

DIECAST

COLLECTOR

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World Cup dreams and British icons

EDITOR'S COLUMN



Football fever, two 50th anniversaries, plus the launch of World of Collecting, our brand-new online home for collectors.

As I write this, the World Cup is down to the final four, and as an England fan, I'm chuffed to say there's still a chance, mostly thanks to Harry Kane and Jude Bellingham. By the time you read this, we'll all know the winner. After narrowly making it past Mexico and Norway, I have to admit I'm a bit nervous about facing Messi! But with Harry and Jude in the form they're in, we've got a chance. I still believe. Maybe that's the curse of being English. We always believe! Whatever happens, I hope those of you following the tournament have enjoyed another brilliant summer of football. And if you aren't into it, sorry to bang on about it! So, enough football... let's get back to collecting.

This September issue celebrates two fantastic 50th anniversaries. The first is a true British motoring icon, the Ford Fiesta. I imagine most of us have either owned one or know somebody who has. For decades, they've been one of the most familiar sights on Britain's roads, which makes their 50th anniversary feel especially significant. Steve Coles takes a fascinating look at five decades of Fiesta models, and there's so much to cover that this is the first of a two-part feature.

We're also celebrating 50 years of another British icon, Aardman. Personally, I've always loved their films. There's something magical about the attention to detail. The creativity that goes into

every production is incredible. *The Wrong Trousers* and *Chicken Run* are two of my all-time favourites, and I think *Flushed Away* is underrated! And watching *Shaun the Sheep: The Flight Before Christmas* with my sons is definitely going to become a festive tradition! Angela Youngman takes us inside the Young V&A's *Inside Aardman* exhibition to explore 50 years of Aardman collectables and animation history. What's your favourite Aardman film or character? And are there any Aardman collectors among our readers? Whether it's models or memorabilia, we'd love to hear from you. Feel free to email us at CollectingEditorial@warnersgroup.co.uk.

As for what's inside the rest of this issue, well, we'll let you discover that for yourselves before I ramble on too much. But before I finish, I wanted to mention something we've been working hard on behind the scenes. This issue marks the launch of *World of Collecting*, our brand-new online home for collectors. Formerly the *Collectors Club of Great Britain* website, it's been completely redesigned with a fresh new look, dedicated collecting categories and a much easier way to discover articles and upcoming events. We'll tell you more on page 6, so I'll leave the full story for there.

That's all for this month. We'll see you in the October issue, and whether England brought it home or not, I hope you've enjoyed another unforgettable World Cup. And I hope you've managed to enjoy the odd summer event, meet a few new collectors, and add another gem or two to your collection.

Happy collecting,
Luke

NEWS

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INTRODUCING THE WORLD OF COLLECTING!

IF you've visited the Collectors Club of Great Britain website before, you'll notice a few changes. We've got a new name, a fresh look and a completely redesigned website, all created to make it easier for you to discover more of what you collect!

World of Collecting brings together collecting news, expert advice, guides, product reviews and features from across the hobby, covering everything from diecast models, stamps and coins to trading cards, LEGO, Star Wars and much more.

It's now easier to browse your favourite collecting categories and discover our latest articles. But World of Collecting is about more than just reading. We also want to help you get out and about, discover new collecting experiences and meet like-minded collectors. Our events calendar makes it easy to find upcoming toy fairs, auctions and collector events taking place across the UK.

In a nutshell, we've modernised and simplified the whole site to create a better experience for collectors. With dedicated collecting categories and improved navigation, it's easier than ever to discover something new, plan your next visit to a toy fair, research your next purchase, or simply enjoy a great read.

And this is just the beginning. As World of Collecting continues to grow, we'll keep adding more news, reviews, guides and features, giving you even more to explore between issues of the magazine. Thank you for being part of the journey, and welcome to World of Collecting. Visit us at www.worldofcollecting.co.uk ■



MINICHAMPS REVEAL NEW BMW M3 REPLICAS

MINICHAMPS has revealed three new replicas of the remarkable BMW M3 Touring 24H, with each version being produced in both 1:18 and 1:43 scale.

The models trace the unlikely story of the car, which first appeared as BMW's 2025 April Fools' prank before overwhelming fan demand convinced the manufacturer to build the real thing! It went on to become one of the standout attractions at this year's Nürburgring 24 Hours.

Collectors will be able to choose from the original concept finished in BMW Motorsport colours, the 2026 NLS2 warm-up race car wearing its eye-catching social media-inspired livery, or the black Shell-sponsored machine that went on to win the SP-X Pro class and finish an impressive fourth overall at the Nürburgring 24 Hours. ■

LEGO LAUNCHES THE FIRST EVER LEGO SHREK SETS

TWENTY-FIVE years after Shrek first turned the fairy-tale world upside down, fans can return to the swamp in brick-built style with the launch of new LEGO Shrek sets. Combining cinematic nostalgia with hands-on creativity, the range allows collectors and builders to recreate memorable scenes and celebrate one of animation's most beloved franchises.

Leading the collection is the LEGO Shrek, Donkey and Puss in Boots display set for ages 18+. Designed with adult fans in mind, it features brick-built Shrek and Donkey alongside a Puss in Boots minifigure, displayed on a swamp base complete with the iconic "Beware Ogre!" sign.

The set is packed with references to the films, including sunflowers, an onion and a blue flower with red thorns, while hidden Easter eggs tucked inside Shrek's torso add an extra layer of fun for eagle-eyed builders. ■

POST-WAR DIECAST TO FEATURE IN AUGUST AUCTION

COLLECTORS of post-war diecast models will have plenty to look forward to at Special Auction Services' Collector Auction on 18 August.

The sale includes a single-owner collection of more than 130 post-war diecast models by Dinky Toys, Tri-ang Spot-On, Märklin, Tekno and other makers. Visit www.specialauctionservices.com for details. ■



WORLD CUP PATCHES TO BECOME COLLECTABLES

FOOTBALL fans watching the 2026 World Cup may have spotted some special patches on the sleeve below the tournament badge on players' shirts. They looked like another part of the kit, but they could now become an exciting new football collectable.

The idea is part of a major new licensing agreement between FIFA and Fanatics, the sports merchandise giant that owns Topps. From 2031, Topps will replace Panini as FIFA's official producer of trading cards and stickers, bringing Panini's association with the World Cup to an end after more than 60 years.

After each match, selected patches were removed from match-worn shirts and attached to unique trading cards.

The finished cards will then be randomly inserted into Topps packs, giving collectors the chance to own an authentic piece of World Cup history.

Although the patches were worn during the 2026 World Cup, collectors will have to wait until 2031 for the chance to pull one, when Topps officially takes over FIFA's trading card licence and the cards go on sale.

Here are some of the different patches you may have spotted during the tournament:

- World Cup patch: Worn by every player representing a nation that had never previously won the World Cup.
- Gold World Cup patch: Worn by players representing the seven former World

Cup winners: Argentina, Brazil, England, France, Germany, Spain and Uruguay.

- Debut patch: Worn by every player making their first World Cup appearance: Haaland, Yamal, and more.

- Golden Boot patch: Worn by previous Golden Boot winners: Kane, Mbappé and Rodríguez.

- Golden Glove patch: Worn by previous Golden Glove winners: Neuer, Courtois and Martínez.

- Golden Ball patch: Worn by previous winners of the tournament's best player award: Messi and Modrić.

- Legacy patch: Worn by players appearing at their fifth World Cup or beyond: Ronaldo, Messi, Modrić, Neuer, and Nagatomo. ■

NEWS

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RARE RECORDS TO GO UNDER THE HAMMER

WESSEX Auction Rooms in Wiltshire has announced that a collection containing some of the rarest records in the world will go under the hammer. Martin Hughes is a vinyl specialist and the founder of Wessex Auction Rooms, and has previously featured on BBC Bargain Hunt as a vinyl expert.

The auction features items from artists and repertoire (A&R) manager Tony Calder's music collection. Calder worked with musical legends including the Beatles and Rod Stewart. Many of the records come from his independent record label, Immediate. One of the highlights is Billy Nicholls' *Would You Believe*. Hughes says many major musicians recorded on the album, but it was never released.

The sale will also include never-released records, Beatles rarities, David Bowie collectables, and Pink Floyd test pressings and promotional releases.

The auction takes place on 13 and 14 August, with estimates ranging from around £700 to several thousand pounds. For more information, visit www.wessexauctionrooms.co.uk. ■



NEXT MONTH

OCTOBER 2026 Issue 348

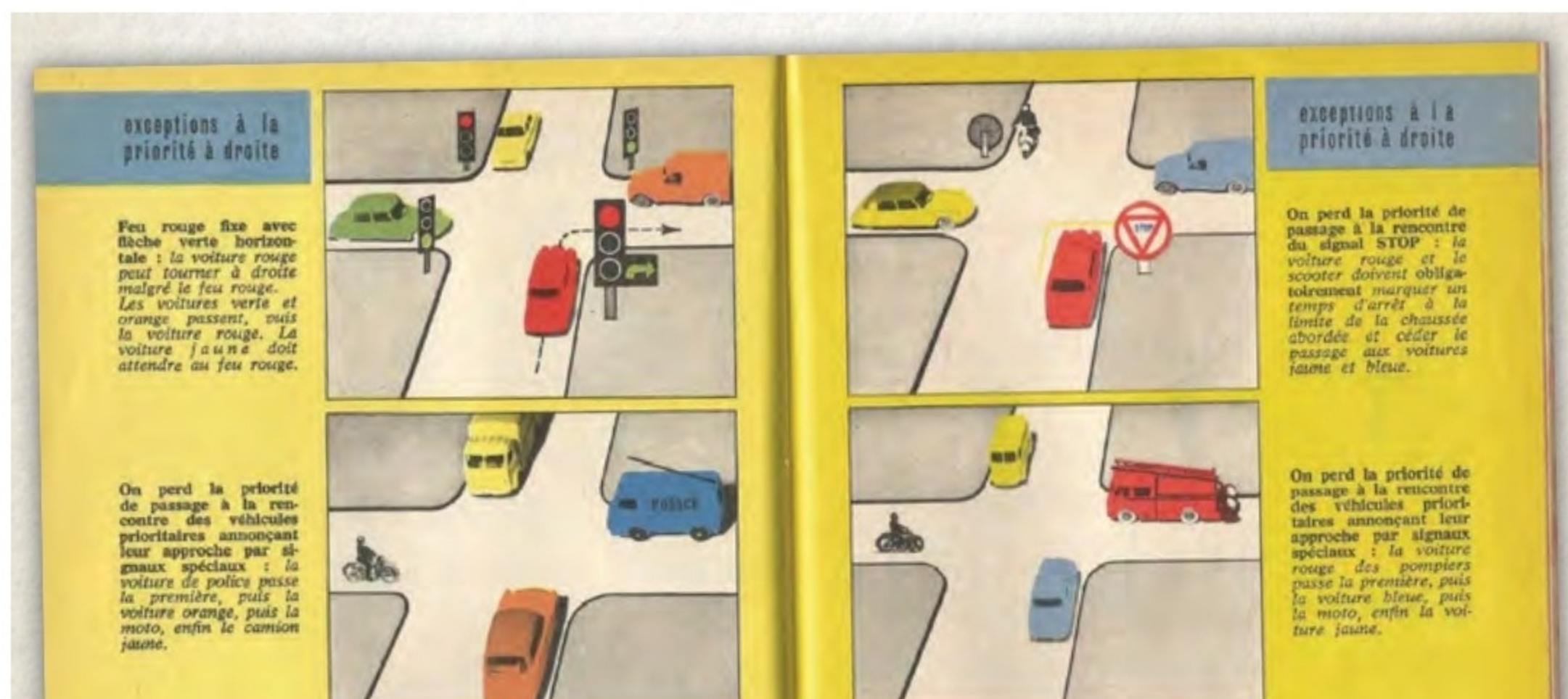
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Please note: These planned editorial contents may be subject to change where necessary.



Dinky Toys and the Code de la Route

Discover the fascinating story behind a colourful 1960s French driving guide that used Dinky Toys and other diecast models to teach the rules of the road.



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EXCALIBUR SALE DELIVERS COMIC ART AND TV TOY SURPRISES

COLLECTORS of vintage toys and comic art pushed prices well beyond expectations during Excalibur Auctions' latest sale, with several standout lots attracting strong bidding.

Leading the way was the original cover artwork for ABC Warriors Book 4 (1988), *Genocide*, signed by artist Simon Bisley, which achieved an impressive £28,000. Comic art continued to perform strongly, with 11 pages of original black-and-white Steel Claw artwork by Jesús Blasco selling for £650, more than three times its £100 to £200 estimate.

Meanwhile, Gerry Anderson fans helped a boxed Merit Fireball XL5 Rocket Gun blast past its £200 to £400 estimate, eventually selling for £550.

Excalibur Auctions' next sale, featuring Marvel, DC and independent comic books, takes place on 8 August. Visit www.excaliburauctions.com.





GERRY ANDERSON AND JAMES BOND LOTS LEAD VECTIS RESULTS

RARE toys and film memorabilia attracted strong bidding at recent Vectis Auctions sales, with several lots smashing their estimates.

A pre-production Corgi James Bond Octopussy resin prototype gift set, consigned by a former Corgi employee, sold for £3,920 against a £300 to £400 estimate. An original British quad poster for the 1965 James Bond film Thunderball also achieved £3,920, far exceeding its £400 to £600 guide price.

Collectors of Gerry Anderson memorabilia helped a Century 21 Toys Captain Scarlet Spectrum Pursuit Vehicle race from a £150 to £200 estimate to £1,715.

Elsewhere, a rare Taylor & Barrett Fire Engine and Wheeled Escape Ladder in wartime ASF grey livery sold for £760 against an £80 to £100 estimate, while a group of loose Britains Super Deetail SAS, Paratrooper and Royal Marines figures marched to £4,165, despite being estimated at just £50 to £70. ■





In a market dominated by 1:64 passenger cars and an explosion of JDM releases and associated “car culture”, it is easy to overlook the commercial collecting side of the hobby. Yet, if you dig a little deeper, there are some excellent trucks and buses emerging alongside the mainstream releases, as seen in DC’s New Models pages. We will be revisiting scaled buses in a future edition.

One model that has recently caught the eye is Highway Replicas’ latest addition: the Mack Valueliner V8 Prime Mover in its latest vibrant scheme. For those unfamiliar, Highway Replicas has been around for a few years now, focusing on Australian road trains, dollies, and heavy haulage subjects in 1:64 scale, inspired by the domestic carrier operations of yesteryear.

This latest release depicts the iconic – and ultimately ill-fated – Ansett Freight Express, a division of Ansett Transport Industries, which collapsed alongside Ansett Airlines in September 2001.

We have had a handful of these Highway Replicas models over the years enter the Diecast Collector garage, and the execution has consistently been impressive at this scale. The Ansett Prime Mover and trailer are no exception and follows the brand’s established pattern of quality detailing.

The 6-spoke pattern Alcoa-style alloy rims are fitted with realistic treaded rubber tyres, each one individually applied. There are eight in total on the double rear axle alone. At the front, the bull bar with inset driving lamps is a solid piece of diecast, integrated into a weighty metal body and chassis – something increasingly rare as many manufacturers lean towards plastic or ABS construction. Even minute details, such as the front ‘Mack’ mudflaps hanging from the bull

New model of the month

Keith D’Souza picks a standout new release. This month, he reviews the Mack Valueliner V8 Prime Mover.

Highway Replicas Freight Semi (Mack Valueliner V8) – Ansett Freight Express

Scale: 1:64 **Price:** £75.00

SKU: 12036

www.highwayreplicas.com.au

bar, have not been overlooked.

Highway Replicas have also resisted the temptation to simply “stick a new livery on it”. Instead, there are subtle changes to exterior detailing compared with earlier road train versions. Gone are the front-mounted CB aerial, upright exhaust stack, and bulldog mascot on the bonnet. However, the model retains fine touches such as the coloured air brake lines, which add a welcome level of realism.

Flipping the prime mover over reveals the drivetrain detail, including multi-leaf semi-elliptical springs and a Janus Camelback-style suspension system. Chrome accents are used sparingly but effectively, and at around 13cm in length for the cab unit alone, it is an impressive presence.

The trailer is equally well executed – a tri-axle freight semi with finely riveted side panels and appropriately specified wheels for outback conditions. In total, the full rig stretches to approximately

32cm, which immediately introduces the classic problem: where exactly do you display it?

The nostalgic Ansett livery is spot on, instantly recalling a household name from not so long ago. There is also the option to extend the set with an additional trailer and dolly, increasing the overall length even further. We tried this combination, and while visually stunning, it quickly raises the practical question of display space.

Earlier releases in this range are largely sold out, and this version is expected to follow the same path. Distribution across Australia has been strong, and for any haulage collector, this is a highly desirable addition in this livery.

While much of the 1:64 market is dominated by passenger cars, this model stands out precisely because commercial subjects remain underrepresented. Trucks and buses are often pushed into traditional railway scales such as 1:87 or 1:50, where choice is far greater. As 1:64 becomes the default for many collectors, that imbalance becomes more noticeable. Highway Replicas are among the few addressing that gap directly, producing models for a dedicated audience – and this release earns its place on the shelf for both presence and individuality. ■

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Convertible 1995-1996 (Red)
SCALE: 1:43 PRICE: £127.99
PRODUCT NO: MX41001251

matrixscalemodels.nl

Stylish, bold and representative of a bygone era, this celebration Jaguar XJS marks its 60th anniversary. The original featured turned wheels, embossed seats and a steering wheel made of wood.



MATRIX
Alfa Romeo 6C 1750 SV
Figoni 1932 (Blue)
SCALE: 1:43 PRICE: £127.99
PRODUCT NO: MX40102174

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With a closed roof and detailed bodywork, the Alfa Romeo 6C 1750 SV was dressed by Joseph Figoni and known for its teardrop design. It made its debut at the 1933 Paris Motor Show.



CORGI
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PRODUCT NO: VA10410

uk.corgi.co.uk

A classic piece of British motoring heritage, the Hillman Avenger Tiger II was first registered in 1973, it is thought that only around 400 versions of the vehicle were actually produced.



CORGI
Triumph TR6
(French Blue)
SCALE: 1:43 PRICE: £37.99
PRODUCT NO: VA14703

uk.corgi.co.uk

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(Race Green & Black)
SCALE: 1:24 PRICE: €24.99
PRODUCT NO: 18-28017

bburago.com

Boasting the most powerful, naturally aspirated V12 engine that Lamborghini has ever designed, the Essenza SCV12 is famed for its elite aerodynamics and intimidating power.



SOLIDO
Volkswagen Golf Cabrio
Classic Line (Classic Green)
SCALE: 1:43 PRICE: £26.99
PRODUCT NO: S4315803

solido.com

The 1992 Golf Cabrio might not be everyone's cup of tea, but its luxury and premium styling meant that it was a standout of its line. A 1.8-litre, 8-valve 2H engine delivered some low-stakes thrills.

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(Gloss Black)
SCALE: 1:18 PRICE: £230
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autoartmodels.com

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CORGI

Wallace & Gromit: The Wrong Trousers Train Chase Bundle

PRICE: £94.99 **PRODUCT NO:** BUNDLEC09

To celebrate Aardman's 50th anniversary, we thought we'd take a look at this impressive Corgi bundle recreating the unforgettable train chase from The Wrong Trousers. Nick Park's Oscar-winning 1993 stop-motion classic introduced the villainous Feathers McGraw and finished with one of the most celebrated chase sequences in animation history, as Wallace and Gromit

pursued the criminal aboard a model railway built inside their own home. This cracking diecast set includes Wallace, Gromit and Feathers McGraw, each supplied with a section of track so collectors can connect the three models together and recreate the famous scene. If you'd prefer just one of the trio, each model is also available separately for £34.99.

uk.corgi.co.uk



OXFORD DIECAST

Whitby Mondial Ice Cream Van Tonibell (Pink)

SCALE: 1:148 **PRICE:** £9.45 **PRODUCT NO:** NWM009

Bright, bold and full of personality, the Whitby Mondial was purpose-built for serving ice cream rather than speed or comfort. Produced in Yorkshire from the 1970s, these compact vans became a familiar sight on Britain's streets and seafronts thanks to their practical serving hatch and eye-catching liveries. Finished in the classic Tonibell pink colour scheme, this N gauge model is sure to bring back plenty of summer memories and would make a colourful addition to any modern British road scene or model railway layout.

oxforddiecast.co.uk



OXFORD DIECAST

Leyland TLM Liverpool Fire Brigade (Red)

SCALE: 1:76 **PRICE:** £22.95 **PRODUCT NO:** 76TLM008

Introduced in the 1930s, the Leyland TLM played a vital role in protecting towns and cities throughout the Second World War. Equipped with a towering 100ft turntable ladder and powered by an inline six-cylinder petrol engine, it enabled firefighters to reach upper floors and tackle some of the era's most demanding blazes. Oxford Diecast has faithfully recreated the Liverpool Fire Brigade version, complete with its distinctive period livery, capturing an important piece of Britain's firefighting history in miniature.

oxforddiecast.co.uk



MBC EXPANDS ITS MODERN RANGE



Model Buses Creations has announced a busy period ahead for collectors of modern British buses, revealing the first pre-production samples of its latest Alexander Dennis Enviro 200 models while also confirming an exciting new licensing agreement with Wrightbus.

The company enjoyed strong demand for its first three short-wheelbase Enviro 200 models, all of which sold out on pre-order, making the next releases some of the most eagerly anticipated in the range. This latest pair switches to the longer wheelbase version of the popular single-decker, bringing two very different operators to collectors' shelves.

Leading the new arrivals is MBC1004, which reproduces Arriva London vehicle ENX22 in its familiar Transport for London red livery. Displayed on route B15 to Horn Park,

the model captures one of the capital's everyday workhorses and is mounted on a detailed display base complete with bus stop and roadside scenery.

Joining it is MBC1005, representing Go North West vehicle 4024 in Greater Manchester's distinctive Bee Network livery. Carrying route 635 to Appley Bridge, it showcases one of Britain's newest bus liveries and offers collectors a striking contrast to the London example.

Limited to just 500 pieces each, both models continue the high level of detail collectors have come to expect from Model Buses Creations. Printed moquette seat patterns faithfully recreate the interiors of the real buses, while the Bee Network model also introduces tinted window glazing, marking a first for the company's Enviro 200 range. The realistic display bases, complete with grass

verges, pavements and bus stop furniture, further enhance the presentation and help place each vehicle in a recognisable streetscape.

As these are pre-production samples, Model Buses Creations says some details are still being reviewed before production begins. The prototypes have been assessed by the MBC team alongside Transport for London and Transport for Greater Manchester to ensure the finished models accurately reflect their real-life counterparts. The finished models are expected to arrive in stock at the end of July and into early August, so collectors won't have long to wait before adding them to their collections.

While the Enviro 200s are likely to attract plenty of attention, the company has also confirmed an important milestone for its future range. Following negotiations with

Wrightbus, Model Buses Creations has secured an official licence to produce models of the popular Wright StreetDeck.

The new partnership will pave the way for a series of StreetDeck releases during 2026 and 2027, including both single and dual-door versions. London operators will carry full Transport for London licensing, while collectors can also expect a variety of liveries representing operators from around the UK. The models will be sold exclusively through Model Buses Creations and selected stockists, with the company hinting that additional Wrightbus vehicles could follow as the partnership develops.

Collectors interested in the new Enviro 200 models, or future Wright StreetDeck releases, can find further information and ordering details at www.modelbus.uk. ■



CONRAD
MAN TGE 3.140
Doka flatbed truck
SCALE: 1:50 PRICE: €74.50
PRODUCT NO: 1616-06

The MAN TGE flatbed arrives in an exclusive grey finish, featuring a crewcab body, lowsided rear platform, functioning steering, and a replicated interior, creating a clean, realistic addition to any fleet display.

www.man-shop.eu



CONRAD
Goldhofer AST-2E G "Atlas"
aircraft tractor
SCALE: 1:50 PRICE: €99.00
PRODUCT NO: 5524-0

The AST2E 'Atlas' represents the latest airport tractor generation, featuring working steering, an elevating cabin, and a functional aircraft wheel hookup system, bringing modern airside capability to life in model form.

www.conrad-modelle.de



CONRAD
MAN TGE
pickup truck
SCALE: 1:50 PRICE: €69.00
PRODUCT NO: 410353

The MAN TGE flatbed used in Germany appears in Mammoet's familiar livery, combining a black finish, silver bed, and crisp white graphics, creating a sharp, recognisable addition to the contractor's support fleet.

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



WSI MODELS
Volvo FH05 8x2 truck with
Palfinger crane 'Mammoet'
SCALE: 1:50 PRICE: €189.00
PRODUCT NO: 410323

The Volvo FH05 8x2 rigid features a Palfinger loading crane, lowsided deck, extendable outriggers, and a fully functional crane setup, all finished in authentic Mammoet decoration for a realistic, fleetaccurate presentation.

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



WSI MODELS
Mercedes-Benz
Arocs MP5 SLT 8x6 tractor
SCALE: 1:50 PRICE: €169.00
PRODUCT NO: 410334

The MercedesBenz Arocs 8x4 appears in a classic heavytow setup, carrying a ballast module, rear power pack, detailed cab interior, plus steering axles and a functional tow hitch for realistic display accuracy.

