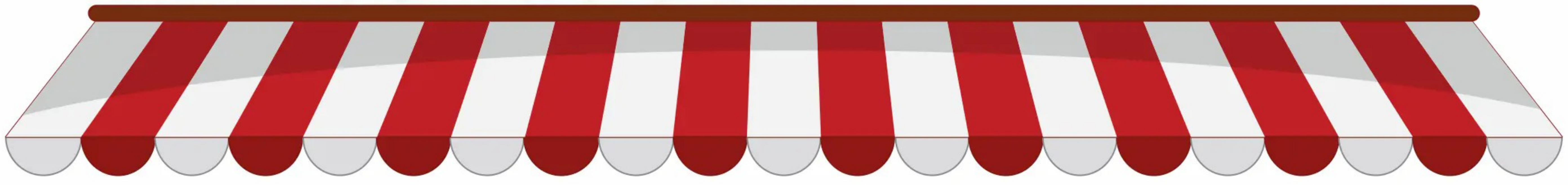
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1. The quartet of McCartney Mini models.
2. Some subtle detail on the Vanguards depiction.
3. Some subtle detail on the Vanguards depiction [as above but different angle].
4. Some fantastic detail on the Matrix masterpiece, before the aerial pinged off.
5. Matrix rear view, with its accompanying replica of Sir Paul's favourite Höfner bass.
6. McCartney-esque detailing on CMC's Mini Magnifique re-issue, including trebled rear lights and a Radford-like luxury interior.

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10am - 2pm » approx. 150 tables » 6ft table £35  
» Admission (16+) £3.50, Accompanied Ch (15 and under) Free

For bookings and further information  
please telephone Lorraine on

**01522 880383**

Email: [jandjfairs@gmail.com](mailto:jandjfairs@gmail.com)

All my childhood friends thought I was a bit odd! Yes I had and played with all the popular diecasts of the time, Corgi's James Bond DB5, the Batmobile, Dinky's metallic red Aston Martin and Pathe News car with the camera man on the roof and I absolutely loved my Corgi Chitty Chitty Bang Bang which I still have and my weekly pocket money was also spent on the latest Matchbox Superfast 1-75 model but I had another miniature passion that they didn't quite get. On a high shelf in my bedroom, out of reach of other little hands, was a line-up of 1/43 diecast Fiat models from Italian firms such as Mercury, Politoys and Mebetoys, relatively unheard of in the UK at that time. These weren't raced around the sitting room, being bounced off skirting boards, or played with in the school playground; they were just looked at and admired, and I kept all the boxes. Friends respected this, but still thought me strange, probably just for the fact that I had a passion for Fiats. That was 1970, I was 7 years old, and those dozen or so models were the start of a collection that is still going strong today, though now they take up an entire room of the house instead of one shelf. During the 60s and 70s, my father worked for Fiat England as a road tester based at their Dover depot, and as a car-mad kid, I virtually lived and breathed Fiat. I was surrounded by the real cars and became obsessed with them; I still am. The model thing happened because in the mid-60s to mid-70s, Fiat were releasing a lot of new cars, and they would always make sure that there was a 1/43 diecast model available to give away at launches and other promotional events at dealers.

These were all made by Turin-based firm Mercury, the first being an 850 Saloon, which was released at the very same time as the real car in 1964, with models of the 124 Saloon, 124 Coupe, 128, 127, and 130 all following in quick succession. In fact, Mercury became known as Fiat's unofficial model maker. Dad used to bring these publicity models home and display them on the mantelpiece, and as he was already into models, he decided to try and get a model of every car that Fiat had produced since its formation in 1899, up to the cars that he worked with all day. With frequent trips to Italy, his collection grew, and he used to give me all his duplicates. Family holidays in Italy were spent hunting for models, much to my mother's dismay, and I remember being there when Fiat released the 131 Mirafiori, and dad and I scoured every toy shop, gift shop, service station shop and Fiat showroom from Turin down to Bari to find all the different 1/43 Mercury models of it! He was quite strict in only allowing one example



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# Your collection: Kevin Brock

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)

of each car, preferably in 1/43 but I'll have anything as long as it's a Fiat and my collection now includes models of vehicles from every part of Fiat's history, which includes every car from 1899 up to the current 600e EV (still waiting for a model of the new Grande Panda), Fiat trucks, buses, tractors, plant machinery, military vehicles, and even trains and aircraft. A large part of the collection also covers companies associated with Fiat, including Abarth, Autobianchi, SEAT (up to the VW takeover) and Fiats built in other countries such as Polski-Fiat, Neckar NSU, Steyr-Puch, Simca, Lada, Zastava, South American Fiats and any car which has used a Fiat engine. Apart from the obvious diecast, I have models in resin, white metal, plastic, silver, wood, foam rubber and card in all scales from a 1/12 scale Pocher 128 publicity model down to a resin Multipla in 1/144 scale. Most originate from Italy from firms such as Mercury, Politoys, Mebetoys, RIO, Brumm, Progetto K, Exem, Giodi, Barlux, Lima, Dugu, Old Cars, Scottoy, Bburago, Mondo Motors and the latest to appear, Officina 942, but a great many don't. The French firms of Solido, Norev and Majorette have always been fond of Fiats, as did French Dinky. The UK have also produced a surprising number of Fiats from Dinky, Corgi, Matchbox, Spot-On and Britains and Germany is represented with Gama, Starline, Busch, Praline and Brekina amongst others. There are Spanish SEAT