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



WSI MODELS
Liebherr LTM1090-4.2 mobile
crane 'Universal Cranes'
SCALE: 1:50 PRICE: €229.00
PRODUCT NO: 51-2193

The Liebherr LTM1090.1 remains a soughtafter model, now released in Universal Cranes' New Zealand livery. It's fully configurable, featuring a telescopic boom, working outriggers, and steering axles for realistic display versatility.

www.wsi-models.com



WSI MODELS
Vögele Super 1800-
3 tracked paver 'Ballast Nedam'
SCALE: 1:50 PRICE: €129.00
PRODUCT NO: 61-2019

The Vögele Super 18003 tracked paver remains a fleet favourite, featuring a folding hopper, extendable and adjustable screed, and a well detailed operator station, all accurately modelled to reflect realworld functionality.

www.wsi-models.com



WSI MODELS
Vögele Super 1800
3 tracked paver 'Heijmans'
SCALE: 1:50 PRICE: €129.00
PRODUCT NO: 61-2016

This Vögele Super 18003 variation features Heijmans' yellow livery with black graphics, plus folding canopy, adjustable screed, and extendable seats, creating a bright, functional model reflecting the Dutch contractor's fleet.

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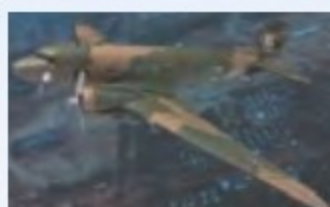
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1:46 Scale Collector Set



RT70007 - James Bond Aston Martin DB5 Classic Collector 3 Car Set Corgi 70th Anniversary.....£89.99

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AA27710 - North American P-51D Mustang, 44-73843, 'Old Red Nose', Commemorative Air Force.....£53.99

1:48 Scale Aircraft



AA27904 - McDonnell Douglas Phantom II FG.1, XV582 'Black Mike'.....£170.99

OXFORD

1:76 Scale Buses



76LL002 - Leyland Leopard/ECW B51 Oxford City Link.....£26.35



76MT002 - Mercedes Tourismo 3 Axle A. Lyles & Son.....£28.90



76MT003 - Mercedes Tourismo 3 Axle Westbus.....£28.05

1:76 Scale Commercials



76CUS010 - Ford Transit Custom Crouch Recovery.....£9.35



76AV001 - Austin 10 Van LMS.....£10.20



76AV001 - Ford Transit Mk5 AA Ireland.....£9.35



76DSL003 - DAF Skip Lorry Mr Binman..£27.20

OXFORD

1:76 Scale Cars

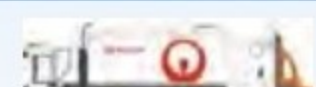


76RUB001 - Austin Ruby Maroon.....£9.35



76TDS002 - Triumph Dolomite Sprint Inca Yellow.....£9.35

1:148 Scale Commercials



NDE002 - Dennis Eagle Refuse Truck Veolia White.....£14.45



NMSV003 - Mercedes Sprinter Van Royal Mail£7.65

1:120 Scale Cars



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Northcord

1:76 Scale Bus - In Stock



UK6546 - ADL Enviro 400 National Express West Midlands Heritage Livery 6148 SN15 LHV.....£61.65

CORGI

1:72 Scale Aircraft - In Stock



AA35817 - North American F-86E Sabre Eleanor E Christine William T. Bill Whisner Jr 1952.....£53.99



AA27709 - North American P-51D Mustang 'Moonbeam McSwine' William T. Bill Whisner Jr 1945.....£53.99

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UNIVERSAL HOBBIES

Deutz-Fahr 6150.4 TTV Tractor with Stoll FZ 43-27 Loader

PRICE: £76.74 SCALE: 1:32 PRODUCT NO: M09D147 (UH6859)

Available from Deutz-Fahr Universal Hobbies, the well-built and detailed Deutz-Fahr 6150.4 tractor features a working Stoll FZ 43-27 loader with the Robust M 2.40 bucket. The loader has folding support stands and fully piped rams. Universal Hobbies provides an instruction sheet on how to remove it from the tractor, but not the precision screwdriver needed. The bucket does not detach.

Bonnet protectors and a working three-point linkage are provided on the tractor front. The linkage has folding lower link arms, support rams, an adjustable length top link and pto shaft with a yellow guard.

Steerable front wheels are provided. There are work lights, hinged driving mirrors, a white GPS receiver and two warning beacons detailed on the cab. Neither the cab door, roof panel, nor rear window opens, but a well-laid-out and detailed interior is visible through the fully glazed cab. The two-tone interior has black foot pedals, a dash behind the steering wheel and on the armrest beside the driver's seat, a joystick, controls and a monitor.

For attaching equipment, the tractor has Universal Hobbies' latest two-point linkage with a sliding lock; it does not work well on this model, under the rear axle. There's a pin for attaching trailed equipment, colour-coded hydraulic connectors and an adjustable length top link. Taillights and number plates are provided on the mudguards.

www.deutz-fahr.com



USK SCALEMODELS

Fendt 314 Vario Tractor

PRICE: £109.09 SCALE: 1:32 PRODUCT NO: X991025303000

Beautifully engineered, USK Scalemodels latest Fendt 300 series tractor offers plenty of working features. The front wheels steer, the bonnet opens, and there's a functioning front linkage with folding arms. Raising the bonnet reveals the radiator and engine detail, while steering the front wheels provides the model with a tight turning circle. The cab's provided with folding mirrors, painted work lights and two detachable warning beacons. By the left-hand cab access steps, there's a red fire extinguisher fuel, and AdBlue tanks. Both the cab doors, the rear window and the roof panel open, giving good access to the cab interior. Inside, the interior has good levels of detailing with black patterned matting and

dark grey seats. There's the digital dash behind the steering wheel, and on the driver's seat right-hand armrest, a joystick and monitor.

Good detailing continues at the rear with taillights, work lights and colour-coded buttons provided in the mudguards. It's equipped with a three-point hitch with quick-release ends. Two rams support the lower link arms, and there's a slide under the tractor rear axle to lock them in the raised position. The fixed-length top link moves, and the hydraulic ports are detailed but not colour-coded. For attaching trailed equipment, USK provides four interchangeable drawbars. When fitted, their height is adjustable. Available from Fendt and its dealer network only, and for this, the first edition, limited to a 3,000 model run, it's supplied in a special Fendt-branded tin box.

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Keep it simple

Francisco Mota looks at FINA-sponsored race and rally cars in another episode of Racing Colours.

Sometimes, all you need is two colours to make a recognisable livery for a rally or racing car. Blue and red on a white base, with only one stripe of each colour, made FINA-sponsored entries look both unique and elegant. From the late 1980's through the 1990's, you could see some selected teams wearing these Racing Colours. Most of those were semi-official outfits, but others were full works teams. There were enough teams and different paint schemes to justify another research into the theme, through 1:43 scale models. So, here's another episode of Racing Colours.

The first conclusion that came out of this research was that BMW and FINA had a special partnership, both for rallying and track racing. Reading a little about FINA's racing sponsorship, you'll find more interesting details about this subject. But let's start from the beginning.

Petrofina was founded in 1920 in Belgium and had a relevant operation in Europe, Canada and the United States. In the early 1960s, the fuel and lubricants name was simplified to FINA, and the logo changed to the one we know today. Petrofina merged with Total in 1999 to form TotalFina. One

year later, Elf also joined the TotalFinaElf Company, which would change its name again to the current Total Energies in 2021. All Total's US operation was sold to Alon USA.

FINA IN MOTORSPORT

FINA's presence in Motorsport was more visible from 1988 to 1998, when the Belgian petrol company became a partner with BMW, supplying fuel and lubricants to BMW's race cars. They kept sponsoring other teams, in strategic markets and events; however, FINA's works team was BMW Motorsport. It all started with the 1998 European Touring Car Championship, but you could see these Racing Colours in the WRC, BTCC and even DTM. FINA was also present in the French "Supertourisme" and the 24 hours of Le Mans, as well as the FIA GT Championship.

There is plenty of terrain to hunt for 1:43 scale models painted with FINA's



colours. The question is whether scale model manufacturers have looked to this theme, and if so, whether they have evaluated the collection potential of FINA-sponsored racing cars. And the question is easy to answer. Try to look at the back catalogues of the main diecast and resin-cast model makers, and you will quickly find some examples.

1. FIRST OF ALL, THE BMW

We started with Ixo, and it immediately came up as one of the most iconic cars sponsored by the Belgian fuel company, the BMW M3 E30 in rally specification. This car is better known as a track racing machine; it was also used by several teams in rallying, in both tarmac and gravel events. Ixo reproduced the example driven by Marc Duez/Alain Lopes in the 1989 Monte Carlo rally, where they finished 8th overall and first 2WD. Frozen tarmac, some snow and

rain are far from the ideal conditions for a car such as the E30 M30. However, Duez took the BMW to the finish line without a scratch. Ixo did an excellent replica of this car, featuring the FINA livery carefully applied on a scale model that reproduces the original faithfully. Golden five spoke wheel rims give it a special look, also featuring small mud flaps. The front grille looks great, and the rear wing also looks great. The roof antenna is the right size. The car has UK licence plates because it was built by renowned specialists from Prodrive. The cabin features a well-adjusted roll-bar, plus realistic racing seats with harnesses and a lot more detail, easily seen through wide windows.

2. A TALE OF TWO FORDS

The first pair in these pages joins two versions of the famous Ford Sierra RS Cosworth, the one with two doors and a huge rear wing is, of course, the Rear

‘Blue and red on a white base, with only one stripe of each colour, made FINA-sponsored entries look both unique and elegant. From the late 1980’s through the 1990’s, you could see some selected teams wearing these Racing Colours. Most of those were semi-official outfits, but others were full works teams.’

RIGHT Ixo released one of the best-looking 1:43 scale models of a FINA-sponsored rally car, the BMW M3, built in the UK by Prodrive.



BELOW A pair of Ford Sierra RS Cosworths, the left one is a 4x4 made in period by Vitesse by Cinerius, and the right one is a resin-cast by Spark.



Wheel Drive version. The other one has four doors, a very small rear wing and four-wheel drive. Front-end livery is similar to the one we saw in the BMW M3, but the side view features diagonal stripes, reminiscent of the works team Sierra rally livery. This variation fits the cars and gives some diversity to this collection. Looking at each scale model, it is obvious that they come from very different eras. The AWD Sierra is a product from Vitesse by Cinerius, sold for a period. The only difference to the road version, which Vitesse also sold, is the livery and wheels. All the rest is the same, meaning the cabin is the road car's and the front doors even open. Theoretically, as the decal seals it. If you open the door, you'll ruin the side decal.

The scale model represents the car driven by the same pair of Belgian drivers and co-driver, Duez/Lopes, in the 1990 RAC rally, where they did not finish due to engine trouble. The 2WD

Sierra RS Cosworth was also driven by the same pair in the same year's Tour de Corse. A full tarmac event, where this car was a better choice, but lady luck was not thinking the same way, and another engine problem made the team retire the car. Spark, in their Ford Sierra RS Cosworth collection, couldn't miss this livery and launched a superb resin-cast recently. The unique Sierra styling is very well rendered, decals are top quality, and you can find a lot of small details around the body, like the air scoop on the roof or the side exhaust under the right-hand door. The cabin is easy to see through the windows and features a complete rally cockpit.

3. LANCIA FINA

For the next group, we gather three versions of Lancia's HF Integrale 16V as entered by the semi-works team Jolly Club. These were cars completely identical to the works team's Martini Lancia and even had top drivers like

the French Didier Auriol, co-driven by Bernard Occelli. All three scale models replicate models driven by them in 1991, but all have differences. Starting with the car on the left of the photo, this is the Tour de Corse specification version that finished second. It features lowered suspension, wide tyres and a heat extractor in the front wheels and mud flaps behind the rear wheels only, rolled up. Excellent shape overall, nice details like the chromed Lancia grille with red contour. The front bumper features countless air intakes, and under it, there's the sump guard that also carries some advertising. The rear window has a defroster, and all the small badges are where you go looking for them. Nice and simple exhaust pipe. Inside, there's a lot to admire, as the car carries everything a rally team could need during a special stage. Even the co-driver's sun visor is reproduced. The scale model in the middle of the photo is the car Auriol took to first place



ABOVE A trio of Lancia Delta HF Integrale 16V models, the two on the left are by Sparks, and the one on the right by HPI Racing.



BELOW LEFT Spot the differences between HPI Racing's Toyota Celica GT-Four, on the left, and Ixo's model on the right

in the Sanremo rally. It's presented in tarmac specification, so it is very close to the Tour de Corse car. The biggest difference is the spotlight pod in the front. Both models by Spark.

The third model is a diecast made years ago by HPI Racing. This company is specialised in RC models; however, for a few years, they entered the 1:43 static scene and just made some of the best ever metal models at this scale. Even today, they look as good as, or better than, most resin-cast models. That is the case with their replica of the Sanremo winner, here with gravel specifications, as the rally had both

types of roads. Higher suspension, wide red mud flaps behind the front wheels and narrow wheels and tyres. Even the defroster in the rear window is much more realistic.

4. CELICAS IN COMPARISON

For the last pair in Part 1 of this article, we have two interpretations of the same car, the 1991 Toyota Celica GT-Four as entered in the WRC Tour de Corse. One was recently launched by Ixo, the other is an HPI Racing release. The car was driven by Marc Duez, co-driven by Klaus Wicha, and they finished fourth overall.

To identify one scale model from the other, note that the HPI Racing replica has a much lower suspension, with all four wheels much deeper inside the body. And more realistic than Ixo's taller version, which looks more like a gravel specification that, obviously, does not make sense in this tarmac event. Both have a pair of headlamps in the open position, and both have heat extractors for the front wheels, better replicated in the HPI Racing scale model. Decal position is more precise in the HPI Racing replica that also features the correct rear lamp design.

This is the typical case that, if you have never seen the HPI Racing replica, you would be perfectly satisfied with Ixo's scale model. Not to mention the price difference. If you surf the Internet looking for the HPI Racing model, you'll quickly conclude it is more expensive.

Next month, we'll be back for more FINA-sponsored cars. Racing Colours FINA Part 2 will concentrate on touring cars, GT cars and prototypes and the livery will change completely, only keeping the same colours. Don't miss the next issue. ■

G.D. Watson is a man with two passions – art and cars – and he’s found a unique way of bringing these together.

With a working background in the catering business, G.D. is now based as an artist in the picturesque surroundings of Salon-de-Provence, a small town in the South of France. It was at the giant Retromobile classic car show in Paris in February of this year that I first became aware of his artwork, for he had an eye-catching stand full of his colourful three-dimensional creations in the form of model cars mounted on canvases with a painted background. It seemed the perfect way for a motor racing enthusiast to decorate his office, man-cave or even (if he’s allowed!) living room. Later, I had the opportunity to ask the artist more about his work, his interest in cars and models and the various commissions he’s received. Here’s what he told me...

Tell me about how your interest in real and model cars developed.

Ever since I was little, I’ve had a soft spot for the Porsche 911. Around the age of five or six, there was always one parked in my grandparents’ neighbourhood. I liked the appearance of the grille and headlights and remember thinking it was looking at me when I walked past it! I’ve also always been a fan of all kinds of sports cars, especially Formula 1 and rally cars.

As a child, I loved playing with my toy cars, though I must say I wasn’t always gentle with them! I loved sending them racing down slopes and making them jump so much that their bodies often ended up a bit dented. But there was one exception: my 911 SC. It was so faithful to the one I saw on the street that I looked after it more carefully than the others. I also had a collection of vintage ‘taxis of the Marne’ that my uncle had given me. I would look at them in their boxes without ever opening them.

So how did you go from liking cars to using them in your art?

I suppose it goes back more than fifteen years when I visited the Retromobile show with a friend who was a true car enthusiast. I felt like I was going round a museum with a guide recounting the history of the automobile. And I think that was the day when a real passion was born. I don’t own a real classic car – maybe one day – but for now, I have models of them in my hand-painted artworks.

When I painted my first picture, it was just to hang my cap on, because collecting and wearing baseball caps is another of my interests. Then my son arrived with a 1:18



1. G.D. Watson carefully puts the finishing touches to the lettering on one of his creations.

The art of the model car

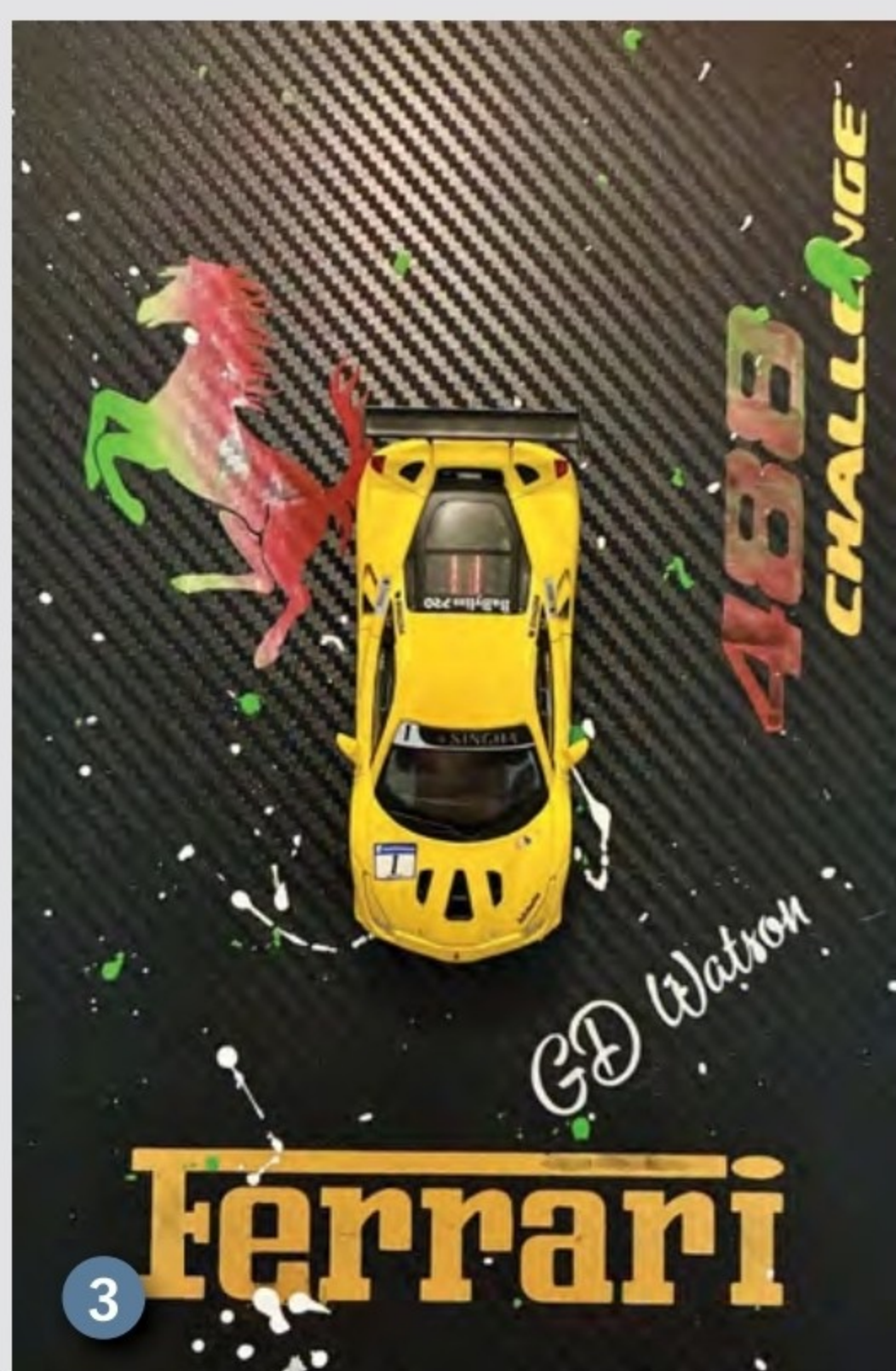
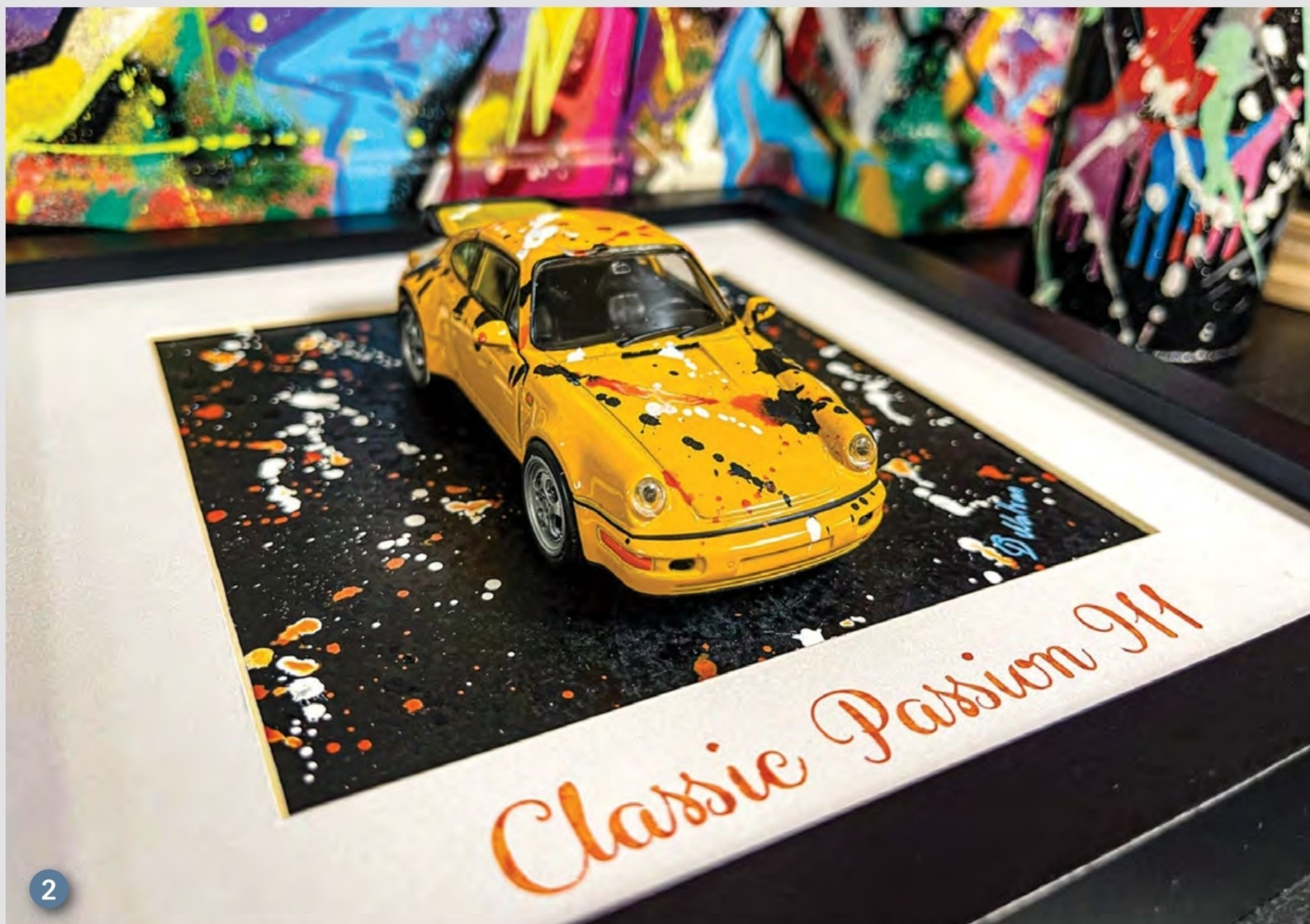
Hazel Ralston talks to French artist G.D. Watson about combining model cars, painting and a lifelong passion for classic cars to create striking three-dimensional artworks.

scale Porsche, and I thought the balance of these two objects of passion in 3D on the painting – the cap and the car – looked really cool. So, I started painting the story of my 911 SC and my passion for caps, never imagining it would become what it is today! I just wanted to have fun. Then an artist who exhibited in my gallery told me that he thought these creations were great and that I should exhibit one. To be honest, I wasn’t all that keen, for the other artists who exhibited in the gallery were very talented, and I didn’t really see myself fitting in. However, he encouraged me, saying that the hardest thing in painting is daring to exhibit your work. So, one

Saturday morning before opening, I did it. I was stunned when two retired ladies came in and said, “This painting is truly original.” I asked which piece they were referring to, and it was my painting of a Gulf-liveried Porsche 911! They asked me the price, and I didn’t know what to answer. One of them wanted it for her grandson. Encouraged by that, I began to believe in my idea of having fun with these creations, imagining myself telling the stories of my clients and their cars.

What methods and materials do you use?

I work with a rigid support that perfectly bears the weight of the miniature. In most



cases, I use carbon fibre wrapping to cover the support. For some custom orders, and depending on the budget, I work directly onto a sheet of pure carbon fibre. Each piece is hand-painted with acrylics, either using a brush or an airbrush, and I generally like to incorporate some lettering and logo designs.

Tell me about some of the pieces clients have commissioned from you.

Commissions form a big part of my work, and around 70% of my creations are custom-made for clients. In discussing their requirements, what fascinates me is the human stories behind them: the passion

2. 'Classic Passion 911' - an appropriate name, as the Porsche 911 has been one of the artist's favourite cars since his childhood. 3. Prancing Horse logo appears in the background of this Ferrari tableau. 4. Acrylic paint, vivid colours, logos and lettering are the ingredients that go to make up a typical G.D. Watson artwork. 5. Sometimes the focus is on a celebrated driver of the past, such as Alain Prost.



1. As well as bespoke commissions, Watson also produces prints and posters of motor racing personalities like Lewis Hamilton. 2. In the course of his work, the artist meets many significant figures in the racing world. He is seen here showing one of his creations to the French rally, racing and rallycross driver Sébastien Loeb.

passed down by a father, an uncle, or by watching films and series like Fast Four, Cars, Lightning McQueen, Back to the Future.

I learn something new about the automotive world every day thanks to my clients. The world of F1 and endurance racing is often featured, and I'm particularly happy when people talk to me about the 24 Hours of Le Mans or about life events or racing incidents they've experienced, and ask me to paint cars such as a Ferrari 250GTO, a GT40, or French driver Kevin Estre's Porsche that won Le Mans in 2018.

Are there any particular clients or commissions that stand out?

I attend many car exhibitions and events where I meet enthusiasts, and there's always a comment that touches me! People tell me, "I saw the car in your painting driving around such and such a place; my father had the same one." I like to re-create specific moments, like the victory of the Italian-born Belgian driver Lucien Bianchi in a Ferrari 250 GTO in the 1964 Tour de France Automobile, a gruelling 6000 km event combining circuit racing and rallying. People will say things like, "It's my favourite car, and what's more, I was born in '64. You must have painted this picture for me." To me, these moments are really magical.

One incredible story I experienced at

a show was when I met a couple who told me they'd heard about my work. The gentleman explained that, after his father's death, he'd discovered a 1:8 scale Ferrari in a cupboard, wrapped up like a treasure. He had absolutely no idea this car had been in his father's possession, nor did he realise his father had a passion for cars. So, I created an 80 x 120 cm painting featuring this six-kilogramme miniature car and decided to entitle the piece 'From Shadow to Light' because this miniature, which had remained hidden for over twenty years, now finds itself hanging on a hand-painted artwork in the light of day.

Over time, my style has become more defined, and it's really great that more and more clients are trusting me to create a piece for them without any specific instructions. Of course, we first take the time to discuss and exchange ideas about their vision of their dream car. Then, I let my inspiration guide me and interpret the subject in my own way.

What has been your best, most interesting, or most unusual work of art?

When people ask me what my best work of art is, I want to answer humorously: all of them! But there are some moments that make me particularly proud. For example, the Heart Auction. I had the honour of creating a piece with Dominique Chapatte [a well-known French television presenter

and host of a long-running car series called 'Turbo'] which was sold to benefit sick children. I also received support from F1 driver Charles Leclerc and the father of Charles' friend Jules Bianchi, who tragically died as a result of injuries sustained in a crash in the 2015 Japanese Grand Prix. This led to the sale of one of my works on behalf of the Jules Bianchi Association, which raises funds for a hospital in Nice specialising in treating brain-damaged patients where Jules spent several months. Being able to help sick children, or contribute to making their dreams come true by donating one of my works, makes me truly happy.

One last question: do you have any plans or dreams for the future?

GDW: Definitely! I've always dreamed of sharing my work with the world. Every country has its own automotive universe, with its legendary circuits, iconic drivers and incredible shows.

For 2026, I'm delighted that my work will be presented in Spain during the Le Mans Series in Barcelona, in Belgium at Spa, and in Italy at Mugello during the prestigious Italian Historic Grand Prix. But there's one event that I particularly dream about and that I often see on television: Goodwood in England. I really hope to be there one day! For more information or to contact the artist, see <https://www.gdwatsonart.fr>. ■

WHAT GOT YOU INTO SCALE MODEL COLLECTING?

Like many collectors, it all started with a model car — Matchbox-sized, although I cannot remember the brand — which I was given at a very young age. At the time, I only owned a handful of models, which I kept for years, but it was not until adulthood and a move to Czechia that the hobby truly began to develop into a serious collection. One of the biggest turning points came through meeting fellow collectors during visits to Praha. I was fortunate to receive guidance from people who had already spent years building their own collections and understood how quickly the hobby could become overwhelming or expensive without focus. They taught me how to budget properly, streamline my interests and avoid buying models simply for the sake of it. Through those friendships and the lessons I learned from them, the collection gradually expanded into several thousand pieces, built carefully over time rather than all at once.

WHAT DO YOU COLLECT?

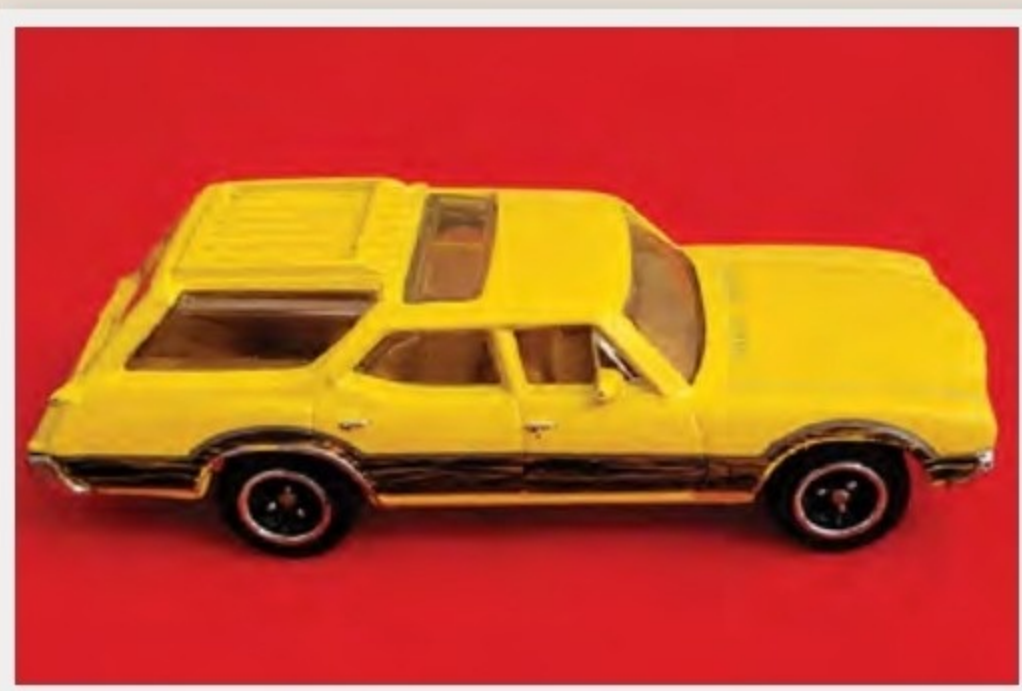
There has never really been a strict science or formula behind what I collect — most of the time it simply comes down to instinct. If I see a model in a colour or specification that immediately stands out to me, I tend to research what other variations exist and slowly begin collecting those as well. In many ways, it is more “love at first sight” than anything carefully planned. Licensed models make up the majority of the collection, particularly marques with strong identities and recognisable designs. Porsche has always been a favourite, alongside Land Rover, the BMW Mini and Ferrari, although I enjoy plenty of other brands too, depending on the casting and presentation. I appreciate models that capture the character of the real vehicle rather than simply reproducing it. However, there are limits. Tesla is one modern brand that does absolutely nothing for me as a collector. No matter how well produced the models may be, they simply fail to spark any real interest.

WHAT ARE YOUR HINTS AND TIPS ABOUT COLLECTING?

One of the most important lessons I have learned as a collector is not to chase absolutely everything. It can be very easy to fall into the trap of buying models simply because they are new releases, limited editions or suddenly popular online. Over time, I realised that approach quickly becomes expensive, exhausting and ultimately less enjoyable. Instead, I keep a defined wishlist and work through it gradually. I focus only on models that genuinely appeal to me and avoid becoming

Driven to collect

Viktor Grigorov's fascination with diecast models grew into a carefully curated collection of thousands, built through patience and passion.



ABOVE I started collecting because of the dogs. I'm a huge dog lover, so finding a model that featured two of them immediately stood out. From there it grew — first the colours, then the wheels, and the variations started to matter more and more. Now the Vista has ended up right at the top of my list.

a completist wherever possible. There are still expensive models I would love to own immediately, but patience is an important part of collecting and, eventually, many pieces can be acquired at the right time and for the right price.

Budgeting each month is also vitally important. Diecast collecting should always remain enjoyable and never come at the expense of real-life priorities. Ultimately, having a clear plan and buying only what truly interests you makes the hobby far more rewarding in the long run.

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

Over the years, I have managed to track down most of the Holy Grail pieces that once sat on my wishlist, but there is still one item that stands above all the others. In 1990, MICA honoured Charlie Mack Smith by producing a special figurine limited to just 500 pieces. I was fortunate enough to own number 367 and considered it one of the centrepieces of the collection for many years.

Unfortunately, during a model reshuffle and reorganisation, I somehow managed to break it. The moment it happened, I knew immediately that I had made a very expensive mistake, and I kicked myself afterwards for not being more careful. Since then, I have spent years searching for a replacement. The problem is that examples now appear very rarely and, when they do, the prices are usually far beyond what I can realistically justify



ABOVE I'm a big old-school fan, and having lived in Canada and now Czechia, this model just matched the vibe for me. The overall look, combined with its vibrant colours, really drew me in and is what got me started collecting it. The dark red Fire Chief, in particular, is the crème de la crème of the entire lineup.



ABOVE I started collecting this one because of Mr Bean and how instantly recognisable and fun the model is. A friend of mine also owns a real version, which made me appreciate it even more. Seeing it up close really sealed it for me, and that's why it earned a place in my collection.

What we reckon

What is particularly impressive about Viktor's approach to collecting is the discipline behind it. Most collectors have been there at some stage — buying models simply for the sake of completeness or trying to keep pace with the latest trends — when, in reality, the only pieces that truly matter are the ones you genuinely enjoy owning. In an era where collecting can sometimes feel driven more by online attention than personal enjoyment, Viktor's measured and carefully focused approach is refreshingly grounded. It proves that satisfaction in collecting is not about sheer volume, but about building a collection that genuinely means something to you. **Keith D'Souza**

spending. Deep down, I know I may never own another one — but the search continues regardless. ■



LEFT Side by side, both capture the shape of the Mk3 Cavalier well. Corgi's (left) has the correct dark grey grille, unique to the SRi.

Mk3 Vauxhall Cavalier

Office car parks and motorways were once full of Mk3 Cavaliers; no surprise, as around 742,000 were sold.

Today, only a few hundred are still on the road. The Mk3 Vauxhall Cavalier was launched in October 1988, and much was made of the new aerodynamic shape and advanced engineering; so much so that the advertising slogan at launch was 'The Future. Now'. It also made its closest rival, the rear wheel drive Ford Sierra, look very long in the tooth.

For our 'then' model, we are looking at a 'toy' version that was made by Gama. I bought this example from a local Vauxhall dealer around the time of the launch, complete with a special promotional box, proudly stating 'The Future. Now'. I hesitate a little to use the word 'toy' as Gama made what can best be described as 'high-end' toys. They were made to a consistent 1:43 scale and incorporated a high level of detail. They also included opening parts (including doors with window frames), adding play value. Gama have done a great job with making the opening doors and boot not overly obvious; some opening features spoil the lines of a car, particularly within the 'toy' sector, as they were designed to withstand heavy-handed opening and closing; opening doors often do without window frames, which would be prone to snapping off, and this does tend to leave rather odd-looking gaps.

As is fitting of a higher specification

For this month's Then and Now, **Steve Coles** takes a look at a once common sight on Britain's roads: the Mk3 Vauxhall Cavalier.

toy, clear plastic lights front and rear and a separate front grille in the correct pale grey help this toy raise its game. This particular example is of a 'GL' specification Cavalier and wears the correct Vauxhall wheel trims (complete with moulded Griffin badge). To help differentiate it from the lower 'L' specification, Vauxhall fitted the GL with a black panel between the rear lights and part body coloured bumpers. Gama have reproduced both these GL elements. They also produced both hatchback and saloon versions in right-hand drive for Vauxhall dealers, both in red and both of GL spec cars. For mainland Europe, the equivalent Opel Vectra toys came in a number of colours, as well as with and without the body coloured bumpers and black rear panel.

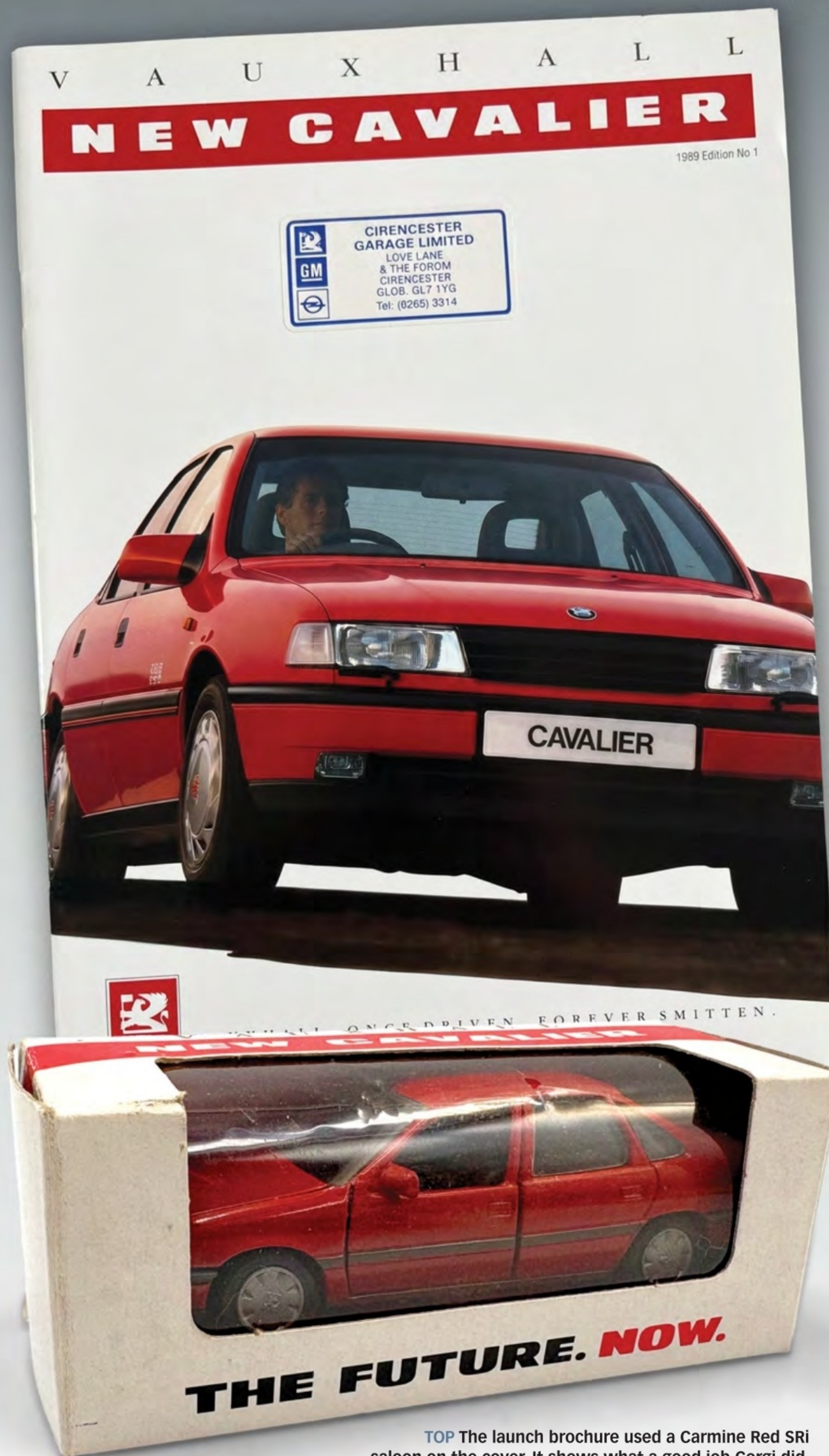
I've paired the Gama with Corgi's Mk3 Cavalier from the Vanguard's range. I've used the SRi in Carmine Red, released as VA13100 in early 2013, as they are very similar shades of red. We will put to one side the fact that these are not the same specification Cavalier; back in 1989, the real SRi was a very different car to the GL. This Vanguard's model is up to the same high standards we have come to expect from modern collectors' models. It has lovely,

accurate badging, fine printed details around the windows and separate windscreen wipers. The wheels sport the correct wheel trims fitted to these early SRis, and there is a very dark grey front grille, again something that distinguished the SRi from the rest of the Cavalier range.

Internally, the dashboard detail is some of the best I've seen. The tiny controls for the heating and ventilation look superb. The sunroof, whilst heavily tinted, is also correct for the SRi. One error inside is with the rear seat head restraints. Whilst they were fitted to the CD and GSi2000 models, the SRi never had them. Rather curiously, Corgi made the same error with their Mk2 Vanguard's Cavalier.

Both Gama and Corgi have captured the overall shape of the Cavalier saloon well. That said, I do have a bit of a problem with the rear bumper on the Vanguard's Cavalier. The whole bumper is too tall and, when viewed from the side, too slab-like in appearance. This is not something that affects only this SRi; all the Vanguard's Mk3 Cavaliers seem to have these odd-looking rear bumpers.

If these two were pitched against each other, the outcome would be a close call. Yes, the Vanguard's model is clearly very good and



TOP The launch brochure used a Carmine Red SRI saloon on the cover. It shows what a good job Corgi did.
ABOVE The promotional models sold by Vauxhall dealers proudly had the advertising slogan on the boxes as well as 'New Cavalier'.

has the high level of detail you would expect from a modern collector's model. However, what is perhaps surprising is how close the Gama model is to it in terms of accuracy and basic details. And after a period of time in the doldrums, values of Corgi's Mk3 Cavaliers

are finally on the up and finding one can be quite pricey now. If you only want one good example of the Mk3 Cavalier in your collection, then the Gama is more than up to the task. It will probably be easier and cheaper to track down! ■



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1. The Gama (left) has the shape of the rear bumper spot-on. The lower black trim is actually the model's base.
2. The opening doors and boot, whilst very well done, show the Gama's toy origins.
3. Head-to-head, there's not much between these two models. In 1989, the difference between the GL and SRI was about £1000.
4. Unlike the GL, the SRI didn't get a black rear panel between the taillights. Also seen here are the incorrect rear headrests, never fitted to an SRI spec Cavalier.
5. Clear red rear lights and the black décor panel give the rear view of the Gama a sense of quality.

No.
74



DAIMLER BUS

Production: 1970-72

Catalogue: 1970-72

Box Styles: F, G

Making the transition from regular wheels in time for the 1970 catalogue, the attractive Daimler Bus then survived in the range for a further two years.

Apart from the obvious choice of London Transport red, Daimler Bus also appeared in various shades of pink.

Towards the end of its run, in 1972, it began to be used as a promotional models by various companies and many versions started to appear, one is known to have even included a miniature bottle of whisky!

TOE JOE

Production: 1972-78

Catalogue: 1973-78

Box Styles: I

A futuristic commercial, this time a modern looking wreck truck with the name Toe Joe, it was painted a light metallic lime green, with a bare metal base and grille, and yellow interior.

The windows and warning lights were in amber and Toe Joe was a favourite of many kids, as it had a lot of play value and was great for towing other Matchbox cars. The crane booms were in green plastic, and could rotate 180 degrees. At the ends were a pair of red hooks that could clip into a bracket when not in use.

In 1976 Toe Joe was included in the Two Packs series, normally teamed with Racing

Superfast 1969-1982

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

Mini. In this guise it was painted yellow with a black base, red booms and black hooks.

COUGAR VILLAGER

Production: 1978-81

Catalogue: 1979-81

Box Styles: L

The Mercury Cougar was best known as a sporty "personal luxury" coupé but for one year only – 1977 – there was a station wagon variant called the Cougar Villager. One of Matchbox's most successful models from the early 1970s was the Mercury Commuter estate, and it seems that they tried to repeat its success with another Mercury wagon. The Cougar Villager was even produced in the same shade of light metallic green. It had an unpainted metal base and grille, yellow interior and an opening tailgate in a poorly-matched shade of green plastic.

FIAT ABARTH

Production: 1981-82

Catalogue: 1982

Box Styles: L

Fiat Abarth was based on a two-door Fiat 131 Mirafiori that had been modified for racing by Abarth, Fiat's specialist tuning department. The Fiat 131 had proved very successful in rallying between 1977 and 1981 and the Matchbox model was a chunky, well-detailed casting that included all bonnet scoops, spoilers and wide wheel arches. It was painted white with a fictitious "Matchbox Racing" livery with red and orange stripes. The rally style interior was in red plastic, and the windows were clear. The chassis and grille were in black plastic; some nice touches were the headlights, driving lights and Fiat logo on the grille being hot foiled in chrome.

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We hear a lot these days about diversity and inclusivity, and it's easy to write things off like this as woke nonsense or merely political sloganeering. But maybe there's a little more to it.

For example, I belong to a local car club that has no subscriptions, membership roster, concourse competitions and the like. You just turn up in your car of a certain age and talk old stuff because it's for enthusiasts, not really for the public. The rough, the weird and yes, the wonderful all make an appearance. It's not unusual to see a hot-rodded Volkswagen Beetle, complete with a skeleton in the passenger seat, flanked by a pristine E-type Jaguar on one side and a 90s hot hatch on the other. It's very informal and all the better for it. There's no snobbery and definitely lots of fun. There's a charity element involved, which everyone agrees is a good thing. The club that has previously won an award for its community feel.

Our hobby is and should be like this. I love seeing people enthusiastic about their given thing; it's highly infectious and good to be around. I don't need to share any of their passion regarding their muse, but I can still enjoy the ride. I think that's why I like the car club.

There have been a few rumblings recently about falling toy values, toy fairs not being what they were, as if it's all going to hell in a yesteryear hand cart. But when I look at my local comic convention show with signings, trade cards and stands,

A broad church

Ed Karswell ponders the world of model collecting.

etc., it's bustling with school kids to thirtysomethings, all enjoying themselves. It's great, and I'm sure antique dealers looked at us getting all enthusiastic over Dinky and tinsplate toys back in the 1970s and thought we were all mad. So, what's the point I'm making? I'm not really sure it is always right to lump it all together. A massive fair filled with one table for each collecting might be a great public spectacle, but not so great for the collector.

It may be about accepting where we are and where we've been. I'm always reminded of the American magazine, *Antique Toy World*, which has been in print since the early 1970s. It resolutely features almost exclusively vintage toys. Vintage means anything pre-1960 or thereabouts. It is proudly old school and so much the better for it. It has not moved with the times because the times that it's interested in haven't moved either. There are certainly many magazines that cater for later stuff like action figures, space toys, etc., and they all have their followers, so there's no need to diversify as far as these people are concerned.

At toy fairs, I'm always encouraged by new collectors, as with the classic car scene, it's new blood that will be carrying our hobby forward. I think it's easy to assume

in the Internet age that collectors know everything about their given field, even those who are new to it. In my experience, that's not the case, and many want to hear about it face-to-face from knowledgeable dealers. Can you remember how pleased and excited you were when you managed to bag something for your collection in those early days? I can, it was a matchbox Cadillac 60 special in very nice condition, from a fete, no less.

I do notice some collectors getting very melancholy about the situation, too. I suppose it's hard to reconcile change, but it's easy to talk it up. It's also not being part of the zeitgeist. Remember when collecting old toys was once new and cool? Maybe it's just a natural part of getting older.

Personally, when I feel the need to shake myself out of it, I do it either by buying some vintage toy in need of an unfeasible restoration or mending something on my old car. The latter usually involves getting covered in muck, lots of cathartic swearing and aching for days after having extricated myself from under the thing.

The only certainty we have is that life goes on. Personally, I may start going to some of those comic cons. It never ends, does it? ■



1. Grogu has become one of Disney's biggest merchandising successes.

2. Remote-controlled R2-D2 brought one of Star Wars' most beloved droids to life.

Iconic Star Wars collectables

George Chrysostomou explores the most famous collectables from a galaxy far, far away.

2 026 saw the release of *The Mandalorian* and Grogu in theatres, following on from the performance of Disney+ shows like *Maul – Shadow Lord*. It has been a big year for the brand, therefore, and with a new creative lead in charge of the studio, it seems that major things are in store. The fandom has always been about so much more than just the movies and eventual TV shows, though. Star Wars also has one of the biggest collector communities of any franchise.

From the early days of Kenner's management of the toy brand to the contemporary circuit of collector-specific product development, the Star Wars saga has

gone on quite a journey within this space. Some of these toys have specifically stood out throughout history, though, perhaps because they are rare, highly valuable or simply incredibly popular worldwide. These are some of the most iconic Star Wars toys of all time, and it's probable that you've heard of a few of them!

LIGHTSABERS

It makes sense to start with an early favourite, and that is the famous weapons coveted by the Jedi and the Sith. Lightsabers have been on the market since 1977, when an unofficial version of the product was made by Jack A. Levin & Co, known as the Force

Beam. Eventually, Kenner would create its own version of the Lightsaber in 1978, an inflatable blade that pales in comparison to today's offerings.

The Lightsaber has come on massively since then, with the likes of Hasbro and Disney creating their own customisable kits, while unofficial replicas and combat-ready sabers flood the community. Premium builders like *Vader's Vault* or *SaberForge* have to get a mention! The quest to build a real Lightsaber is still on, but for now, these iconic toys will still serve as important collector items.