diecasts from Nacoral, Mira, Guisval, Auto Pilen and countless plastic firms, Luso Toys, Vitesse and Trofeo from Portugal, KDN from the old Czechoslovakia, Auro Metal from Yugoslavia, Buby and Galgo from Argentina, Modeline from Brazil, Juguinsa from Venezuela, Estetyxa from Poland, Shinsei, Tomica and Kyosho from Japan, Centy Toys from India, Play Art, Ertl and Hot Wheels/Matchbox from the USA and numerous Chinese firms, including Welly and New Ray and dozens of unbranded ones too. Then there's IXO, Revell, Bizarre, Spark, White Box and various old deleted white metal kit makers like Auto Replicas, Meri and FDS. In recent years, the collection has also been boosted dramatically by the introduction of partwork collections from Del Prado and Hachette, which have provided many great models to fill those gaps in the lineup. There are also a lot more toy and model firms that have made Fiats that I've missed out here.

I also inherited Dad's collection a few years back, which has been absorbed into mine. The entire collection is displayed in 25 cabinets of varying sizes and currently stands at approximately 5000 models, which takes up a complete room in our house. Luckily, I have a very understanding wife who enjoys hunting for new editions at toy fairs with me, the main one being Sandown Park. I think that it's important to display as many as possible; there's no point in having



models tucked away in boxes. They should be enjoyed. I used to work with a chap who had hundreds of models stored in plan chests that he didn't look at from one year's end to the next, and I always thought that was a bit sad. A lot has changed over the 55-plus years I've been collecting Fiats. When I first discovered toy fairs in the 80s, stallholders would be happy to get rid of any Fiat model they had, laughing at my collecting them. I hoovered up any Fiat model I could find at local toyfairs in Ashford and Maidstone and bagged some very desirable models, including a mint boxed light blue Corgi Fiat 600 Jolly for a tenner and a Mercury Abarth OT for a couple of quid. Apart from toy fair visits, I get most of my acquisitions from online sellers like eBay and my fellow Fiat enthusiast friend Dave, who is always finding me interesting Fiat models that I've never seen or heard of before! Most of my very recent acquisitions have come from the excellent 1/18 range of Italian cars from French-based Laudoracing, who specialise in creating beautiful resin replicas of everyday



1. Dugu 1899 FIAT with 2025 Fiat 600e EV from Welly. 2. Kevin's collection of Abarths. 3. Kevin's Spanish SEATs. 4. Latest Laudoracing 131 Mirafiori with Mercury 131 found in Italy. 5. NEO 1-43 Fiat 127 Sport. 6. Tomica Dallara X1-9 with Solido X1-9.

Fiats from the 70s and 80s, cars which all the other model firms tend to ignore, like the 1977 Mark 2 127 and 1970 124 Special T, both of which I have on order.

I've been very lucky to find most of the models on my wants list from years ago, though my holy grail has to be the ultra-rare

1/64 scale Fiat 133 from Argentine maker Jet-Gillette. I've never even seen one in the metal, let alone had the chance to buy one. I still get immense enjoyment from collecting models, and there are still so many models to discover and always something new to learn. ■