THE EARLY BIRD CERTIFICATE PACKAGE

While this isn't quite a toy, it is an iconic piece of memorabilia that, for a time, was just as good as the real thing. When Star Wars was originally released, no one quite expected the mania surrounding it. Kenner, who were responsible for creating products around the brand, weren't actually ready for the boom period around the holiday season.

With no toys to sell but a fanbase determined to get their hands on some kind of Star Wars products, the company instead produced Early Bird Certificate Packages. The pre-order of their day, these served as a promise that any owner of the certificate would be able to access one of these toys when they were eventually available. The Early Bird offering itself has since become an iconic bit of Star Wars lore.



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3. Darth Vader's helmet remains one of Star Wars' most recognisable collectables.

4. The original Luke Skywalker figure is famous for its unexpected yellow Lightsaber.

KENNER DARTH VADER

Kenner is going to reappear on this list a few times and for good reason. Because the company's early output is integral to helping build the popularity of the first film. These toys allowed kids to continue the adventure in their own way, building hype ahead of *The Empire Strikes Back*. No one could tell their tale without the prime villain, though, and Darth Vader quickly became one of the most sought-after figures from the picture.

Complete with his in-hand red Lightsaber and vinyl cloak, the original Kenner Darth Vader model managed to effectively portray the classic silhouette of the most famous movie foe in history. The attention to detail on this figure was exceptional, only adding to its appeal. Today, the Kenner Darth Vader action figure has been sold for up to £3,000!

LEGO MILLENNIUM FALCON

Moving away from Kenner for a moment, it's a good time to put the spotlight on LEGO, which has been home to some of the best-selling Star Wars products. Some of them have even been featured in prior issues of this magazine! The LEGO Millennium Falcon, in particular, is one of LEGO's most

pricy products, with over 25 variations on the Falcon from the brick-built company since 2000.

The most valuable at the time of writing is the Ultimate Collector Series variation, which has been priced at over £700. With 9,000+ pieces in the kit, the model is a beautiful display of LEGO's ability to produce sheer quality, aimed at all ages. Other much-loved versions, including the 2019 Rise of Skywalker iteration and 25th anniversary display edition, have showcased LEGO's engaged attitude towards keeping things fresh.

KENNER HAN SOLO

Back to Kenner now, and the original Han Solo action figure from 1978 is a bold addition to any collection. With Solo becoming quite the standout, catapulting Harrison Ford into a global icon, it's no surprise that Han Solo was selling out all over the world. There is a strange additional distinction to the figure, though, that has made it even rarer.

Some versions of the Kenner model were accidentally built with smaller heads. Released in the early wave, this 'small head Han' has become a rare find on the

collector's scene and has been sold for up to £1,000. Regardless, both versions include Solo's trademark smug smirk and a relatively screen-accurate blaster, even if the finished result was a little clunky.

KENNER LUKE SKYWALKER

Just like Han Solo and Darth Vader, Luke Skywalker was at the top of the list for most-wanted Kenner action figures. The young Jedi was the hero of the piece after all, with Skywalker selling out relatively quickly. The design of the figure is in line with the other Kenner releases, with a robust build and point of articulation in his mid-section.

But what many noticed upon receiving their Luke Skywalker was that the Lightsaber colour wasn't blue. In fact, yellow was the chosen colour for Luke's famous weapon, with the designer hoping it would contrast well with Vader's red and Kenobi's blue Lightsabers. In making this decision, Luke's figure became all the more valuable.

ROCKET-FIRING BOBA FETT

Prototype toys are always popular on the collectable scene because they are so rare. None has been more infamous than the 'rocket-firing' Boba Fett figure, which was released in conjunction with *The Empire Strikes Back*. The figure was designed in



1

1. The Palitoy Death Star gave young fans the perfect backdrop for recreating the films.

1979, before the film had even been released. While audiences had been introduced to the mysterious Fett in the Star Wars Holiday Special, this toy only added to the mythology.

With plenty of mail-in orders for the prized piece, Kenner had to disappoint fans by rolling back on their promises. While the figure was meant to have a firing rocket pack, the shootable accessory was thought to be a choking hazard. So, the standard Boba Fett figure was sent out, and the rest is history. There are thought to be just 100 prototypes out there on the market.

PALIToy DEATH STAR

No play session was complete without a fantastical backdrop to set one's adventures in, and Palitoy came up with the bright idea of giving kids somewhere to play. That's why the cardboard Death Star was an instant hit, because it allowed fans to enter the movies in a way they previously hadn't been able to.

Finding a version of this Death Star in mint condition is quite the challenge, considering the issues faced with preserving cardboard. With a trash compactor, operations room and even a top-mounted gunner, the Death Star offered multiple

interactive spaces to do battle in. The finishing illustrations really brought the set to life.

CONTROLLABLE DROIDS

Droids have always been a popular part of the Star Wars universe, with fans falling in love with the comedy dynamic of C-3PO and R2-D2. The very first remote-controlled R2-D2 was released far sooner than you might think. Kenner produced a version in 1978, and while it was limited in its abilities, it still managed to capture the magic of the movies.

Fast-forward to today, and there are simply hundreds of controllable droids to choose from, with the likes of BB-8 and Chopper realised in this format. Fans have also created their own custom builds, with the robotics space flooded with inventive droid designs.

MILLENNIUM FALCON PLAYSET

Star Wars' character action figures like Princess Leia and Ben Kenobi were still some of the biggest sellers for Kenner in that early run of toys. Yet, there was one playset that outranked all those heroes and villains. Because fans simply had to get their hands on the coolest spaceship the galaxy had ever known. Thus, Kenner's Millennium Falcon playset was born.

Released in 1979, the toy included screen-

accurate detailing, a usable cockpit, living quarters, a smuggler's compartment and even sound effects. A moveable ramp, classic radar dish and a recreation of the Dejarik board completed the look. Versions of the toy have sold for over \$5,000!

KENNER AT-AT

The Empire Strikes Back utilised the AT-AT for the first time, the armoured walkers that sought to decimate the Rebel Alliance on Hoth. Their design was impeccable, and they have remained a big part of Star Wars lore. Kenner saw another opportunity to capitalise, and in 1981, a recreation of the AT-AT was constructed.

This was a big and robust toy with a cockpit that would fit two action figures and moveable legs that brought interactivity to play. Fitted with an electronics system, this was an almost modern-facing toy design that collectors still love. While rare, it is not quite as valuable as some of Kenner's other pieces.

LIFE-LIKE GROGU

The majority of this feature has focused on classic toys, which have stood the test of time. But some mention has to go to a contemporary hit, which will likely be popular years into the future. Sometimes nicknamed Baby Yoda, The Mandalorian's



2

2. The Ultimate Collector Series Millennium Falcon is one of LEGO's largest Star Wars sets.

3. The Kenner AT-AT remains one of the most iconic vehicles from the original toy line.



3

4. The solid gold C-3PO is one of LEGO's rarest and most valuable minifigures.



4

Grogu has captured hearts and minds and has become one of Disney's biggest-selling products in years.

From lifelike replicas to interactive robotic iterations and classic plush figures, Grogu has been sold in many forms. The popularity of the character on the back of *The Mandalorian* and *Grogu*, coupled with increasingly impressive technology, means that these toys will keep on evolving and becoming that much more authentic. EFX Collectables presented the most expensive electronic Grogu to date at \$100,000, while Hasbro offers a \$600 'Ultimate Grogu.'

MASKS & HELMETS

The most iconic thing about Darth Vader is his mask, which replicated that haunting breathing sound. It accompanied a range

of other great masks and helmets from throughout the original trilogy, including that devastating Stormtrooper attire. A variety of toy companies attempted to create the perfect version of these designs.

The 1977 Don Post Studios version of the Darth Vader mask was an early favourite, while Galoob and MG Entertainment's electronic iteration from 1995 became a mainstream success. Hasbro has a range of alternatives available today and has created other masks, including the infamous Chewbacca face, which went viral.

THE BLACK SERIES

Some love has to be given to those modern toys, which are keeping the brand alive. Collectors have particularly been taken by The Black Series, a range of high-premium

figures, collector's items and vehicles from Hasbro. Beginning in 2013, The Black Series has shown that the sky is the limit when it comes to niche adaptations.

Some fan favourites include a replication of Darth Malgus from *Star Wars: The Old Republic*, a nuanced adaptation of Asajj Ventress from *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* and the Beskar Armour version of Din Djarin from *The Mandalorian*. Incredible paintwork and a dedication to the fan base ensure The Black Series remains iconic.

LEGO GOLD C-3PO PROTOTYPE

LEGO Minifigures are already collector's items. But when LEGO decided to create a limited-edition version of C-3PO, no one took them seriously. Regardless, they debuted a very real 14-karat solid gold C-3PO, accompanied by a 30th anniversary chrome-plated alternative.

With only 5 gold and 10,000 chrome-plated versions, each has sold tremendously well. It is that 2007 solid gold iteration that is still the most famous, though, and has been sold at over \$300,000. It's the holy grail for collectors and quite the oddity within Star Wars toy history. ■



A trip to Transtar

Transtar Promotions, run by Geoff and Lynda Price, is celebrating its 35th anniversary this year. Geoff and Lynda have been collectors for over 67 years, and Geoff's love for collecting has even landed him in the Guinness Book of World Records. He holds the record for the biggest collection of model coaches and buses, with every single one being different. Back in 2011, he had 10,955 models, and now he's getting close to 16,000!

Geoff started collecting way back in 1958, when he was just eight. Lynda shares his love for collecting too, with her own collection of dolls, and she's always been his biggest supporter when it comes to coaches and buses. Organising fairs is second nature to them. Before they got into toy and train fairs, Geoff and Lynda organised hundreds of outdoor Classic Car and Transport events all around the country.

The toy and train fairs take place at Oak Park Active Leisure Centre, first in the old halls and now in the new ones at the same spot. It's a favourite with toy traders and collectors alike. There's plenty of parking, tasty food and drinks, and a really friendly atmosphere. Lots of people come along, and there's always a great mix of collectables, from pocket money toys to top-of-the-range mint condition pieces.

Every other month, **Ann Evans** and **Rob Tysall** head out to review the UK's finest toy fairs. This month, they explore Transtar Promotions Toy and Train Fair in Walsall Wood.

Geoff commented, "We get a good crowd, lots of regulars – traders and customers, and if they are looking for something specific traders will look out for them."

The *Gazette's* team of Ann and Rob went along recently to catch up with Geoff and Lynda and browse the many thousands of items on sale across 100 stands. Not surprisingly, on Geoff's tables were lots of buses, coaches and trams, surplus to his requirements – plus a new acquisition – yes, a model bus, which he'd spotted very early on in the day!

Setting off to explore, we first chatted to Sven Harvey on Geek-Station.co.uk. Sven and the group he runs (Spacedock Birmingham) are into sci-fi and fantasy, as well as geeky computing and gaming-related items – hence the name Geek-Station!

Sven had an interesting stand, packed with Star Trek collectables, Robocop, and a lot of Transformers. Assisted by mum Ann, who is also very much into the sci-fi scene, they reminded us that this year marks the

40th anniversary of the 1986 animated film *Transformers: The Movie*, featuring the voices of Orson Welles, Robert Stack, and Leonard Nimoy. It was Orson Welles' last role before his death.

To celebrate the 40th anniversary, Hasbro and Fathom Entertainment are launching *The Apology Tour* – a tongue-in-cheek celebration for killing off Optimus Prime at the start of the original film and causing untold trauma to its young fans! Forty years on, there will be new screenings and special merchandise, some of which Sven and Ann had on their stand.

There was an abundance of all things to do with model railways. One stall with an impressive selection of goods was Ade's Model Railway Accessories, based in Bilston, Staffs. Ade specialises in OO gauge locomotives, wagons, buildings, scenery and more; buying and selling, including complete layouts.

Mark Pyatt and his wife Anne (yes, Ann was a popular name at the fair – here's another Ann writing about it!) had an interesting selection of sci-fi and film



1. Sven and Ann of Geek-Station.
2. Tim of T.M. Toys.
3. Mark and Ann's stand.
4. Action Man German motorcycle and sidecar.
5. Dave Hinett of Flash Toys.
6. Thunderbird 2.
7. Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck go for a drive.

collectables on their stand, most of which came from Mark's own collection. These included bargain boxes of diecasts going for around £2 to £5 each – his diecasts dated from the early 1950s to the 1980s. He also had an Action Man motorbike from 1970. This was a German WWII motorcycle and sidecar – given a rider just to complete the image, rather than it being a 1970s Action Man.

Another nice item was an electronic Thunderbirds Tracy Island playset with sound effects. And a toy Grogu – possibly one of the cutest characters to appear on our screens of late. Grogu, often referred to as 'Baby Yoda', is a 50-year-old child of the same species as Jedi Master Yoda. He is the adopted son and apprentice of Mandalorian bounty hunter Din Djarin, and appears

in *Star Wars: The Mandalorian and Grogu*, released in cinemas in May 2026.

Dealer Mark said, "I've been trading for around 10 years now. It started with diecasts, then went on to include figures and bits and pieces. If I like it, I'll buy it!"

On Colin's Collectables stand, there were vintage books and toys, pop culture memorabilia, including vintage Power Ranger figures, Spider-Man, Farm Family, and Roblox Postman Pat. Lots of pocket money toys. He'd also gone for the increasingly popular mystery bags.

On other stalls, we found Disney collectables, Gerry Anderson collectables, and TV classics such as The Avengers, as well as a Batman Swoops Down board game produced by J.W. Spears & Sons (Spears Games) in 1966 to tie in with the popularity of Adam West as Batman in the UK. Here players had to 'flick' a weighted Batman figurine to capture villains and rescue Robin. At a recent auction, one in good, boxed condition was expected to fetch around £100.

We also came across Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck in their open-topped cars; these had been made by Japanese toy company Masudaya, founded in Tokyo in 1923. They had an asking price of around £24 each. Also, the Avengers gift set made by Corgi featuring John Steed's vintage Bentley and Emma Peel's Lotus Elan. This set was in production from 1966 to 1969. Today, in boxed and mint condition, this could fetch over £400.

An AA Patrol and Sentry Box 1945-67,

and a Patrol and Motorcycle combination, hand-made by Gerry Ford, were a rare find. These models were to remind people that from the very start of the AA patrols; sentry boxes were set up along the roadside. At one time, there were around a thousand of these sentry boxes across the country; these days, there are only around 22 left, but they should be safe, as they have protection orders on them. The handmade models by Gerry Ford depict these early AA patrols and sentry boxes, the predecessors of today's AA patrols. Asking price was around £25.

Dave Hinett of Flash Toys had a fascinating display of vintage toys, model kits and retro memorabilia, including the famous Pepsi Promotion set of Planet of the Apes. This was a highly sought-after collectable tie-in launched in 2001 to coincide with Tim Burton's *Planet of the Apes* movie remake. It consisted of an exclusive Japanese promotional set of 42 character bottle caps, given away with purchases of Pepsi.

So, another excellent fair from Transtar Promotions. Their next shows are on Sunday 20th September 2026 and Sunday 29th November 2026 at Oak Park Active Leisure Centre, Walsall Wood. For details visit: <http://www.transtar-promotions.co.uk>. ■



Over the past fifty years, Aardman's iconic Wallace and Gromit, Shaun the Sheep, Feathers McGraw and Lady Tottingham have become animation legends. They are also highly collectable, with a vast array of linked merchandise from soft toys to books, clocks and models.

Original items from Aardman rarely become available. Most remain within the Aardman archives, although a fire destroyed many of the earliest props in 2005. There have been very few exhibitions based on the work of Aardman Animation. In 2025, the Harris Museum, Preston, held a reopening exhibition entitled *Wallace & Gromit In A Case At The Museum* featuring Aardman memorabilia. The location was chosen because Nick Park, creator of Wallace & Gromit, had grown up in the area. It attracted thousands of visitors, with families travelling from across the UK to see it.

Until mid November 2026, a special exhibition at the Young V&A in Bethnal Green, London, offers a unique glimpse into Aardman's world. Entitled *Inside Aardman: Wallace & Gromit and Friends*, it explores the entire animation process from creating the stories through to the eventual screening.

What really makes this exhibition stand out is the sheer number of exhibits. Countless hand-drawn images show how the characters of Wallace & Gromit changed from the initial idea. Turning Gromit into a silent character made him much more expressive, while Wallace was given a shave. Nor are the drawings on display standard sketchbooks or storyboards – one of the most unusual is a drawing on a scrap sheet of paper from the Trophies Shop in Leighton Buzzard, illustrating a quick preparatory image of the rocket exterior. There are lots of experimental images, including scenes that have not yet been used, such as Wallace & Gromit shown on a bed surrounded by hordes of sleeping penguins. Countless drawings show the evolution of Lady Tottington wearing different clothes until the directors made their final choice.

Equally interesting are the set models, like the massive armoured mammoth, complete with hydraulics built into its legs, used in the 2018 *Early Man* animation. A large pirate ship used in *An Adventure with Scientists* was gutted and modified as required during filming to accommodate cameras, lights, and puppets. Several set pieces relate to Shaun the

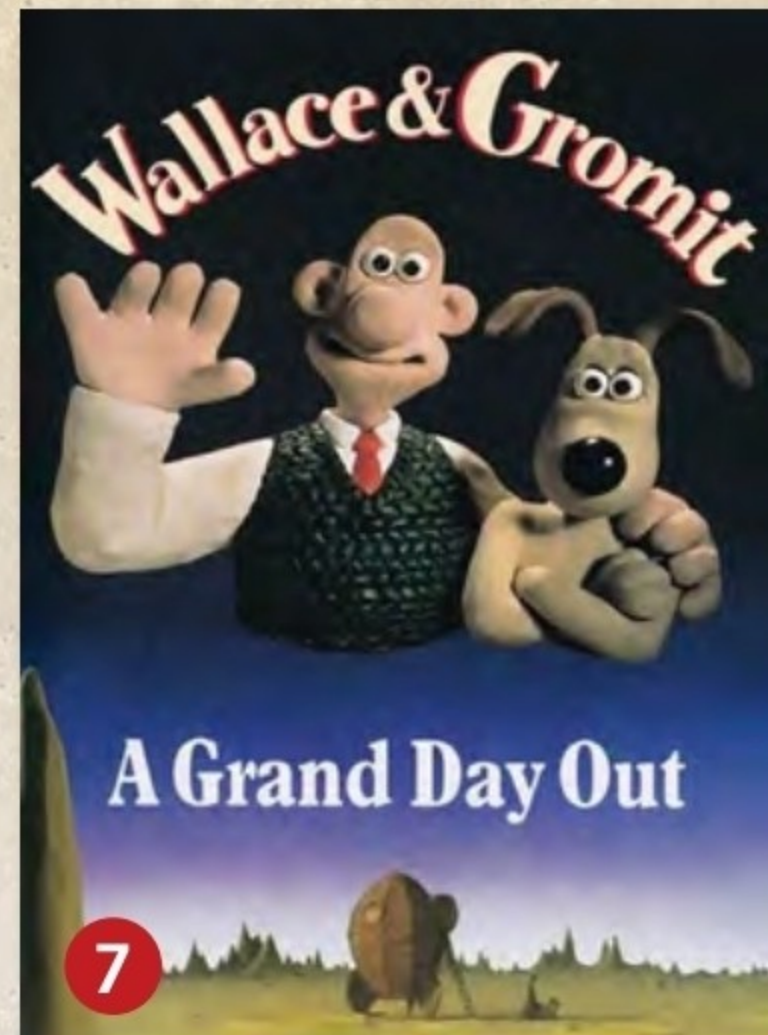
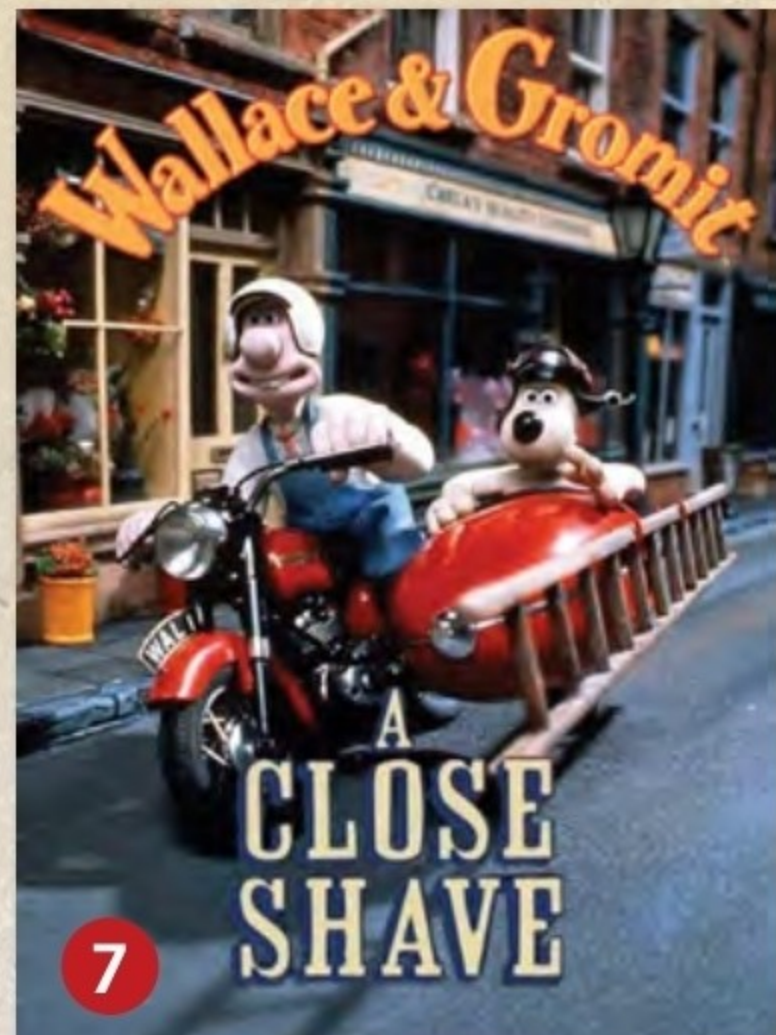


50 years of Aardman

Angela Youngman discovers the world of Aardman collectables at a major exhibition marking 50 years of animation magic.

Sheep and Wallace and Gromit, including the iconic scene in a museum where Wallace is wearing the wrong trousers. Seeing these models up close provides the opportunity to discover things you don't notice on screen, such as joke items like a version of Rodin's *Kiss* sculpture, Gromit as an Egyptian mummy, or the rivets on Wallace's rocket ship that were actually made from lentils.

Most of the materials used to create the models and sets are traditional clay, cardboard, and papier-mâché. What the exhibition reveals is how those materials have adapted over the years to suit the requirements of specific films. Needle felting was used to make bird models, while silicon rubber, metal, resin and nylon have also been used. 3D-printed materials became essential to make the large number



1. Feathers Mc Graw poster.
2. The moon rocket from A Grand Day Out.
3. Shaun The Sheep.
4. The mammoth from Ardman's Early Man animation.
5. Gromit's vegetable garden.
6. Set from The Wrong Trousers.
7. Advertising posters for Wallace & Gromit films.
8. Newspapers used on the Wallace & Gromit film sets.



of detailed parts required for characters like the Pirate Captain, simply because the mouths needed to be changed so often.

Although Aardman have retained ownership of all these classic items, they have been involved in various charity fundraising events mainly around Bristol, where the company is based. In October 2022, Aardman supported a Grand Auction in aid of the Bristol Children's Hospital, which included the opportunity to buy

original artwork. Painted resin sculptures of Shaun the Sheep and Gromit have featured in public art trails around the country, which have then been individually auctioned in aid of various charities. The number of sculptures on each trail varies, and can be 50 or more. One such trail in Bristol raised more than £2,000,000.

Occasional items, such as a Nick Park drawing of Wallace & Gromit, appear on eBay, while R&R Auctions once sold an

original concept drawing for \$409.

Demand for Aardman collectables is high, especially for first-edition figurines linked to specific films like A Grand Day Out, which are produced by companies such as Coalport China. The iconic characters have also appeared on postage stamps. In 2022, the Royal Mail issued a set of eight stamps featuring Wallace & Gromit, Feathers McGraw, Shaun the Sheep, Timmy, Morph & Chas, Frank the Tortoise, Rocky & Ginger. Special presentation packs included a miniature sheet.

In February 2025, the Independent newspaper ran a story about a collector who started with the purchase of a Wallace & Gromit pen, and now has over 1,000 items such as books, mugs, toys and even a special themed PG Tips.

The Aardman name and its iconic characters, including Feathers McGraw penguins, are now widely licensed for use on T-shirts, clothing, car accessories, stationery, as well as models and soft toys. Many of these are stocked at the Young V&A Aardman shop, which is open until the end of the exhibition. ■

Having a punchy acronym for a business can help heighten its profile, and SAS (Special Auctions Service), based in Newbury, is a good example. The present owners bought the company in September 2006. Once renowned for selling Staffordshire Pot Lids and Prattware, the new proprietors expanded the number of collectable fields from button hooks and bank notes to cameras, watches and pop memorabilia. Today, it holds over 50 auctions a year.

The vintage toy and trains, alongside dolls and teddy bear auctions, prove to be the most consistently successful. When Hugo Marsh, a toy specialist for the Christies South Kensington branch, joined in 2011, the former two were elevated to centre stage due to his experience and accrued contacts. Yet, after just six years at the helm, Marsh retired, and Dominic Foster took over after replying to an advert. He says, “I knew little about old toys and trains, but had plenty of experience managing a thousand lot general auctions.”

Dominic began as an auction porter at the age of 18 years old and worked his way up the ladder, admitting this business is all he knows, while for some colleagues, it has become a second career after moving away from professional trading.

So, does he collect himself? Dominic laughs, “I am immune to collecting. I don’t feel the need, as I am surrounded by it all the time.”

The vintage toy auctions are broken up into three areas. General toys, model trains, and dolls and teddy bears. The company boasts one of the best-known global experts for the latter, Daniel Agnew, who sets up and manages some of the most successful doll and teddy bear auctions in the world.

When Dominic is asked what SAS allows to be auctioned, he responds, “We sell anything that people collect! This includes WW2 German militaria.” Dominic says that while such memorabilia is especially popular, countries like Germany and France ban it from being sold. He continues, “Recently, we had an amazing collection that hailed from a storage unit located in Outer London. It made a fortune.” Adding, “While some people will always frown at something, if there is a strong market for a particular field, we auction it.”

Given the competition that auction houses face, SAS compete by making its commission charges attractive, especially for vendors.

Dominic explains, “We have no hidden charges. No lotting, photographic, or insurance fees. We are also flexible with our vendor commission fee, which can range from 15% to 20%. We are especially



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 SAS Auctioneer, Dominic Foster.

malleable over higher valued items.”

Of note, SAS has its own online auction platform where there is no charge to use, which comes with a 2% to 3% commission cost.

Which leads on to how the auction business has radically changed over the last 25 years. Dominic explains, “It is all about online today, especially after Covid.” I was surprised to discover just how few people physically attend an SAS sale. “We hold somewhere there is no one in the room. Even the most popular ones can only attract ten or so collectors.” Yet, online, there are many, many thousands following it. He

continues, “Take our popular train auctions. Perhaps twenty to thirty people may view the collection leading up to the sale, but no more than ten to twenty will be in the room on sale day, and for some it is just to bid on one lot.”

Therefore, honesty, transparency and excellent descriptions of items are vital for SAS’s continuing success. “Honesty is key. We are reliant on the online world,” continues Dominic. “We are at the mercy of the general public. Get it wrong, and buyers won’t return.”

SAS has five auctioneers where a large model train sale, for example, can have 900



1. Dominic Foster. 2. Dominic Foster auctioneering at SAS. 3. A Dinky No.22 Motor Vehicle Gift Set. 4. A Spot-On No.155 Austin FX4 Taxi that fetched £3,800 in recent auction. 5. A Gamda Transport Toys Series Daimler Conquest that fetched over £1200 in a recent auction. 6. An early Lesney MOKO Large Scale Caterpillar Bulldozer that recently fetched £550.

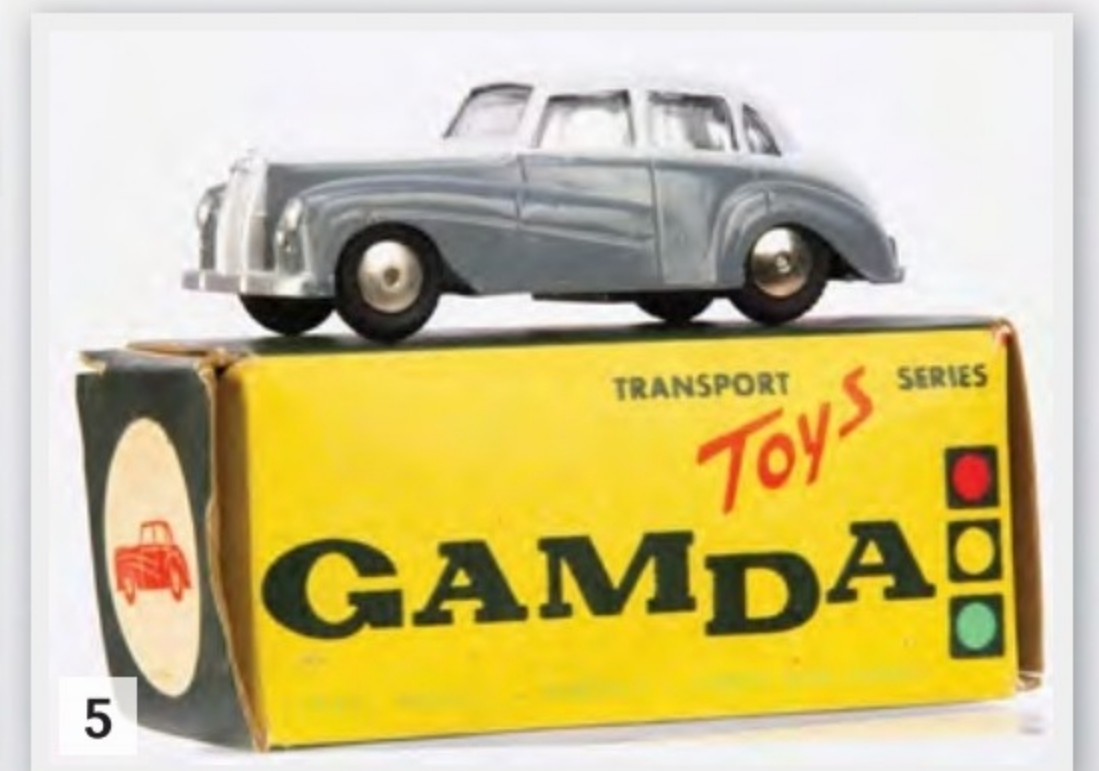
lots or more and proceed over two days. The Auctioneers will take turns, each overseeing 150 at a time. “The internet has slowed down the number of lots we can get through an hour,” says Dominic. “Pre-online, it was 200 an hour; today it is 100. It has become a much slower process.”

The auction turnover achieved is impressive. A general toy sale may garner up to £100,000. A top train sale came close to £300,000 along with a similar sum for an “Agnew special” dolls and teddy bears. SAS usually hold around 11 or so toy and train auctions a year alongside up to three or four dolls and teddy bear sales.

The highest values fetched are usually for the latter field. A few years back, the company sold a number of 17th and 18th century English wooden dolls for close to £30,000 each. This compares to other SAS sales of a Leica camera for £150,000 and one Iraqi bank note, which achieved £50,000.

“Vintage toys do not attract the same high value that some other fields do,” continues Dominic. “Perhaps, a rare Star Wars figure or a Marklin tinplate boat might sell for up to £10,000.” Adding, “I accept several rare Matchbox variants have sold for more, but this is exceptional.”

Collectors for vintage toys come from around the world, although they are becoming more specific with their interests. “We have a number of American and Japanese collectors who like their tinplate robots,” explains Dominic. “But they are very picky. Meanwhile, there is strong



interest from Europe for general toys, more so now from Eastern Europe. As ever, it is all about condition and rarity.”

SAS carry out a number of general toy sales where items can be lotted accordingly to attract traders. “We usually sell most things that we are offered, so job lots become important.”

Dominic also points out the changing face of the vintage toy market. “Areas like Meccano, Yesteryear models, as well as Hornby ‘O’ Gauge and Hornby Dublo are proving less popular today, whereas those produced during the 1970s and ‘80s are on a steep incline of popularity.”

He mentions Lego, Pokémon cards, Transformers, Hot Wheels, and later Matchbox, as well as action figures. Dominic says, “Warhammer is a niche field, yet especially collectable. The problem being such items are very hard to find.”

Dominic continues, “Markets always change. Trends appear and then go. That’s why today we don’t hold antique sales for furniture and similar areas. That has come and gone.” Adding, “You have to be more selective today.”

Between August and December this year, there are seven auctions alone at SAS covering old toys and dolls/teddy bears, including a special ‘Trains Galore’ sale on December 15th.



So, how does the auction house attract so many collections?

“Typically, we may have someone who has bought from us in the past. They pass over, and the family will find a sale receipt and contact us about selling the collection. This occurred recently with a large and wide-ranging assortment from the Isle of Man. We hired two large removal lorries to bring the collection over.”

As for the future, Dominic says, “The old toy market is one of the strongest and most buoyant areas for us, apart from gold and silver...of course! We do more toys, trains, dolls and teddy bear auctions than anything else.” He concludes, “The auction business is a great career to have, and I’ve been lucky and privileged to be a part of it. I have always loved history, and this is very much a learning vocation.” ■

Since Toy Story first arrived in cinemas in 1995, its toys have lived a double life. On screen, Woody, Buzz and the rest of Andy's room were characters with humour, heart and history; off screen, they became objects fans wanted to own, display and preserve.

Nearly three decades on, Toy Story merchandise tells its own story. Early action figures recall the rush of the original film's success, LEGO minifigures capture the appeal of character design in miniature, while Loungefly bags, Adidas trainers and Funko Pop releases show how the franchise has moved confidently into fashion, lifestyle and display culture. For collectors, these pieces are more than merchandise, they are snapshots of how one animated film became part of everyday visual memory.

What began as children's playthings has grown into a rich collectables market, shaped by nostalgia, design, scarcity and the enduring pull of Pixar's first feature film.

TOY STORY LEGO MINIFIGURES

LEGO's relationship with Toy Story began in late 2009, ahead of the release of Toy Story 3. The first wave of sets brought Pixar's characters into brick-built form, followed by further releases in 2010 that expanded the range.

For collectors, the appeal of the original LEGO line lies in its unusual design approach. Unlike standard minifigures, many of the early Toy Story characters used specially moulded heads, elongated limbs and distinctive accessories to match their animated appearances. Woody had his wide-brimmed cowboy hat, Buzz Lightyear his domed space visor, and figures such as Rex and Hamm required more character-specific shapes.

The result was a line that felt visually closer to the films than many traditional LEGO adaptations. It also created pieces that stand out sharply from later Disney minifigures. Characters including Woody, Buzz, Jessie, Bullseye, Hamm and Rex remain popular, while Emperor Zurg is often singled out by collectors, and considered a rare collectable, thanks to his detailed moulded armour and cape-like silhouette.

In 2016, LEGO revisited the franchise through its Disney Collectable Minifigures series. This time, Woody, Buzz and the Alien were redesigned using the standard LEGO minifigure format, with printed facial expressions and simplified proportions. For some collectors, the newer versions feel cleaner and more consistent with modern LEGO design. For others, the earlier moulded figures continue to hold a special place in their hearts as they depict the true look of the toys.



To infinity and the display shelf

From rare finds to new anniversary releases, the world of Toy Story collectables continues to stretch far beyond the toy box. Our Junior Content Editor **Amelia** explores.

TOY STORY LOUNGEFLY

Not all Toy Story collectables are made for shelves. Loungefly has turned Disney fandom into something wearable, and its Toy Story designs have become favourites among theme park visitors, fashion-led collectors and fans looking for practical pieces with character.

The earliest releases leaned into cosplay-inspired designs, transforming Woody, Buzz Lightyear and Slinky Dog into mini backpacks. Their popularity came from their balance of recognisable character detail and everyday usability.

Since then, the range has grown into a broader accessories collection. Recent designs have included alien-themed

crossbody bags, Pizza Planet-inspired pieces, Jessie and Woody character bags, card holders and anniversary editions. The most successful Loungefly releases work because they understand visual shorthand: a colour, pattern or emblem is enough to trigger recognition.

This is where Toy Story collecting feels most contemporary. It is no longer only about owning a boxed figure or completing a shelf display. It is about carrying a piece of the franchise into everyday life.

TOY STORY ACTION FIGURES

The earliest Toy Story action figures hold a special place in the franchise's merchandise history. When the original Toy Story was



preparing for release in 1995, major toy companies including Mattel and Hasbro reportedly passed on producing merchandise because they were uncertain about the film's commercial prospects.

Instead, a smaller company called Thinkway Toys secured the licence and produced the first talking Woody and Buzz Lightyear figures.

Those toys became an unexpected phenomenon. Demand surged as the film became a box-office success and the talking Woody and Buzz figures quickly became defining pieces of 1990s movie merchandise.

Following the release of Toy Story 2 in 1999, Hasbro took over the master toy licence. The company significantly expanded the range, introducing new characters such as Jessie and Bullseye while also releasing numerous variations of Woody and Buzz. Hasbro also launched the "Toy Story and Beyond" line, which explored more obscure background characters and expanded the Toy Story universe beyond the main cast.

For Toy Story 3 in 2010 and Toy Story 4 in 2019, the master licence returned to Thinkway Toys. Recognising the strong nostalgia among collectors, Thinkway introduced the highly regarded Toy Story Collection; later known as the Signature Collection.

These figures were designed to closely match the toys seen in the films, making them particularly desirable among adult collectors. Today, manufacturers including Mattel continue to produce action figure lines that focus on articulation, character variety and screen accuracy, allowing fans to recreate scenes from across the franchise.

TOY STORY ADIDAS SAMBAS

The collaboration between Adidas and Toy Story shows how far Pixar merchandise has moved from the traditional toy aisle. By pairing familiar characters with recognisable footwear silhouettes, the collection translates animation nostalgia into streetwear.

Woody's Adidas Samba is a particularly



1. Action stations! The Jessie action figure was an instant favourite. 2. The new moulds for the Toy Story LEGO minifigures are very different to the originals. 3. The Slinky dog Loungefly mini backpack. 4. Woody in miniature form - the popular Funko Pop. 5. The most recent edition to the loungefly collection - the triple pocket Jessie, Woody, & Buzz midi backpack. 6. Buzz's adidas shoes - the running trainer. 7. Woody's adidas shoes - the canvas trainers.

direct example. Denim-style materials, tan overlays, red-and-yellow checked details and neckerchief-inspired accents combine to echo the cowboy's costume without simply reproducing it. Jessie's shoe takes a similar approach, using cow-print textures and western details to reflect her character design. Buzz Lightyear's footwear leans into a different energy, with white, green, purple and red accents creating a more futuristic, space-ranger feel.

These designs appeal because they do not treat Toy Story as something locked in childhood. Instead, they frame the franchise as part of a wider culture of collaborations, limited drops and nostalgia-led fashion. For adult fans, that can make a pair of trainers feel as collectable as a figure.

TOY STORY FUNKO POP

Funko Pop has become one of the most recognisable forces in modern collecting, and Toy Story has proved a natural fit for the brand. The franchise's characters are

instantly identifiable, varied in shape and personality.

Woody, Buzz Lightyear, Jessie, Bullseye, Hamm, Rex, Slinky Dog, Bo Peep, Emperor Zurg and the Aliens have all appeared in Funko form, alongside variants, exclusives and glow-in-the-dark special editions. Some collectors focus on completing character sets, while others hunt for rarer releases or convention exclusives.

The Funko appeal is partly about uniformity. Each figure follows the same broad design language, making it easy to build a display across different films, franchises and characters. As new characters arrive with future franchise releases, the Funko line is likely to continue expanding. For collectors, that means the shelf is never quite finished.

With Toy Story 5 introducing new characters and generating renewed excitement around the franchise, the world of Toy Story collectables shows no signs of slowing down. ■



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Full transparency

If you've seen the 2002 James Bond film, *Die Another Day*, the term "invisible car" should ring a bell. An Aston Martin Vanquish that comes equipped with a "cloaking device," the car is presented to Bond by the character Q, who tells the famous spy that it's "the ultimate in British engineering." Using what Q calls adaptive camouflage, the car employs tiny cameras on all sides, which project the image they see onto a light-emitting polymer skin on the opposite side. "To the casual eye, it's as good as invisible," Q tells Bond as he clicks a remote and the Aston pops into view. Just how Bond—who of course is as visible as the rest of us—is supposed to use the car to fight the bad guys is a detail that Q doesn't bother to explain.

Perhaps that's why audiences and critics were less than enamoured with the idea, and with the movie, for that matter. But the concept of an invisible—or at least transparent—car was around long before the 007 film, as a number of manufacturers took a swing at it with toy and model cars. They

Douglas R. Kelly tracks down a group of "ghost cars" produced by toy and model makers over the past 90 years.

weren't exactly invisible, but they did offer a look at what was inside.

SWEETS CONNECTION

Glass models were first out of the gate, during the 1930s, marketed as sweets containers. These were made in the shape of animals, guns, airplanes, boats, and even telephones. Cars were a natural to include, and many of them were made by T.H. Stough Co. and by Victory Glass Co., both apparently located in Jeannette, Pennsylvania. The small sugary pellets that were held in the container generally are long gone on surviving examples, but some of them actually were pretty fair models, considering the limitations of working with glass.

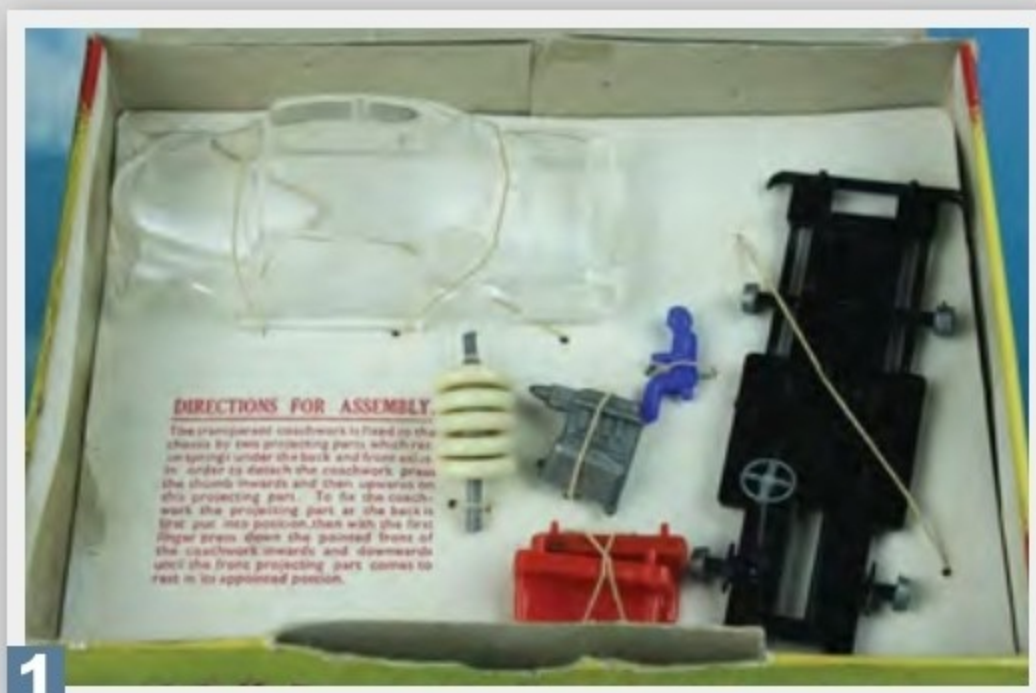
After World War Two, manufacturers began using plastic for their products, and sweets pellets once again featured with these. New York-based Allied Molding Corporation, which also made an excellent line of two-inch plastic cars, produced a 4-1/2-inch long IndyCar racer that came with plastic wheels on metal axles, a model that today is quite rare.

Renwal, another New York toy manufacturer, made a wide variety of plastic toy cars during the 1940s and 1950s. One of them, the number 61 Racer, is a 4-1/4-inch long IndyCar, a simple one-piece casting that came in various colours such as blue and yellow. The clear example shown here is very rare, and the clear wheels give it an even more ghost-like appearance.

Over to the U.K. now for our next ghost car: a 4-1/4-inch British sedan that was made during the late 1940s-early 1950s and offered as a kit for the new owner to clip together. The manufacturer included a one-piece clear body, a chassis with wheel hubs and steering column, an engine, a pair of seats, a driver, and four wheels. Once complete, the seats, driver and engine can be seen through the clear body. The kit was available in two different forms. The example shown here, the "Crystal Car," has no identifying marks either on the model or the box. The other version was made by British manufacturer PR Toys under the name "Glass Car." In his book, *Plastic Toy Cars*, Andrew Ralston wrote that the

ABOVE The "Crystal Car" kit has no maker's marks on the model or the box and appears to be made from the same tooling as PR Toys' version under the name "Glass Car."





LEFT Castline's M2 Clearly Auto-thentics models were supplied in blister packs.

concept and the box style were based on the Wiking 1:40 scale Volkswagen models made in Germany.

The two kits appear to have been made from the same tooling, and the whole arrangement has bags of mid-century English style. Both versions are quite rare.

PERFECT FOR LAYOUTS

The smallest of the ghost cars we'll look at here was made by a model railway manufacturer in Florida. Varney Scale Models produced a wide range of HO scale trains, and in 1954, introduced a line of model cars and trucks in the same scale for use on model railway layouts. The cars initially came in colours such as red, grey, and black, but Varney started producing them in clear plastic in 1956 so that buyers could paint them the way they liked for their layouts.

The small size (two inches or so in length) didn't prevent Varney from turning out authentic models, as the Ford Customline Sedan and the Studebaker Starliner demonstrate. They're very accurate models, even including wheels that have some tread and hubcap detail. Three other Fords joined the range: a panel van, a pickup, and a Ford flatbed. The models were sold for 10 cents apiece.

The Varneys may well have been the inspiration for a range of ghost cars that made its debut a half-century later. Castline, Inc. started producing its diecast M2 Machines series in 2008, and, along with models in standard colours, offered a range called "Clearly Auto-thentics." These were clear plastic versions of the 1:64 scale diecast metal models, and the series included models such as a 1954 Mercury Sun Valley, a 1957 Ford Fairlane, and a 1954 Chevrolet Bel Air.

For the \$5 to \$7 price point, the M2s were



1. Contents of the Crystal Car kit. **2.** Glass toy cars filled with sweets were a popular treat during the 1930s. **3.** A cardboard panel held the sweets inside the glass cars. **4.** Allied Molding Corporation's IndyCar sweets container. **5.** The bottom panel of the Allied IndyCar. **6.** Renwal's IndyCar came with clear wheels. **7.** The Varney two-inch Ford Customline (left) and Studebaker. **8.** The M2 1957 Ford Fairlane is an excellent model of the full-size car.

superb models, and the clear bodies allow you to see a good deal of interior features, such as seat details and engine components. Additionally, the rubber tyres are transparent, which, like the plastic Renwal IndyCar, gives these models an even more spectral quality.

Other manufacturers contributed ghost cars to the category through the years, including Ideal, which offered a nearly 20-inch-long transparent Oldsmobile Starlite during the mid-1950s that featured

lights and steering and allowed the owner to take the model apart and put it back together again. German toy maker Schuco produced a 5-inch clear plastic Formula One racer during the 1960s that featured a wind-up motor.

And Chinese companies like Toyard have produced two-and three-inch transparent toy cars for years that feature pull-back motors. These may not be as cutting-edge as Q's Aston Martin, but at least you can remain fully visible and still play with them. ■



Corgi Canberra

Jarrold Cotter looks at the latest Corgi 1:72 scale Canberra jet bomber to be released.

Just released into Corgi's Aviation Archive range is this fine model of English Electric Canberra B.6 WT370 as flown by Wg Cdr Paul Mallorie, Officer Commanding of No.139 Squadron, RAF, during Operation Musketeer in 1956 (AA34711).

HISTORY

When the English Electric Canberra entered Royal Air Force service in spring 1951, it was unquestionably the world's most advanced jet-powered bomber. Though it missed service in Korea, that conflict accelerated its production significantly, with the jet designated 'Super Priority' status. Then the Suez Crisis of 1956 gave the RAF's Canberra units the opportunity to demonstrate the bomber's offensive capabilities.

Five Canberra squadrons were deployed against Egyptian forces, with No.139 Squadron's jets from Binbrook in Lincolnshire assigned to RAF Nicosia for crucial target-marking missions. These aircraft would illuminate targets using Target Indicator incendiaries and 1,000lb bombs for the bomber waves following from Malta.

On November 3, 1956, Wg Cdr Paul Mallorie led No.139 Squadron against the Egyptian airfield at Luxor, targeting Soviet-made Il-28 'Beagle' bombers. After marking the targets, Mallorie made a bold decision.

With smoke obscuring the site and daylight fading, he led his squadron in an audacious dive bombing attack against the parked Egyptian bombers to devastating effect. The Operation Musketeer Canberras of RAF No.139 Squadron remain among the most distinctive aircraft involved in this significant chapter of British aviation history.

THE CORGI MODEL

This exceptional 1:72 scale diecast model captures the English Electric Canberra B.6 very well and has a lovely finish to the paintwork. The paint scheme is all over silver, with a 139 Squadron marking on the tail. It has the yellow and black identification stripes as applied to British aircraft during Operation Musketeer, and these make the model particularly colourful.

Ready to display straight from the box, this model includes a sturdy cradle stand to hold it as though in flight. Also supplied are optionally fitted undercarriage parts to represent the model as though on the ground. A pilot figure is included, too. The Canberra has opening bomb bay doors which open to reveal six 1,000lb bombs.

In 1:72 scale, the Canberra comprises a lot of diecast metal, with a length of 280mm, a height of 55mm and a wingspan of 280mm. This is a heavy model too.

At the time of writing, this model was in stock at Corgi and had a retail price of £169.99. ■



Corgi's new model of Canberra B.6 WT370 painted in Operation Musketeer markings. All photos Corgi unless stated otherwise



Note the 139 Squadron red triangle marking on the tail of WT370.



The model of WT370, placed on its stand.



A montage of the model of WT370 in fading light over a desert landscape.

How do you like the snappy introduction? Well, it could hardly be otherwise as we gather together some of those jobs that don't really fit under one banner.

AXLES ON

Peening over axle ends is not a job to be relished. Having just painted your hubs, you now have to take a hammer to spread the axle end and thus secure the wheel hub. Even with a small ball-peen hammer, it takes practice to avoid damaging the surrounding paint. You may be lucky with the axle length that you can clear the hub in the vice, putting your paint out of harm's way. However, if they need to thread through the baseplate, take your time!