# TOYFAIR TIMES

## FAIRS

### 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY

• Midhurst  
David Parsons  
07742 609865

### 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY

• Spalding  
JJ Fairs  
01522 880383

### 7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

• Rayleigh  
KRJ Vintage Toy Fairs  
07534 939022

### 7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

• Harrogate  
Dalesman Diecast  
01943 873420

### 7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

• Worthing  
David Parsons  
07742 609865

### 7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

• Glasgow  
Jim Corr  
07504 035955

### 7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

• Kidderminster  
Tony Oakes  
01270 652773

### 9<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

• Hook  
Steve Clements  
07732 330305

### 11<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

• Theydon Bois  
Joe Lock  
07866 641215

### 13<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

• Maidstone  
Maidstone Vintage Toy Fair  
01622 298159/01732 840787

### 14<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

• Rainton  
Jim Corr  
07504 035955

### 16<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

• Wooton Bassett  
Steve Clements  
01380 725322/07732 330305

### 20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

• Bognor Regis  
David Parsons  
07742 609865

### 27<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

• Oswestry  
Jackson & Jackson Events  
07967 681080

### 28<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

• Bromley  
KRJ Vintage Toy Fairs  
07534 939022

### 28<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

• Newton Abbott  
Ray Heard  
01823 480097

### 4<sup>TH</sup> JULY

• Brentwood  
J & J Fairs  
01522 880383

### 11<sup>TH</sup> JULY

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Jim Corr  
07504 035955

### 12<sup>TH</sup> JULY

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07967 681080

### 12<sup>TH</sup> JULY

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### 14<sup>TH</sup> JULY

• Hook  
Steve Clements  
01380 725322/07732 330305

### 19<sup>TH</sup> JULY

• Midhurst  
David Parsons  
07742 609865

## AUCTIONS

### 30<sup>TH</sup> MAY

• Kings Langley  
Excalibur Auctions  
02036 330913



These two Hornby Diesel locomotives sold at a recent Vectis Trains Day.

### 5<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

• Canterbury  
The Canterbury Auction  
Galleries  
01227 763337

### 6<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

• Canterbury  
The Canterbury Auction  
Galleries  
01227 763337

### 13<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

• Kings Langley  
Excalibur Auctions  
020 3633 0913

### 17<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

• Bury St Edmunds  
Lacy Scott & Knight  
01284 748628

### 17<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

• Kenardington  
C & T Auctions  
01233 510050

### 20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

• Kings Langley  
Excalibur Auctions  
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### 22<sup>ND</sup> JUNE

• Online  
UK Toy & Model Auctions  
01270 652773/07892 870729

### 23<sup>RD</sup>/24<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

• Newbury  
Special Auction Services  
01635 580595

### 24<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

• Sedgemoor  
Greenslade Taylor Hunt  
01278 410250

### 24<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

• Bourne  
Golding Young  
01778 422686

### 29<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

• Chelmsford  
Stacey's Auctions  
01268 777122

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01284 748625

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RG27 9NN 6pm - 8pm

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01380 725322 or  
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RAINTON ARENA  
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**MUSSELBURGH SATURDAY 11TH JULY**  
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West Park Drive, Blackpool, FY3 9HQ - 10:30am-3pm  
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Interested in selling your collection or want a table to sell your stock?  
Contact Jim on 07504 035955 or email: [jim\\_corr73@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jim_corr73@hotmail.co.uk)



## » RETAILERS

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### NORTHERN IRELAND

#### MY OLD TOYBOX.

For collectable diecast and kits, Matchbox, Dinky, Corgi, Action Man, Star Wars, sci-fi, Subbuteo, etc. The Old Toybox, Unit 14, Smithfield Market, Belfast BT1 1JE. Tel: **07719 100483** Email: [james1gilliland@hotmail.com](mailto:james1gilliland@hotmail.com) Web: [www.myoldtoyboxbelfast.co.uk](http://www.myoldtoyboxbelfast.co.uk)

### WALES

#### COLWYN BAY.

Clwyd Models Second hand Model Railways, Books, Videos, Diecast etc bought & sold. Open Times: Thurs, Fri, Sat only 10am-1pm & 2pm-5pm. 447 Abergele Rd, Old Colwyn, Conwy. Tel: **01492 518709** Email: [clwydmodels@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:clwydmodels@tiscali.co.uk)

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



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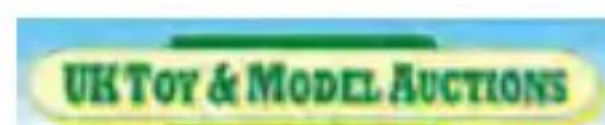
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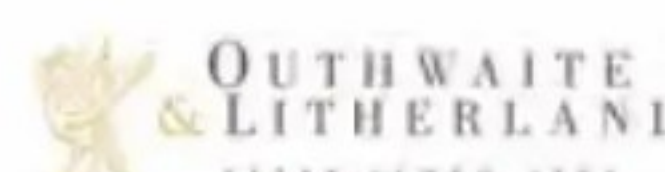
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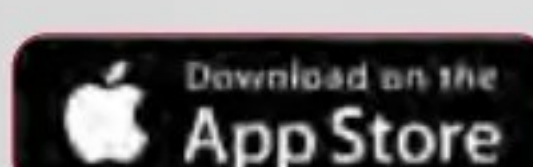
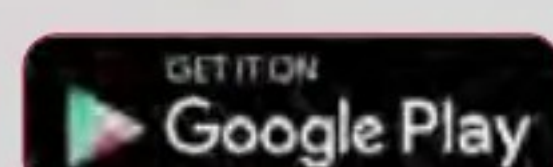
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## TOYS FOR THE COLLECTOR AUCTION TUESDAY 21st JULY 2026

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