Over the years, I've used Blu-Tack, card, etc., to protect the surrounding paint, but there'll always be the one time you slip up. My advice is to do lots of dry runs with scrap axles and hubs so you can get practised. Once the axle end is flattened out, you can use some emery paper to smooth out any undulations caused by the hammer.

Many modellers choose to paint the hubs in situ just to avoid dismantling. Of course, much of this depends on how thorough you want or need to be.

The axles on many pre- and immediate post-war diecasts were nipped at the ends to hold the models together. Easy to take apart and straightforward to put back together. Typically, I nip the axle ends up in a vice. First, filing the axle end flat and then slightly rounding off the filed edge before nipping it up. The rounding off will result in a less sharp edge at the nipped axle end.

I have no doubt that there's probably a very clever piece of kit that will do either of the above tasks that I'll never get round to using!

THE DARKSIDE

Shiny white metal replacement radiators can look a bit out of place once fitted to vintage models. Originally plated, nearly all the original radiators have dulled down to varying shades of brown. So, how do you dull down a new one? First, take a wire brush or wire wool and polish the grille to a high shine, making sure to get into all the nooks and crannies. Then, using a cotton bud, apply some Birchwood Casey Perma blue to the surface. It will quickly darken the metal. Further applications can darken it further still. Don't be tempted to polish it, otherwise you'll be back to square one. Two things to add: wash the radiator first

TOP This Corgi Austin's baseplate is undergoing the Autosol treatment. It will never be perfect, but it's a lot better than orange rust.



The Renovation Game: Part Eight

In the eighth part of the series, Ian McDermott explores workshop tips.

to make sure any mould release agent hasn't been left on, and two, follow any safety information as outlined on the packaging.

It should be noted that this technique will not work on nickel-plated grilles or parts, which will remain impervious to the gunning blue.

BASE LEVEL

Gunning blue can also be useful for reviving tarnished tinplate bases of the Dinky variety. Notice the word tarnished and not rusty. Tarnishing can be paint loss or discolouration. Gun blue can reinstate an even tone to the baseplate. It's not a silver bullet but at the very least it will offer a layer of protection without resorting to paint.

One type of baseplate that can be problematic is the early tinplate ones Corgi used in the 50's. They have a hard, blued finish that can attract unsightly corrosion. Strangely, I found that Autosol chrome polish can be effective at removing rust specs from these baseplates. Use 0000-grade wire wool, cotton buds, and a soft cloth for best results. Of course, how successful the process is does depend on the severity of the rust!

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



ABOVE A Dinky toy bus displays the nipped axle ends typical of many pre- and post-war models.



ABOVE Peening over axle ends. Not for the heavy-handed.

PRICE GUIDE

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



♣ CMC M-048 1/18th Scale Mercedes Targa Florio 1924, comes with leaflet, tweezers & cleaning cloth. Near Mint to Mint in Good to Excellent box. **Sold for £150, Oberon Auctions, June.**



♣ Corgi Toys GS4 Country Farm Gift Set - containing Massey Ferguson MF50B Tractor & Farm Hay Trailer, complete with load & all plastic accessories. Near Mint to Mint in Good 1974 Copyright Striped Window Box with creased/distorted perspex window. **Sold for £90, Oberon Auctions, June.**



♣ Eagle Moss and similar, a partly built 1:8 Scale DeLorean DMC-12 "Back To The Future" complete with Plinth. Conditions generally appear Good to Mint. **Sold for £220, Vectis Auctions, June.**



♣ Ros, a Boxed 1:32 Scale Grimme 6-Row Sugar Beet Harvester REXOR 620. condition appears Excellent to Near Mint within Excellent to Near Mint box. **Sold for £90, Vectis Auctions, June.**



♣ CMC M-055 1/18th Scale Mercedes Benz SSKL Mille Miglia 1931, comes with leaflet & tools. Near Mint to Mint in Good to Excellent box. **Sold for £150, Oberon Auctions, June.**



♣ A Schuco Premium Edition diecast model of the 1929 Dornier Do X flying boat, features detailed zinc diecast construction with plastic parts and display stand. boxed with original polystyrene packaging. As new condition. **Sold for £420, Spicers Auctioneers Ltd, June.**



♣ Autoart Millennium, a boxed 1:18 scale Jeep "Grand Wagoneer". Incredible detail. Condition appears Good to Excellent in generally Good box and Good inner Polystyrene. **Sold for £130, Vectis Auctions, June.**



♣ Auto Art, a Boxed 1:18 Scale Ford Focus WRC '99 Test Car 89912. condition appears Good Plus to Excellent within Good to Good Plus box. **Sold for £90, Vectis Auctions, June.**



♣ CMC M-053 1/18th Scale Auto Union Type C 1936/37 Bergrenner, comes with leaflet, tweezers & cleaning cloth. Mint in Good to Excellent box. **Sold for £150, Oberon Auctions, June.**



♣ A diecast model car of a Aston Martin DB5 by Auto Art Division. 1:18 scale, boxed. **Sold for £65, Spicers Auctioneers Ltd, June.**



♣ Sun Star, a boxed 1:24 Scale Bedford OB Duple Vista Coach. condition appears Excellent within Good to Good Plus box. **Sold for £50, Vectis Auctions, June.**



♣ A Boxed Dinky Toys U.F.O Interceptor #351. great condition, in original box. **Sold for £130, Stacey's Auctioneers & Valuers, June.**



♣ Corgi Toys 249 Mini Cooper Wickerwork - black body with red roof, lemon yellow interior, black base, cast hubs. Near Mint in generally Excellent Box (just a little stained). Nice example. **Sold for £80, Oberon Auctions, June.**



♣ French Dinky Toys 561 Citroen Type H Van "Gervais". Very nice original example in bright box. **Sold for £60, Best Model Toys, June.**



♣ Universal Hobbies, a Boxed 1:18 Scale Land Rover Defender 110 "Tayside British Police" #3871. condition appears Excellent to Near Mint within Good to Excellent box. **Sold for £60, Vectis Auctions, June.**



♣ A Boxed Dinky Thunderbirds F.A.B.1 #100. good condition, box is worn. **Sold for £70, Stacey's Auctioneers & Valuers, June.**



♣ A Boxed Dinky Shado 2 Mobile #353. great condition, in original box. **Sold for £70, Stacey's Auctioneers & Valuers, June.**



♣ A Boxed Dinky Spectrum Pursuit Vehicle #104. good condition in repro box. **Sold for £65, Stacey's Auctioneers & Valuers, June.**



♣ A Boxed Dinky Toys Gold U.F.O. Ed Strikers Car #352. great condition, in original box. **Sold for £130, Stacey's Auctioneers & Valuers, June.**



♣ A Boxed Corgi Buck Rogers Star Fighter #647. great condition, in original box. **Sold for £80, Stacey's Auctioneers & Valuers, June.**



♣ A Boxed Corgi James Bond Aston Martin #270. No Reserve. good condition, in original box. **Sold for £50, Stacey's Auctioneers & Valuers, June.**



♣ Matchbox Regular Wheels 71c Ford Esso Heavy Wreck Truck - Stannard Code 2. Excellent Plus with a few pin prick chips to bottom edge of body, in Excellent to Excellent Plus in Excellent type F1 box illustrating model with clear windows & roof light & blue Esso labels. **Sold for £220, Vectis Auctions, June.**



♣ Matchbox Regular Wheels 9c Merryweather Marquis Fire Engine - Stannard Code 3. Near Mint in Near Mint Type C Lesney box printed by Pembroke Abbey. **Sold for £80, Vectis Auctions, June.**



♣ Matchbox Regular Wheels 56a London Trolleybus Stannard Code 7. Excellent to Excellent Plus with some nicks to decals in generally Excellent Type D2 Box printed by Pembroke Abbey. **Sold for £60, Vectis Auctions, June.**



♣ Matchbox Regular Wheels 69a Commer Nestle's Van - Stannard Code 5. Excellent Plus in Excellent Type B5 box printed by Pembroke Abbey (glue has dried out and box has started to come apart). **Sold for £70, Vectis Auctions, June.**



♣ Matchbox Regular Wheels 46b Guy Pickford's Removal Van - Stannard Code 1. generally Excellent Plus with some tiny chips in Excellent Type B5 box (glue has dried up and box has started to come apart). **Sold for £80, Vectis Auctions, June.**



♣ Matchbox Superfast G11 Strike Force Gift Set. Excellent Plus to Mint (glue showing through labels) in Excellent window box. **Sold for £120, Vectis Auctions, June.**



♣ Matchbox Superfast 45b BMW 3.0 CSL - German Market issue - white body with "Manhalter" trunk label. generally Excellent with minor chips and nick to one wheels in Excellent Plus J type box. **Sold for £80, Vectis Auctions, June.**



♣ Matchbox Superfast 62b Mercury Cougar "Rat Rod" Dragster. Near Mint in Near Mint "New" type G box. **Sold for £45, Vectis Auctions, June.**



♣ Matchbox SuperKings K18 Ford LTS Tipper Truck "Hoch & Tief" - German Market Issue. Excellent to Near Mint (mainly discolouring to labels) in Good to Good Plus window box. **Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, June.**



♣ Matchbox SuperKings K30 Mercedes C.111 Switch On Headlights. Excellent Plus with marks to roof in Good Plus correct issue window box. **Sold for £150, Vectis Auctions, June.**



♣ Matchbox Models of Yesteryear Y13 1918 Crossley - colour trial model. Near Mint unboxed. **Sold for £45, Vectis Auctions, June.**



♣ A boxed Dinky 256 Police Patrol Car. Good condition, in good box. **Sold for £40, Keys Fine Art Auctioneers, June.**



♣ A boxed Dinky 264 R.C.M.P. Patrol Car. Good condition, in good box. **Sold for £50, Keys Fine Art Auctioneers, June.**



♣ A boxed Dinky Toys 651 Centurion Tank. good condition, in fair original box. **Sold for £25, Keys Fine Art Auctioneers, June.**



♣ A boxed Dinky Toys 504 Foden 14-Ton Tanker, Mobilgas. good condition, in fair original box. **Sold for £60, Keys Fine Art Auctioneers, June.**



♣ A boxed Corgi 224 Bentley Continental Sports Saloon in black. good condition, in fair original box. **Sold for £60, Keys Fine Art Auctioneers, June.**



♣ A boxed Corgi 224 Bentley Continental Sports Saloon in green and cream. good condition, in fair original box. **Sold for £48, Keys Fine Art Auctioneers, June.**



♣ A boxed Corgi 150S Vanwall Formula I Grand Prix racing car. good condition, in fair original box. **Sold for £45, Keys Fine Art Auctioneers, June.**



♣ A boxed Corgi 231 Triumph Herald Coupe in gold and white. Good condition, in good box. **Sold for £55, Keys Fine Art Auctioneers, June.**



♣ A boxed Model Zone 1:24 scale Routemaster RM bus model, number 2917, RM6-VLT6. Good condition, in good box. **Sold for £85, Keys Fine Art Auctioneers, June.**



♣ A boxed Model Zone 1:24 scale Routemaster Bus model, number 2915 RMC 1485-485CLT. Good condition, in good box. **Sold for £70, Keys Fine Art Auctioneers, June.**



♣ A boxed Sun Star 1:24 scale Bedford OB bus model [Duple Vista Coach], with certificate. Good condition, in good box. **Sold for £70, Keys Fine Art Auctioneers, June.**



♣ A boxed Sun Star 1:24 scale Bedford OB bus model [Grey Cars Limited], with certificate. Good condition, in good box. **Sold for £65, Keys Fine Art Auctioneers, June.**



♣ A boxed Sun Star 1:24 scale RT113 bus model, number 2920. Good condition, in good box. **Sold for £80, Keys Fine Art Auctioneers, June.**



♣ Corgi Toys 261 James Bond Aston Martin D.B.5 from the Film Goldfinger, vintage 1960's issue, gold body. in excellent original condition, outer illustrated box complete with all end flaps, which is in good original condition, some edge/age wear. **Sold for £120, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, June.**



♣ Vintage Corgi Toys 267 Rocket Firing Batmobile. in near mint original condition, a nice example of this iconic Corgi toy! **Sold for £360, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, June.**



♣ Vintage Corgi Toys 238 Jaguar Mark X. in very good bright original condition, paint chipping to bumpers, with a fair to good original yellow/blue original picture box, 7/1 in pencil to one end flap, some edge/age wear, felt pen graffiti to one picture side of box. **Sold for £50, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, June.**



♣ Vintage Corgi Toys 238 Jaguar Mark X. in near mint bright original condition, with a good original yellow/blue original picture box, 6/11 in pen to one end flap, some edge/age wear. **Sold for £65, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, June.**



♣ Vintage Corgi Toys Gift Set 47 Working Conveyor on Trailer with Ford 5000 Super Major Tractor. models are in excellent original condition, one jewelled headlight missing from tractor, Corgi model club leaflet, inner and outer illustrated boxes are in excellent original condition. **Sold for £120, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, June.**



♣ Vintage Corgi Toys Gift Set 37 Lotus Racing Team. all in excellent to near mint original condition. **Sold for £120, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, June.**



♣ Vintage Corgi Toys 808 Basil Brush and his car, red/yellow car with Basil Brush figure. in mint original condition, blue/yellow window display box, is in very good original condition, complete with laugh tapes and sound-box. **Sold for £70, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, June.**



♣ Vintage Corgi Toys 807 Magic Roundabout Dougal's Car Citroen DS 19. in mint original condition, unused decal sheet, with 2nd issue window display box, in very good original condition, acetate window has some creasing, with original plastic inner, vintage Harrods price label. **Sold for £80, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, June.**



♣ Vintage Corgi Toys 359 Smiths Karrier U.S. Army Field Kitchen. in mint original condition, with a good original blue/yellow picture box, some edge/age wear. **Sold for £70, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, June.**



♣ **Corgi Toys 318 Lotus Elan S2** white body, 'I've got a tiger in my tank' decal on boot. in near mint original condition, a couple of tiny paint chips, missing number decal sheet, with inner card packing, in a excellent original blue/yellow picture box. **Sold for £80, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, June.**



♣ **Vintage Corgi Toys boxed 266 Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.** in near mint to mint original condition, in a good original window display box with inner cloud plastic stand and card cloud display, acetate window in box has a split. **Sold for £70, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, June.**



♣ **Vintage Dinky Toys 472 Austin Van "Raleigh Cycles"** dark green body. in mint original condition, with yellow picture box, in excellent original condition, 2/5 in pencil on one end flap. **Sold for £55, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, June.**



♣ **Vintage Dinky Toys 156 Rover 75 Saloon.** in mint original condition, with a good original box, some slight edge wear, correct colour spots to end flaps, 3/- in pencil. **Sold for £70, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, June.**



♣ **Vintage Dinky Toys 182 Porsche 356A Coupe.** in near mint bright original condition, illustrated box, with correct colour spots to end flaps, in excellent original condition. **Sold for £60, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, June.**



♣ **Vintage Dinky Toys 104 Aston Martin DB3S (Touring Finish)** salmon pink body. in near mint bright original condition, a couple of tiny paint chips to drivers head, in illustrated box, with correct colour spot to end flaps, in very good original condition, one inner tab loose in box. **Sold for £70, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, June.**



♣ **Dinky Supertoys 934 Leyland Octopus Wagon.** in good condition, some paint touch ups, with an excellent original blue/white Supertoys box. **Sold for £40, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, June.**



♣ **Tri-ang Spot-On Model 270 Ford Zephyr Six.** in mint original condition, inner yellow card is very good, acetate window outer box is good, some edge/age wear. **Sold for £120, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, June.**



♣ **Tri-ang Spot-On Model 218 Jaguar MK.10.** in very good original condition, some slight wear to base, illustrated card box is in fair original condition, one end flap and two inner tabs have been repaired, with edge and age wear. **Sold for £200, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, June.**



♣ **Tri-ang Spot-On Model 217 Jaguar XK 'E' Type.** in good condition, some slight touching up to paint chips, illustrated card box is in fair to good condition, with age/edge wear, repair to end tab on one end flap. **Sold for £130, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, June.**



♣ **Tri-ang Spot-On 406 Car & Dingy Set.** in near mint condition, outer card box is very good, some edge/age wear, original acetate window is very good, some creases, tiny hole, inner card with sailing scene is excellent. **Sold for £360, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, June.**



♣ **Sun Star 1:24 scale Routemaster Bus 2904, RMC 1453-453 CLT: The original Green Line Routemaster Coach diecast model.** in mint pre-owned condition. **Sold for £80, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, June.**



♣ **Vintage Solido (France) D-Type Jaguar Le Mans Racing Car.** in mint original condition, with a excellent original illustrated box. **Sold for £50, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, June.**



♣ **Minichamps 1:18 scale BMW M3 Street Version 1992.** exclusively made for BMW, in mint condition, outer grey BMW card box is excellent. **Sold for £120, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, June.**



♣ **Minichamps 1:18 scale BMW M3 GTR Street Version.** exclusively made for BMW, in mint condition, outer grey BMW card box is excellent. **Sold for £90, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, June.**



♣ **Minichamps 1:18 scale BMW M3 Tic Tac German Touring Car Championship 1992.** exclusively made for BMW, in mint pre-owned condition, loose in box, outer black BMW card box is very good. **Sold for £110, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, June.**



♣ **Minichamps 1:18 scale BMW M3 Jägermeister German Touring Car Championship 1992.** in mint pre-owned condition, loose in box, outer grey BMW card box is good, tiny tear to one end flap. **Sold for £95, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, June.**



♣ **Ertl American Muscle Dukes of Hazard 1969 General Lee Dodge Charger.** model is mint, never been taken out of box, window display box is good, some edge/age wear. **Sold for £100, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, June.**



♣ **Auto Art BMW Exclusive BMW 328 Touring Coupe, N139 Mille Miglia 1:18 Scale.** in mint condition, white polystyrene inner, outer grey BMW card box with a Minichamps boxed Showcase. **Sold for £200, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, June.**



♣ CMC 1:18 Scale Auto Union Typ C Formula Racing Car. in mint condition, with swing tag, information card leaflet, white polystyrene inner, outer card box, very slight edge wear. **Sold for £130, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, June.**



♣ CMC 1:18 Ferrari Dino 156 Sharknose F1 racing car. in mint condition, with paperwork, polystyrene white inner, with excellent outer box. **Sold for £180, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, June.**



♣ Model Icons 1962 Coombs Jaguar Mark 2. in mint pre owned condition, with certificate, outer box has some edge/age wear. **Sold for £70, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, June.**

♣ SMTS Ltd Racing Line 18 Vanwall Racing Car 1:18 Scale Resin model. 1957 Winner British grand prix Sterling Moss/ Brooks, in mint pre-owned boxed condition. **Sold for £110, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, June.**



♣ Tecnomodel Mythos Sterling Moss Lotus 18 F1 Racing Car, Monaco Grand Prix 1961 winner. 1:18 scale resin model, limited edition 054 of 310, in mint boxed pre-owned condition. **Sold for £120, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, June.**



♣ Tecnomodel Mythos Aston Martin DB3S 1953 1:18 Scale Model. in mint pre-owned condition, with black lidded box, white card surround. **Sold for £95, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, June.**



♣ Schuco Cooper T51 Racing Car 1:18 Diecast Model. in near mint pre owned condition, missing one tiny rear bonnet clip, inner white polystyrene, outer illustrated box is excellent. **Sold for £80, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, June.**



♣ Model Icons 1962 Coombs Jaguar Mark 2. in mint pre owned condition, with certificate, outer box has some edge/age wear. **Sold for £70, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, June.**



♣ Bachmann 00 Gauge 32-467 3-car Scotrail Saltire blue Class 170/4 DMU No170434. Condition is Good to Excellent in Fair to Good boxes and Outer Sleeve - one box is missing plastic casing/window for coach. **Sold for £150, Vectis Auctions, June.**



♣ Bachmann (Model Rail Exclusive) 00 Gauge Ref. MR-107 NCB Black S100 0-6-0 USA Tank No. 36. Condition is Near Mint in Good Plus box and outer sleeve. **Sold for £70, Vectis Auctions, June.**



♣ Bachmann Branchline 00 Gauge 32-381Q (Limited Edition) Class 37 DRS Diesel Locomotive No. 37409 "Lord Hinton". produced exclusively for Model Rail. Condition appears Near Mint to Mint in Excellent Plus box and outer sleeve. **Sold for £120, Vectis Auctions, June.**



♣ Bachmann Branchline 00 Gauge 32-425Z (Limited Edition) Class 24 BR RTC Blue and Red Diesel Locomotive No. 97201, produced for Rail Express and complete with certificate No. 197 of 750 produced. Condition is Near Mint TO mint in Good Plus to Excellent box. **Sold for £90, Vectis Auctions, June.**



♣ Bachmann Branchline 00 Gauge 35-995A London Underground S Stock Individual M2 Car (Exclusive to London Transport Museum). Conditions appear Near Mint to Mint in Excellent Plus box. **Sold for £80, Vectis Auctions, June.**



♣ Hornby R.1048 "The Western Pullman" Train Set containing 1x BR Green Castle Class No. 7028 "Cadbury Castle", 4x Pullman Coaches, Track and other Accessories. Conditions are generally Good to Excellent (Track Mat is missing otherwise unchecked for completeness) in Good box. **Sold for £80, Vectis Auctions, June.**



♣ Hornby 00 Gauge R694 "GWR Mixed Traffic" Train Set containing 1x 2721 Class Pannier Tank Locomotive 2x 4-Wheeled Coaches, 3x Wagons, Track, Controller and Accessories. Condition is generally Good to Excellent (unchecked for completeness or correctness) in Good to Good Plus box. **Sold for £70, Vectis Auctions, June.**



♣ Heljan 00 Gauge Ref.17071 Class 17 'Clayton' BR Diesel Locomotive No. D8612. Condition is Near Mint in Good to Good box. **Sold for £120, Vectis Auctions, June.**



♣ Graham Farish Ref. 371-020 BR Black Class 08 Diesel Shunter No. 13029. Condition is Excellent Plus in Good Box and Outer Sleeve. **Sold for £90, Vectis Auctions, June.**



♣ Graham Farish by Bachmann N Gauge 371-886 Class 108 3-Car DMU in BR Green - E50622, E59388 and E50644. Condition is Excellent Plus in Good Box. **Sold for £130, Vectis Auctions, June.**



♣ Graham Farish N Gauge Ref. 371-012SF BR RES Livery Class 08 No. 08 919 (Sound fitted). Condition is Near Mint in Good Plus box and outer sleeve. **Sold for £120, Vectis Auctions, June.**



♣ Graham Farish N Gauge Ref. 371-011SF Network Rail Yellow Class 08 No. 08 417 (Sound fitted). Condition is Near Mint in Good Plus box and outer sleeve. **Sold for £140, Vectis Auctions, June.**



♣ Graham Farish N Gauge Ref. 372-730SF BR Black (Early Emblem) Standard SMT No. 73065 (Sound Fitted). Condition is Excellent Plus in Good box and outer sleeve. **Sold for £150, Vectis Auctions, June.**



♣ Hornby-Dublo 3-Rail Ref. 3218 BR Black Standard Class 4MT 2-6-4 No. 80059. Condition is Good to Excellent in Fair to Good box. **Sold for £50, Vectis Auctions, June.**



♣ Hornby O Gauge 4-4-4 Tank Loco Great Western green, clockwork. Circa 1926 with full "Great Western" lettering to cab side and company crest to the front of the cab side. Condition is Good to Good Plus. **Sold for £150, Vectis Auctions, June.**



♣ Hornby O Gauge No.1 SR pink Refrigerator Van. Version with large SR lettering to van sides and Type 2 chassis with drop link couplings. Condition is generally Good however it has been partly restored in reproduction box. **Sold for £260, Vectis Auctions, June.**



♣ Hornby O Gauge No.1 0-4-0 Tank Loco LNER green No.463, 6v Electric. Condition is Good Plus in Fair box with correct LNER sticker. Still a nice example of this hard to find Loco. **Sold for £340, Vectis Auctions, June.**



♣ Hornby O Gauge No.1 0-4-0 Tank Loco LNER black No.326, 6v electric. Condition is Good Plus to Excellent in generally Good to Good Plus. **Sold for £460, Vectis Auctions, June.**



♣ Hornby O Gauge No. LE2/20 Swiss pantograph Locomotive No.10655 in cream with a blue roof, 20v electric, housed in a No.1 Metropolitan box. Condition is Good to Good Plus. **Sold for £2,700, Vectis Auctions, June.**



♣ Hornby O Gauge E220 L1 Class Loco and Tender Southern green No. A759, clockwork. Condition is generally Good to Excellent in Fair to Good Plus boxes. **Sold for £500, Vectis Auctions, June.**



♣ Hornby O Gauge E120 0-4-0 Loco and Tender LNER green No.1368, 20v electric. Condition is Good to Good Plus in reproduction box. **Sold for £200, Vectis Auctions, June.**



♣ Hornby O Gauge E220 Special 4-4-0 Loco and Tender GWR green "County of Bedford" No.3821, 20v electric. Condition is Good Plus. **Sold for £520, Vectis Auctions, June.**



♣ Bassett-Lowke O Gauge 0-6-0 Tank Loco LNER black No.8937, 3-rail electric. Condition is Excellent to Excellent in reproduction box. **Sold for £130, Vectis Auctions, June.**



♣ Bassett-Lowke O Gauge 0-6-0 Tank Loco BR lined black No.41611, 3-rail electric. Condition is Excellent Plus in reproduction. **Sold for £150, Vectis Auctions, June.**



♣ Hornby Dublo OO Gauge R30264 LNER BLUE 4-6-2 Class A4 4464 "Bittern" The Great Gathering 10th Anniversary Limited Edition with Certificate #425. Mint in Mint Box. **Sold for £120, Oberon Auctions, June.**



♣ Hornby Dublo OO Gauge LIMITED EDITION 18ct GOLD PLATED R30209A LNER Green 4-6-2 Class A3 4472 "Flying Scotsman" with Certificate #009 of only 100 models produced. Mint in Mint box complete with "Flying Scotsman 100 Years" plaque & outer plain card shipping carton. **Sold for £130, Oberon Auctions, June.**



♣ Hornby OO Gauge R2316 BR Green 4-6-2 Battle of Britain Class 34061 "73 Squadron". Near Mint to Mint in Excellent Box. **Sold for £50, Oberon Auctions, June.**



♣ Hornby OO Gauge R30153 NSE Class 50 Diesel 50 044 "Exeter". Mint in Mint Box, complete with plain card transit carton. **Sold for £70, Oberon Auctions, June.**



♣ Hornby OO Gauge R30448 NSE Class 423 4-VEP EMU. Mint in Mint box complete with outer plain card transit carton. **Sold for £140, Oberon Auctions, June.**



♣ Accurascale Deltic Preservation Society ACC-2169 BR 2 tone green liveried EE Type 5/Class 55 Deltic 'D9019' Royal Highland Fusilier in weathered finish. model in at least excellent overall condition in excellent box complete with instructions and other paperwork. **Sold for £120, Ryedale Auctioneers, June.**



♣ Accurascale ACC-2170 BR 2 tone green liveried EE Type 5/Class 55 Deltic 'D9020' Nimbus. model in at least near mint overall condition in excellent box complete with instructions and other paperwork. **Sold for £130, Ryedale Auctioneers, June.**



♣ **Hatton's Model Railways/Heljan** OO gauge 28131 Class 28 Co-Bo diesel electric locomotive model. Mint condition in weathered finish, complete with unused accessories, instructions etc. *Sold for £95, Ryedale Auctioneers, June.*



♣ **Hornby** OO gauge R4255 'The Master Cutler' coach pack with 4 individual passenger coaches. models in mint condition, packaging at least good with storage wear. *Sold for £65, Ryedale Auctioneers, June.*



♣ **Aristo Craft** Gauge 1 (1/29 scale) ART22305-3 Union Pacific '1514A' Alco FA-1 electric locomotive model. Near mint condition, complete with sealed alternative couplings pack and instructions, box good with modest storage wear. *Sold for £110, Ryedale Auctioneers, June.*



♣ **Aristo Craft** Gauge 1 (1/29 scale) ART22305-3 Union Pacific #1501A Alco FA-1 electric locomotive model. in near mint condition, complete with sealed alternative couplings pack, no instructions, box good with modest storage wear etc. *Sold for £120, Ryedale Auctioneers, June.*



♣ **USA Trains** Gauge 1 (1/29 scale) EMD GP30 Union Pacific #835 diesel electric locomotive model. appears to be in mint condition with sealed accessory bags, box poor/fair with a missing end flap. *Sold for £130, Ryedale Auctioneers, June.*



♣ **Bachmann** G gauge commemorative 10th anniversary SPC 4-6-0 SPC #21 electric steam locomotive model. in good overall condition, 1 handrail stanchion snapped off but present, box poor. *Sold for £65, Ryedale Auctioneers, June.*



♣ **Bachmann** G gauge commemorative 10th anniversary Denver & Rio Grande 4-6-0 #12 electric steam locomotive model. in good but a little dirty overall condition, (please note chimney stack detached but undamaged), box poor. *Sold for £70, Ryedale Auctioneers, June.*



♣ **LGB** 24251 G gauge Wild West Forney 4-4 #1881 electric steam locomotive model. in very good/excellent overall condition, some minor marks and signs of use, box fair at best. *Sold for £170, Ryedale Auctioneers, June.*



♣ **Bachmann Spectrum** G gauge Denver & Rio Grande 2-6-0 Mogul electric steam locomotive model. in near mint condition in homemade wooden transport box, with owners manual. *Sold for £120, Ryedale Auctioneers, June.*



♣ **Heljan** 9009 'Sarah Siddons' in London Transport maroon (1990s condition). Very good condition, in good box. *Sold for £200, Best Model Toys, June.*



♣ **Heljan** 266210 Beyer Garratt in BR Black with early crest, lightly weathered. Good condition, in good box. *Sold for £110, Best Model Toys, June.*



♣ **Heljan** 4005 BRCW D0260 'Lion' prototype diesel locomotive in BRCW white. very good condition, in very good box. *Sold for £80, Best Model Toys, June.*



♣ **Hornby** R3435 SR Merchant Navy Class (Original) 'Royal Mail' in Southern Railway green with yellow lining and 'SOUTHERN' tender lettering. Good condition, in good box. *Sold for £140, Best Model Toys, June.*



♣ **Hornby** R2580 SR 4-6-0 King Arthur Class N15 'Excalibur' in Southern Railway Olive Green. Good condition, in good box. *Sold for £60, Best Model Toys, June.*



♣ **Hornby** R2171 BR 4-6-2 'Canadian Pacific' Merchant Navy Class in BR Express Passenger Blue with early crest. Good condition, in good box. *Sold for £75, Best Model Toys, June.*



♣ **Hornby** R2925 BR 4-6-2 Clan Class Locomotive 'Clan MacGregor' No.72005 in BR Lined Green. very good condition, in very good box. *Sold for £75, Best Model Toys, June.*



♣ **Oxford Rail** OR76N7001 GER K85 (LNER N7) 0-6-2T tank locomotive in GER grey. very good condition, in very good box. *Sold for £70, Best Model Toys, June.*



♣ **Bachmann** 31-995 LMS 10000 in BR Green lined orange & black. Very good condition, in good box. *Sold for £60, Best Model Toys, June.*



♣ **Bachmann** 31-727 'City of London' in GWR Monogram livery. Good condition, in good box. *Sold for £100, Best Model Toys, June.*



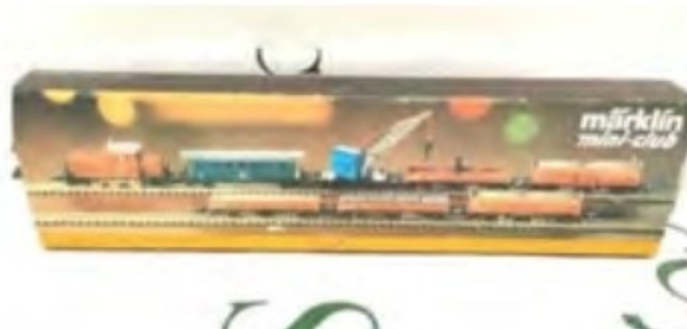
♣ **Hornby** R2815 'Southern Suburban 1957' Train Pack with BR 4-4-0 Schools Class 'Haileybury' locomotive and Maunsell coaches in BR lined black. Good condition, in good box. *Sold for £75, Best Model Toys, June.*



♣ Pre-war 3-Rail Hornby Dublo EDL1 Streamlined 4-6-2 locomotive with tender No. 4498 Sir Nigel Gresley in LNER blue livery. Fair condition, unboxed. *Sold for £60, Best Model Toys, June.*



♣ Hornby (Meccano) No.3 Electric 3-Rail Caerphilly Castle in GWR green with Great Western tender. Good condition, unboxed. *Sold for £80, Best Model Toys, June.*



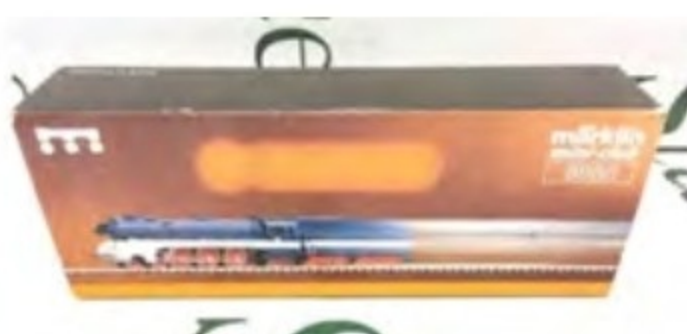
♣ A Boxed Marklin Z Gauge German Railway Construction Set #8103. good condition, in fair original box. *Sold for £130, Stacey's Auctioneers & Valuers, June.*



♣ A Boxed Marklin Z Gauge Austrian 2-8-2 Steam Locomotive Train Set. #81427. good condition, in fair original box. *Sold for £100, Stacey's Auctioneers & Valuers, June.*



♣ A Marklin Z Gauge Bavarian Passenger Train Pack With 4-6-0 Loco And 3 Coaches. good condition, in fair original box. *Sold for £100, Stacey's Auctioneers & Valuers, June.*



♣ A Marklin Z Gauge High Speed DB Class 10 Locomotive. good condition, in fair original box. *Sold for £75, Stacey's Auctioneers & Valuers, June.*



♣ A Boxed Marklin Z Gauge BR 18C Of The Royal Wurttemberg State Railways Locomotive. good condition, in fair original box. *Sold for £100, Stacey's Auctioneers & Valuers, June.*



♣ A Boxed Marklin Z Gauge Class 38 Locomotive #88991. good condition, in fair original box. *Sold for £50, Stacey's Auctioneers & Valuers, June.*



♣ A Boxed Wrenn 00 Gauge 2-6-4T Locomotive. In Wrong Box. No Reserve. *Sold for £40, Stacey's Auctioneers & Valuers, June.*



♣ A Boxed Hornby Dublo 00 Gauge Golden Fleece #2211. Good condition, in good box. *Sold for £30, Stacey's Auctioneers & Valuers, June.*



♣ A Boxed Thinkway Toys, Toy Story, Buzz Lightyear. great condition, in original box. *Sold for £150, Stacey's Auctioneers & Valuers, June.*



♣ A Boxed Think Way Toys, Toy Story, Talking Woody. great condition, in original box. *Sold for £140, Stacey's Auctioneers & Valuers, June.*



♣ A Boxed Mattel Battlestar Galactica 12" Cylon Centurian. great condition, in original box. *Sold for £150, Stacey's Auctioneers & Valuers, June.*



♣ A Mattel Carded Space 1999 Professor Bergman. good condition, blister has damage. *Sold for £70, Stacey's Auctioneers & Valuers, June.*



♣ A Boxed Goldlok Toys Forbidden Planet Light And Sound Walking Robby The Robot. good condition, in original box. *Sold for £90, Stacey's Auctioneers & Valuers, June.*



♣ A Carded Mego 1979 The Black Hole Sentry Robot Figure, un Punched. good condition, in original box. *Sold for £130, Stacey's Auctioneers & Valuers, June.*



♣ A Carded Dimond Select Toys The Black Hole V.i.n.cent And B.O.B. Figures. good condition, in original box. *Sold for £55, Stacey's Auctioneers & Valuers, June.*



♣ A Carded Dimond Select Toys The Black Hole Maximilian Figure. good condition, in original box. *Sold for £60, Stacey's Auctioneers & Valuers, June.*



♣ A Boxed 1970's Marx Toys Plastic Battery Operated Robot Action Dalek. appears largely complete and in good condition but is missing gunstick, no obvious cracks or damage to body. *Sold for £90, Richard Winterton Auctioneers, June.*



♣ A Boxed Hasbro 2006 Lucasfilm Star Wars The Saga Collection R2-D2 Interactive Astromech Droid. looks to be new however not checked for working order, packing appears in good condition with little wear. *Sold for £80, Richard Winterton Auctioneers, June.*



♣ A Sealed 1986 Blister Pack Ljn Toys Ltd Thundercats Berserkers Top-Spinner Figure. model in a new unopened condition inside the plastic packaging, card with little wear with some slight creasing and wear to edges. *Sold for £280, Richard Winterton Auctioneers, June.*



♦ A Sealed 1986 Bister Pack Ljn Toys Ltd Thundercats "New" Jaga Figure. good Thundercat, Battle-matic action, noted as a mail away pack for Mumm-Ra, plastic slightly lifted from the base, so creases and warping to the card. **Sold for £600, Richard Winterton Auctioneers, June.**



♦ A Boxed Lego Star Wars Republic Attack Shuttle. good condition however contents not checked for completion, box still appears to have seals in place, box is in good condition with some light creasing to some panels. **Sold for £160, Richard Winterton Auctioneers, June.**



♦ A Boxed Lego Star Wars Armoured Assault Tank (Aat). good condition however contents not checked for completion, box still appears to have seals in place, box is in good condition. **Sold for £140, Richard Winterton Auctioneers, June.**



♦ A Rare Boxed Promotional Lego Star Wars 2008 San Diego Comic Con Clone Wars Set. internal boxed noted to sides of the 30th Anniversary unopened with perforated panels still intact, outer box in very good condition, light scratches and slightly distorted end flaps or marks. **Sold for £2,100, Richard Winterton Auctioneers, June.**



♦ A Boxed Lego Technic Mercedes-Benz G 500 Professional Line. box is open, previously built with customer stating has been deconstructed with all parts present. **Sold for £60, Richard Winterton Auctioneers, June.**



♦ A Boxed Lego Technic Mobile Crane. box is open, previously built with customer stating has been deconstructed with all parts present. **Sold for £45, Richard Winterton Auctioneers, June.**



♦ A Sealed Boxed 2018 Lego Technic Bugatti Chiron. sticker tabs 11S1 still untouched, wear to mostly corners and sharper edges of box. **Sold for £190, Richard Winterton Auctioneers, June.**



♦ A Sealed Boxed 2025 Lego Icons The Lord Of The Rings The Shire. sticker tabs 709S5 still untouched, some wear to exterior box mostly to sharper edges. **Sold for £160, Richard Winterton Auctioneers, June.**



♦ A Sealed Boxed 2022 Marvel Infinity Saga Thor's Hammer. sticker tabs 45S2 still untouched but faded, some creasing to the reverse and wear to sharper edges and corners. **Sold for £120, Richard Winterton Auctioneers, June.**



♦ A SEALED BOXED 2020 LEGO DISNEY STAR WARS BOBA FETT HELMET. perforated panels untouched, very little wear will a few marks to sharper edges. **Sold for £110, Richard Winterton Auctioneers, June.**



♦ A SEALED BOXED 2020 LEGO DISNEY STAR WARS TIE FIGHTER PILOT HELMET. sticker tabs 04g0 untouched, one small puncture hole to the reverse panel but overall excellent condition. **Sold for £160, Richard Winterton Auctioneers, June.**



♦ A boxed lego set 42144, Material Handler. Good condition, in good box. **Sold for £45, Keys Fine Art Auctioneers, June.**



♦ A boxed Lego Technic set 42097. Compact Crawler Crane Box has been taped up (unchecked for completeness). **Sold for £38, Keys Fine Art Auctioneers, June.**



♦ Action Man Grenadier Guardsman 40th Anniversary Nostalgic Collection. in mint condition, seal on box has been opened, very slight edge wear to outer box, Hasbro 2006. **Sold for £140, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, June.**



♦ Action Man Ski Patrol 40th Anniversary Nostalgic Collection. in mint condition, seal on box has been opened Hasbro 2006. **Sold for £110, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, June.**



♦ Action Man Red Devil Parachutist 40th Anniversary Nostalgic Collection. in mint sealed condition, Hasbro 2006. **Sold for £150, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, June.**



♦ Action Man Medic 40th Anniversary Nostalgic Collection. in mint sealed condition, Hasbro 2006. **Sold for £95, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, June.**



♦ Action Man Frogman & Underwater Explorer 40th Anniversary Nostalgic Collection. in mint sealed condition, Hasbro 2006. **Sold for £80, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, June.**



♦ Action Man Olympic Champion 40th Anniversary Nostalgic Collection. complete with Action Sailor boxed figure, in mint sealed condition, Hasbro 2006. **Sold for £95, C & T Auctioneers and Valuers, June.**



♣ A Triang Minic Post War tinplate clockwork 74M Log Lorry. red cab and trailer, log load, with brown box. **Sold for £45, Fieldings Auctioneers, June.**



♣ A Triang Minic Post War tinplate clockwork mechanical horse and boat trailer. red cab with green trailer with white and red Penguin boat, with Penguin box. **Sold for £60, Fieldings Auctioneers, June.**



♣ A Triang Minic Pre War tinplate clockwork 48M Breakdown Lorry. red cab, black trailer, red crane, cream tyres, no petrol can, with pre war box. **Sold for £85, Fieldings Auctioneers, June.**



♣ A Triang Minic Pre War tinplate clockwork 57ME Bentley Sunshine Saloon (electric). in red and black, black tyres. **Sold for £120, Fieldings Auctioneers, June.**



♣ A Triang Minic Pre War tinplate clockwork 56ME Rolls Sunshine Saloon (electric). in red and black, black tyres, boxed. **Sold for £280, Fieldings Auctioneers, June.**



♣ A Triang Minic Post War tinplate clockwork 47M Rolls Royce Sunshine Saloon. in light blue and black (repainted) with replaced cream tyres. **Sold for £100, Fieldings Auctioneers, June.**



♣ A Triang Minic Pre War tinplate clockwork 5M Limousine. in burgundy / deep red colour with black running boards. **Sold for £65, Fieldings Auctioneers, June.**



♣ A Triang Minic Pre War tinplate clockwork 35M Rolls Royce Tourer. in red with black running boards. **Sold for £60, Fieldings Auctioneers, June.**



♣ Ace Trains O Gauge Tinplate C/28-03 Coronation Scot Open 3rd Coach. Condition is Excellent to Excellent Plus. **Sold for £70, Fieldings Auctioneers, June.**



♣ Ace Trains O Gauge Tinplate C/28-K Coronation Scot Kitchen Car. Condition is Excellent to Excellent Plus. **Sold for £90, Fieldings Auctioneers, June.**



♣ Ace Trains O Gauge Tinplate C/28-A Coronation Scot 3-Car Set. Condition is Excellent to Excellent Plus. **Sold for £160, Fieldings Auctioneers, June.**



♣ Ace Trains O Gauge Tinplate C/28-B Coronation Scot 3-Car Set. Condition is Excellent to Excellent Plus in Good box (some scuffing to box). **Sold for £170, Fieldings Auctioneers, June.**



♣ A Boxed Tps Tinplate Battery Operated 'The Swinger' Automatic Swing And Go Car. appears complete and in very good condition with only very minor wear, some minor oxidation to exposed metal parts, battery box in good condition. **Sold for £25, Richard Winterton Auctioneers, June.**



♣ Wyandotte: A mid-20th century Wyandotte tinplate Fire Engine, with ringing bell. In good condition, minimal paint wear. Measuring approx 29cm. **Sold for £25, Hansons Auctioneers and Valuers, June.**



♣ A tinplate Schuco 'Magico' Garage (lacking telephone), together with a Schuch clockwork car. In fair condition, unboxed. **Sold for £32, Keys Fine Art Auctioneers, June.**



♣ A vintage tinplate clockwork cargo trolley and operator. In fair condition, unboxed. **Sold for £25, Keys Fine Art Auctioneers, June.**



♣ A tinplate Schuco 'Akustico 2002' clockwork car. In fair condition, unboxed. **Sold for £18, Keys Fine Art Auctioneers, June.**



♣ A vintage tinplate clockwork fire engine, lacking 2 firemen. In fair condition, unboxed. **Sold for £25, Keys Fine Art Auctioneers, June.**

eBuys

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



Item: Vintage Spot-On Triang Austin Prime Mover No 106A/OC 1:42 Flatbed Truck Blue.
Condition: Vintage condition, with signs of wear.
Sold for: £300.09 (25 bids).



Item: Vintage Ceppi Ratti Diecast - Starzinger Sir Jogo Starcupper.
Condition: 1981 Mint Unused.
Sold for: £249.99 (1 bid).



Item: UKBUS 0086 Dennis Enviro Stagecoach London Selkent Limited Edition.
Condition: mint condition.
Sold for: £260.69 (1 bid)



Item: CMC 1/12 Scale Diecast C-006F - Mercedes-Benz SLR McLaren 2003 - Silver.
Condition: Mint condition with original box.
Sold for: £2,618.92 (7 bids).



Item: Corgi Toys, 322 Rover 2000 International Rally Finish, very rare Original.
Condition: Very good condition, with wear and tear.
Sold for: £255.00 (21 bids)



Item: Corgi 345 MGC GT Rare Orange Corgi Gift set.
Condition: Excellent condition, in original box.
Sold for: £324.64 (27 bids).



Item: GMP 1/12 Scale 12071 Ford GT40 Mark II McLaren/Amon #2 Le Mans 1966.
Condition: Brand new in box..
Sold for: £395.00 (1 bid).



Item: Batman mobile car toy.
Condition: In mint condition. This is a museum-quality toy.
Sold for: £874.34 (1 bid).



Item: Star Wars Vintage Kenner ROTJ the Jabba the Hutt Dungeon Playset Complete.
Condition: Good condition, in original packaging..
Sold for: £307.25 (10 bids).



Item: Vintage Tinplate Clockwork Champ on Ice Bear Skater Trio Toy, T.P.S. Japan.
Condition: Excellent working with minor playwear.
Sold for: £387.00 (28 bids).



Item: Vintage 1936 Louis Marx Popeye the Champ Tin Litho Wind Up Boxing Toy.
Condition: Fully functional with original 30s figures.
Sold for: £1,329.99 (13 bids).



Item: Vintage Tin Yonezawa Racer Japan Race Car Atom Futuristic Toy W Driver 8.
Condition: Excellent working condition, unboxed.
Sold for: £1,142.66 (28 bids).



Item: Vintage 1940s Arnold MAC 700 Clock Work Motorcycle Toy Working Germany Amer Zone.
Condition: Some scratches, but is in nice condition.
Sold for: £340.93 (31 bids).



Item: Dinky Toy Pre War Salmson 4-Seater No 36F.
Condition: In good used condition or suitable for spares/repairs.
Sold for: £639.10 (31 bids).



Item: Disney Lorcan You've Got A Friend In Me Enchanted Wilds Unknown Toy Story.
Condition: Ungraded - Near mint or better.
Sold for: £506.52 (32 bids).



Item: LEGO® Set 8157 Ferrari F1 1:9 2008 NEW RARE Racers Formula 1 Vintage.
Condition: The set is boxed, new and unused.
Sold for: £215.86 (20 bids).



Item: LEGO® The Disney Castle 71040.
Condition: This set is new and unopened in its original box.
Sold for: £241.56 (5 bids).



Item: Toy Story Disney Buzz Lightyear Signature Collection Thinkway Tesco 2010 Rare.
Condition: Excellent condition with small scratches.
Sold for: £307.25 (13 bids).



Item: Dinky Toy Delivery Van "Viyella" No 280A - open rear windows/smooth hubs.
Condition: Good used condition or spares/repairs.
Sold for: £644.20 (24 bids).



Item: Tippco Mercedes 934 Tco Tin Toy.
Condition: Clockwork mechanism works, shows signs of use.
Sold for: £685.27 (18 bids).



Item: Rare Hornby Dublo 2 Rail Export 2335 4-6-2 SR W/C Barnstaple.
Condition: Mint condition, the box is near mint.
Sold for: £883.90 (10 bids).

Have you ever imagined your own car being immortalised as a Hot Wheels model? That's exactly what's up for grabs for the winner of the Hot Wheels Legends Tour, which arrives at CarFest at the end of August 2026 and will be hosted at Silverstone this year.

With a CV that spans LEGO, Bicester Heritage and the National Transport Design Centre, Craig Callum lifts the lid on the Legends Tour, what it takes for a build to stand out, how real-world cars are translated into 1:64 scale, and how those models ultimately reach a global collecting audience.

The Hot Wheels Legends Tour has become a major global event for custom car culture. From Mattel's perspective, what makes a build truly embody the "Hot Wheels spirit"?

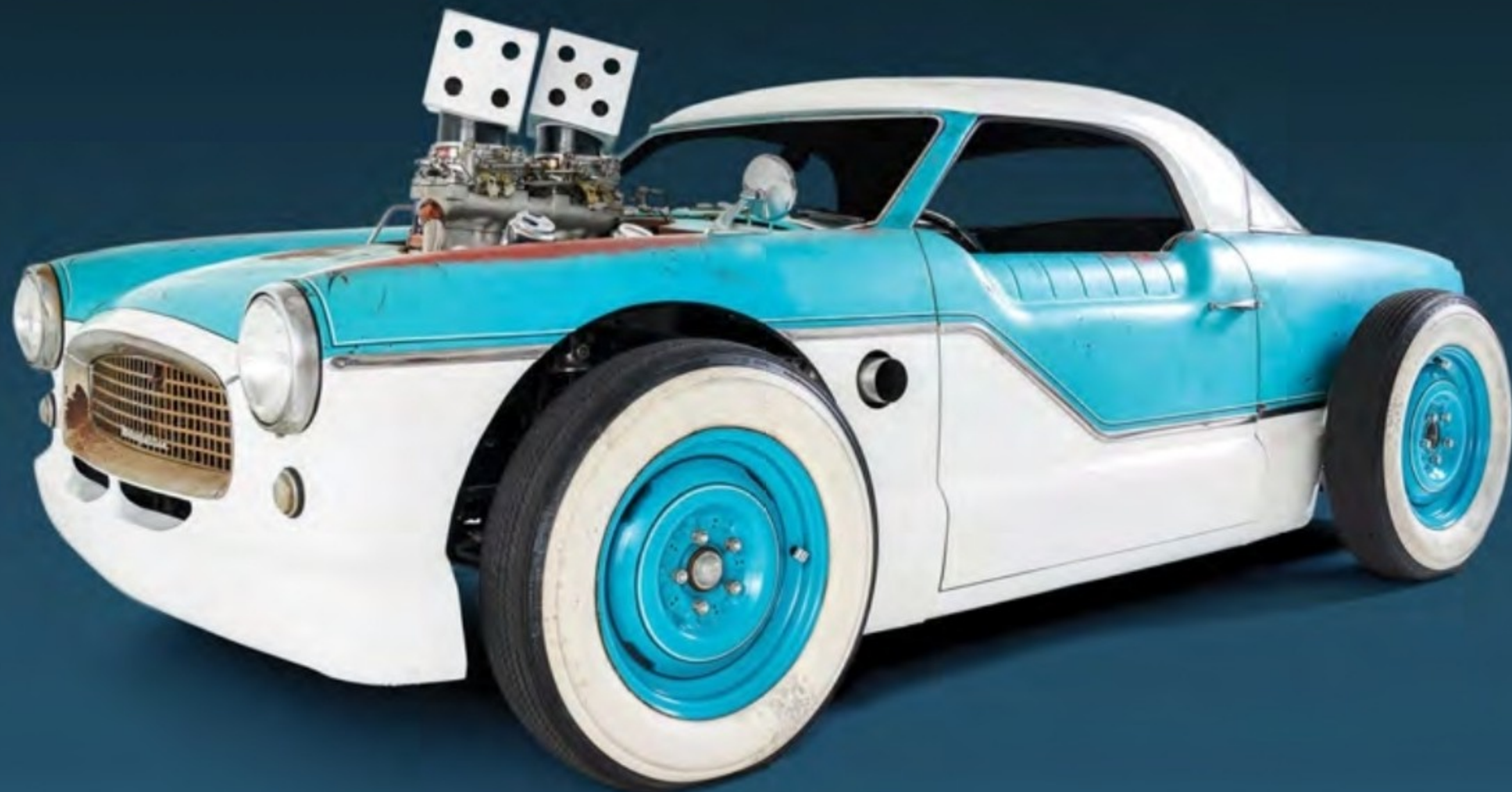
For us as designers, the "Hot Wheels spirit" comes down to three things: authenticity, creativity and passion. We're looking for vehicles that feel like they've been built with heart and purpose. The cars that catch my eye are those that stand out for being bold, sometimes a little rebellious, and always original. There's often a story behind them, like the father-and-son BMW build that took the UK crown in 2025. You can sense the time, effort and determination behind builds like that, and that's what really brings a car to life for us.

The UK scene has produced some incredibly diverse finalists over the years. What is it about British car culture that consistently stands out to the Hot Wheels judging team?

The UK consistently delivers. It's a country with a hugely diverse and long history of car culture, from the humble Mini to Rolls-Royce. There are so many British cars known around the world.

There's also a strong motorsport heritage here – many F1 teams are UK-based, and the country has some of the finest circuits, which fuels a big track-day scene. We had a UK drag racer win the Legends Tour overall in 2022. That breadth of motorsport, from short circuits to track days, feeds directly into the builds we see.

The classic scene also continues to grow, with modern classics increasingly attracting younger fans. You've got major events like Goodwood, alongside countless weekly meets. As a result, we tend to see a lot of classic entries from the UK compared to other markets. We've had everything from a land speed record Jaguar to a classic Hillman van. What stands out most is the diversity of entry – there's no single defining UK style. That makes it one of the most exciting, and also one of the toughest, regions to judge.



Hot Wheels Legends

What does it take for a custom build to become a Hot Wheels model? **Keith D'Souza** speaks to Craig Callum about the Legends Tour and the journey from garage project to diecast icon.

How important is authenticity and personal passion compared to outright engineering complexity or show-car perfection?

Passion always wins. Engineering excellence and finish matter, of course, but a technically perfect car without a story rarely resonates in the same way. We want to feel the builder's journey – the late nights, setbacks and wins. That "Garage spirit" can't be faked, and it outweighs perfection every time.

Turning a real-world custom car into a 1:64 Hot Wheels model must be a fascinating process. What are the biggest challenges designers face when translating these one-off builds into die-cast form?

It's not simply a case of shrinking a car to 1:64 scale – that wouldn't work. We're trying to capture the essence of the vehicle while working within tight size constraints, and still making sure it looks and feels like a Hot Wheels.

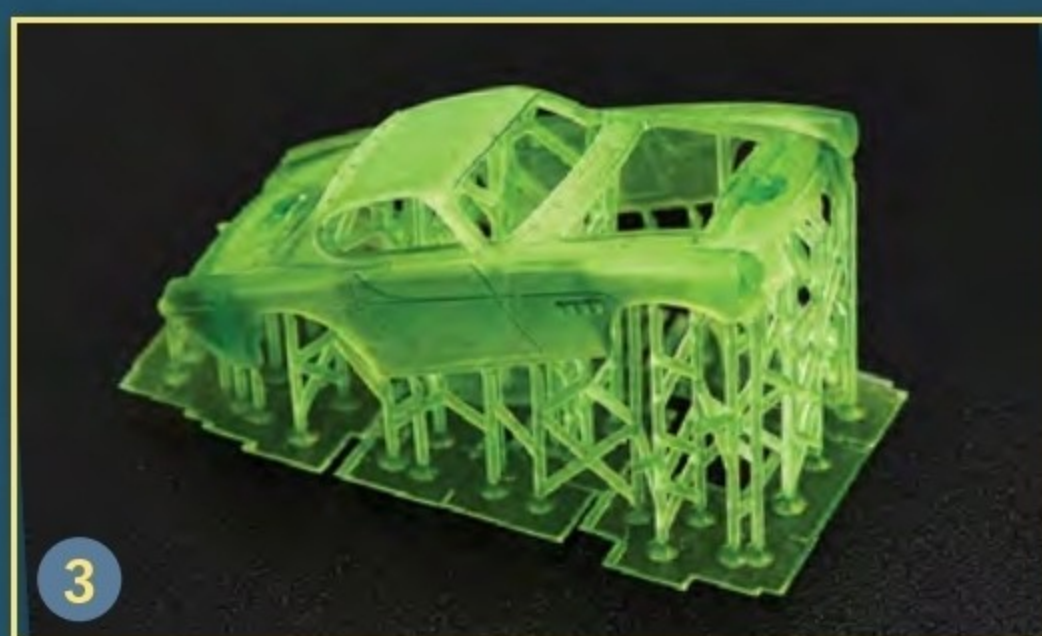
Cost is a major constraint. These are toys made to a budget, but that also drives creativity. When we're planning the individual elements – a process we

call *parting out* – we're trying to inject as much detail and realism as possible into something that retails for less than the price of a cup of coffee. It can be small touches, like using the interior element to also form the side exhaust on the Lotus Cortina, or using a chrome interior to double as an engine and front grille, as seen on the Volvo Gasser. It also has to work on our track systems, so we may adjust elements like the front splitter or ride height. And wheel size is another limitation – we only have a set number of wheel options available, so getting proportions right is critical.

The Legends Tour now spans a record number of countries. How has the competition evolved since the first event, and did Mattel expect it to become such a worldwide phenomenon?

What started as a relatively small initiative has grown into a global celebration of car culture, with 19 countries now taking part. It's effectively the biggest travelling car show, with stops around the world. We're returning to Canada and introducing new

ABOVE 2019 Legends Tour winner, a turquoise-white custom Nash Metropolitan hot rod.



1. Hot Wheels designer Craig Callum at Mattel HQ, overseeing Legends Tour creative development.
2. 2020 Legends Tour winner Pontiac Trans Am, a race-prepped pro-touring build with turbo power.
- 3 and 4. Matt Howell's Volvo P1800 Gasser model profile from 2021 Hot Wheels Legends Tour.
5. 2025 UK Legends Tour winner BMW E21 build by Paul and Ethan Foster.

events in the Asia-Pacific region, including Indonesia. The journey has exceeded expectations and become something far bigger than originally imagined – and we're confident it will continue to grow.

Many entrants are home builders working from garages and workshops rather than professional restoration companies. How important is that grassroots element to the identity of the Legends Tour?

This is central to the ethos of the Legends Tour. Our most inspiring entries come from people working at home in garages or on driveways, building cars in their spare time. That grassroots element keeps the competition authentic and relatable – it proves you don't need a huge budget or professional workshop to create something legendary.

This year's UK final moves to CarFest at Silverstone. What made that event the right fit for the 2026 Hot Wheels Legends Tour UK final?

The UK leg keeps growing, and CarFest is a perfect fit because it brings together car culture, family entertainment and a large, passionate audience. We'll have more space for finalists, as well as the Garage of Legends cars, a new F1 show car, and a pop-up store in partnership with Smyths. Hosting the final at Silverstone, in front of thousands of fans and alongside hundreds of incredible vehicles, creates the right atmosphere for a celebration of creativity and car culture.

For collectors, becoming an official Hot Wheels casting is the ultimate recognition. What does it mean internally at Mattel when a winning car earns a place in the Garage of Legends™?

Internally, it's the highest honour. When a car earns a place in the Garage of Legends™, it becomes part of Hot Wheels history. Just look at cars like Twin Mill and Bone Shaker – the winning build joins a line of truly iconic creations. It's recognition not just of the car itself, but of the creativity and passion behind it.

Hot Wheels has always balanced fantasy creations with real-world automotive culture. How does the Legends Tour help bridge those two worlds for both enthusiasts and collectors?

Hot Wheels has always sat at the intersection of imagination and global car culture. The Legends Tour offers a perfect bridge between those worlds. It starts with real builders and real cars, but through the design process those creations become part

of the Hot Wheels universe. Enthusiasts and collectors of all ages can connect with that journey.

Finally, for anyone sitting on the fence about entering their car this year, what would you say to encourage them to take the plunge and submit their build?

Just go for it! We're all car enthusiasts and love seeing the builds and hearing the stories behind them. It's inspiring for us. ■



1. Dinky Toys' Prisoner Moke was based on the civilian version that preceded it.

“I am not a number!” The famous line uttered by Patrick McGoochan will be well-known to anyone over the age of 50, I rather suspect. But if you’re one of the younger contingent reading this article, you will probably be puzzled.

SIX APPEAL?

The first of our two-part foray this issue takes us back to 1967, the year that *The Prisoner* aired on our television screens. To say that this series, which ran for a total of 17 episodes, was unusual would be like saying that *Thunderbirds* was a puppet show: a gross understatement.

The above protagonist, upon resigning from his undisclosed job in intelligence in London, is whisked away to The Village, a picturesque and captivating settlement, from which its inhabitants are unable to escape, since the area is surrounded by mountains and sea. A large balloon tends to head off any would-be Houdinis, and the Village is populated by all sorts of individuals, some captive, some guards in disguise.

McGoohan, known as Number Six, is there for interrogation, since the authorities want to know why he resigned. Naturally, he proves obdurate.

The Welsh village of Portmeirion, the work of Sir Clough Williams-Ellis, provided a stunning backdrop for the series; the blend of various architectural styles is well worth a visit if you’ve never been. Naturally, in keeping with the strange storyline and ever-changing numerical characters, suitably odd transport was called for. The Mini Moke, something of a cult car in the mid-sixties, was the perfect choice for the Village’s taxi service – and Dinky secured the licence to provide

McGoohan and Gotham

In this issue, **Alwyn Brice** considers the influence of the bizarre in terms of screen vehicles and their miniature representations.

this stripped-down aberration, a brainchild of the Austin-Morris group.

Referenced 106, the Dinky Moke came out in 1967 and would enjoy a three-year run. For Dinky, one suspects, this was a *fait accompli*, for it had already tooled up for the Moke, albeit in green with a tan canopy, that same year. The civilian version, No.342, was well-received and captured the spirit of the real car. Thus, the addition of a coat of white paint, the iconic penny farthing bicycle logo on the bonnet, tan panels and a striped canopy were all that was required to replicate the Prisoner’s taxi.

MINIATURE MYSTERY

I have to admit to being slightly puzzled over this toy. The Prisoner was certainly not suitable viewing for many pre-teens because of its convoluted plots and surreal environment. Indeed, plenty of adults have admitted to being baffled by this series, which apparently set out to pit individualism

(McGoohan) against collectivism (as personified by those in power at the Village). So marketing a model to youngsters would seem to be equally bizarre...

Be that as it may, clearly enough, kids knew about this odd series – and the Dinky Moke is a very acceptable replica. Yes, the interior is pretty sparse (with even less detail than the real thing), but that’s alleviated by the opening bonnet and the recreation of Alex Issigonis’ famous engine layout.

There may be no driver with this model, but it captures the essence of the television vehicles (in all, four Mokes were thus converted), with only one or two colour aberrations. If you’re buying, be aware that there are two hub versions (open and closed) – and check that the oversized radio aerial is present.

In closing, it would have been wonderful to have seen a replica of McGoochan’s Lotus 7, which starred in the opening credits – but then the car never made it to Wales.



2. An early version of the Corgi Batmobile: no tow hook, but plenty of paperwork. 3. A strip of material taken from the roof of one of the Village Mini Moke taxis. 4. Hotwheels brought out a larger scale vehicle to the marketplace. 5. Not so common, this Husky Batmobile and Batboat, especially when in its blister. Husky also released the Batmobile as a stand-alone model.



1955. Although Batman as a concept was created way back in 1939 (yes, really), it wasn't until the 1960s that things took a different turn. Yes, the Caped Crusader still chased the camp baddies and generally put the world (well, Gotham City, at any rate) to rights, but that decade saw a renaissance, if you like. With television now the focus (as opposed to the comic), the genre expanded. Barris Kustom Industries (the 'k' would catch on) was approached by ABC in 1966 to supply suitable transport for Batman and his sidekick, Robin. The result, built in an astonishing three weeks, it is said, was perfect for the pair of do-gooders.



GIMMICKS AND GOTHAM

Of course, the likes of you and I are never going to clap eyes on Barris' original creation, but there are plenty of images around. When Corgi won the bid to replicate this car, the timing was perfect, for here was the vehicle (literally) for its backroom boys. They had a field day: fuelled by the success of its James Bond Aston Martin DB5 (yes, it will be covered, dear reader), the model featured a pulsing exhaust, could fire a trio of missiles and came equipped with a handy circular saw up front. Although the television car could deploy gimmicks at will, this was enough, along with its sombre hue and outlandish shape, to propel the casting into the history books.

Corgi's recreation has proved enduringly popular, and with good reason; the model would see reincarnations and could be bought with a Batboat, if you so wished. Its purposeful lines and faithfully copied cockpit area speak volumes about the Futura influence, and clearly, Gotham City must have been one of the driest places on the planet, if the absence of a roof is anything to go by. And back in 1966, this was THE toy to have; the sweet cigarette and bubblegum cards merely served to whet the appetite. ■

BACK TO BLACK

If the Moke was a trifle odd, what then can be said of the Dynamic Duo's transport? Across the Pond, in the US, brothers George and Sam Barris were the names (initially, at any rate) behind bespoke, customised cars, the sort of thing that attracted celebrities looking for somewhat individual transport. Although Sam would drop out of the equation, George carried on, riding a popular wave and garnering plaudits for his designs along the way. Initially selling his creations to individuals, it wasn't long before film companies took an interest and with the

growing need for movie stars to have cars, so his field of expertise widened.

Many famous vehicles bear his hallmark, and some will feature in this series. But here we are concerned with perhaps his greatest achievement of all: the stunning Batmobile.

The real car wasn't, it transpires, built from scratch but was based on another concept car, that of the Lincoln Futura. This remarkable vehicle, the work of Bill Schmidt and John Najjar, was inspired by the sight of a shark: the double bubble canopies and rear fins, together with a frontal mouth-like intake, truly broke the traditional car mould - and this was in



1. The first mildy sport Fiesta; the 1300S. (large to small) Politoys, Detail Cars and PCX87 all with correct alloy wheels.

2. A brace of contemporary 1:43 Fiestas. Left to right: French-Dinky, Solido, Scale-Carr (using old Mira tooling) and Mebetoys versions.

1

The Ford Fiesta was the country's best-selling car for 12 consecutive years up until 2020. By the time Ford discontinued it in July 2023, over 4.8 million of them had been sold in the UK alone; worldwide sales topped 22 million cars. It is a fairly safe bet that most people will have experienced a Fiesta at some point in their lives. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the very first Fiesta being unveiled to the world. The aim of this feature is to take a closer look at where it all started, with the first-generation Fiesta, in model form.

However, to find the start of the Fiesta's story, we need to go back more than fifty years. Back in 1968, Ford of Britain replaced its then-current small car, the 105E Anglia, with the Mk1 Escort – a car that was developed jointly with Ford of Germany. This first Escort was larger than the Anglia in almost every aspect, as it had been agreed earlier that decade by Ford that they did not need a car as small as the BMC Mini in its range. The car world, however, was changing. Project Bobcat, the internal codename given to the car that would become the first Fiesta, was officially approved for development by Henry Ford II in September 1972, just after the launch of the Fiat 127 and Renault 5. The oil crisis of 1973 helped cement Ford's decision to produce their smallest car yet, as demand for smaller, more fuel-efficient cars was growing. The Fiesta was the first car designed by the then newly created 'Ford of Europe'. It was also designed as a 'world car'. Spain's protectionist economic policy of the time meant that to sell a car in Spain, it had to be built in Spain, so Ford built a brand new factory near Valencia. The

Fiesta Fiesta!

Steve Coles celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Ford Fiesta in the first of two features dedicated to this milestone.

Spanish influence was so important that Henry Ford II himself even chose a Spanish name for his new car (Fiesta being the Spanish for 'party'). He liked its alliteration with Ford and its celebration of Ford's new connection with Spain.

Spain may not be a country associated with an abundance of diecast toy companies, but during the 1970s & 80s, there were a surprising number of Spanish manufacturers modelling Spanish cars.

It will be of little surprise then to find out that the majority of contemporary models of the Mk1 Fiesta are from Spanish makers. Pilen, Mira, Guiloy and Joal have all modelled the Fiesta in approximately 1:43 scale. However, it was not just Spanish toy firms that produced Fiestas. Other European companies, Norev, Mebetoys, Nacoral (Intercars) and Solido, also made good quality toys to around 1:43 scale, and all included the Mk1 Fiesta in their ranges.



2

3. The Mk1 XR2 from Ottomobile (red), Minichamps (black), Corgi Vanguards (white) and Bub's tiny 1:87 (silver).



THE FRENCH DINKY

Towards the end of their time producing toy cars, the French-Dinky range was substituted with a number of cars made by the Spanish firm Auto-Pilen (often just Pilen). It was this French Dinky that became my first Mk1 Fiesta model, four years before I got my first car (also a Mk1 Fiesta). The Pilen/Dinky version captures the rather angular shape of the Fiesta well. It is a crisp, clean casting that also boasts opening doors. The light metallic blue colour is reminiscent of 'Cosmic Blue' used by Ford during the early part of Fiesta production. Modelled to approximately 1:43 scale, the cast-in bumpers, grille and headlights are picked out in silver and the taillights in red. The Ford oval and Fiesta badge are both cast neatly into the boot lid. Apart from manufacturer names on the basis, the main difference between the Dinky and Pilen versions concerns the boxes. The Dinky version came in the traditional style Dinky card box, whereas the Pilen version used a hard, clear plastic 'showcase' - typical of many Spanish diecasts of this period. As well as the same shade of blue as the Dinky version, the Pilen model was also available as a police car (with white doors) and in silver with Iberia stickers. Both Mira and Joal released their Fiestas in a variety of colours, and both came in similar plastic cases. They also had separate fittings for headlamps, grille and bumpers, unlike the Pilen/Dinky version. The example I own from this group is actually a blue model made by Scale-Carr and appears to be a much more recent model that used the Mira tooling but aimed more at adult collectors. I don't know a great deal about the company or its models,

3

4. Corgi 'Speed N Spin' toys. A pull back motor and working steering add huge play value.

5. A trio of IXO Fiestas; the white one being sold under IXO branding with the red and blue both part-work models.

but the two Fiestas they produced were available in either blue or cream, colours that were not used by Mira.

Perhaps the most unusual Fiesta I have seen on this scale is from Corgi. The car in question is slightly larger than 1:43, perhaps 1:40 and from a range called "Speed'n'Spin". It is painted yellow with racing 'Castrol' stickers attached, and the windows are black plastic to hide the pullback motor inside. The casting itself, whilst being a little rough around the edges, does capture the basic shape well, especially for what is clearly a toy. One small trick this toy does have over most pull-back toys is that you can control its direction by 'steering' with the twin exhaust pipes that protrude from under the rear bumper. According to the date on



4



5

the blister pack, it was released in 1980. That is all I know about this oddity. I cannot find any information about the “Speed’n’Spin” range, other cars that were available or how long they were available for. I have only seen one other Fiesta from this range turn up on eBay, so if any readers can help fill in some of these gaps, I would be most grateful.

FOR THE COLLECTOR

The first true scale collectors’ models were released around 1997 by Italian firm Detail Cars, which produced not one but two different casting variations. The first was a road-going 1977 version released in 3 different trim levels: L, 1300S and Ghia, each with correctly represented wheels and bumper trim. The second casting was of the Group 2 rally car, which included flared wheel arches, a repositioned fuel filler cap and additional front spotlights. Three different liveries were released.

In more recent years, Minichamps, IXO and Corgi Vanguards have all released a variety of models of the Mk1 Fiesta. Minichamps produced XR2 and ‘regular’ versions in several colours. IXO’s less convincing casting was also used for some part-work releases. The Vanguards casting is by far the most common, with 13 versions released so far, with the sporty XR2 being the most frequently modelled.

Away from 1:43, the Fiesta has also been well represented. Looking at the larger examples, we will start with the 1:25 Fiesta made in Italy by Politoys Polistil. Being a larger model means you get lots more detail, and lots of opening features! It is finished in metallic brown, and rather curiously, it has the stripes and ‘S’ motif from the ‘S’ model, yet has Fiesta 1.1L cast into the boot lid.

As you might expect of a model this size, the lights, bumpers and grille are all separate parts, and it is finished off with the correct alloy wheel design for the ‘S’. Mebetoys Mattel made what appears to be two different castings of the Mk1 Fiesta. The standard issue, like my metallic green example, has some good details but is let down by generic wheels and the front grill and headlamps are in the form of a sticker. Still a nice model, and not too common. Their second casting had XR2-style wheel arch extensions and was sold as either a yellow ‘Stunt Car’ or silver ‘Ski Car’.

Larger still are the 1:18 XR2s from Ottomobile and Norev (each released in several colours), plus Otto’s superb Group 2 Monte Carlo Fiesta. Both XR2s have a wealth of detail and incorporate all the elements that made the XR2 such a distinctive-looking range topper in 1982.



At the other end of the size spectrum, it is once again the Spanish toy makers that led the way. Pilen, Mira, Guilo and Guisval all made smaller-scale versions during the lifetime of the Mk1 Fiesta. I have sourced at least one example from each manufacturer and have to say that, despite all being a different size to the others, they are all delightful, with each having its own plus points. My favourite of these is probably the metallic blue Mira.

MORE RECENTLY...

More recently, Oxford Diecast first announced the Mk1 Fiesta in their 1:76 range back in 2020 and has so far released eight different versions, with another due later this year. Each is subtly different, and the Terracotta release (76FF006) is the only model released of any size of the short-lived 1.3GL version of the Fiesta.

If we continue getting smaller, Model Car World have so far released four examples in their PCX87 range, including a metallic silver 1300S and gold Ghia,

1. The Fiesta L from the 1977 range; represented here (clockwise) by: Detail Cars (red), Corgi Vanguards both 1:43; Oxford Diecast 1:76 and 1:148.

2. Group 2 rally Fiestas. Ottomobile’s 1:18 at the back, two NEO resin 1:43 (on their plinths) and the three Detail Cars releases (also 1:43)

complete with accurate alloy wheels. Several more examples are due for release later this year.

Also in 1:87 is a silver XR2 from a manufacturer called Bub. Based on the German specification, which misses the characteristic front spotlights, this is a cracking little model (despite the slightly oversized wheels). The smallest Fiestas I have are the 1:148 N-gauge (plastic) examples from Oxford Diecast. These diminutive versions mirror their larger 1:76 Oxford counterparts and contain a wealth of detail for their size.

The Mk1 Fiesta was replaced in 1982 with a heavily revised and restyled car. This kept the Fiesta fresh and so continued the sales success. Models of subsequent Fiestas are plentiful, but we’ll save those for next time. ■

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SUNDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 2026
Springfields Events & Conference Centre, Camelgate, Spalding, Lincs PE12 6ET
10am - 2pm >> approx. 150 tables >> 6ft table £35
>> Admission (16+) £3.50, Accompanied Ch (15 and under) Free

BRENTWOOD
SATURDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER 2026
The Brentwood Centre, Doddinghurst Road, Brentwood, Essex, CM15 9NN.
10am - 2pm >> approx. 180 tables >> 6ft table £40
>> Admission (16+) £4 per person, Accompanied Ch (15 and under) Free

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SUNDAY 25TH OCTOBER 2026
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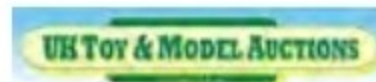
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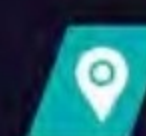


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