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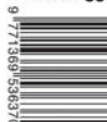
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Ghosts, gatherings and fantastic finds

EDITOR'S COLUMN



Ghostbusters, Hot Wheels, the first 'Thrill of the Chase', and an exciting new chapter for BP Fairs.

For those of you who read last month's column, you'll know I wrote it just before England's World Cup semi-final. Sadly, it wasn't to be. Messi and the Argentinians spoiled the party, but it was still a memorable tournament, and I hope those of you who followed it enjoyed the ride. And for those of you who don't follow football... good news, I'll stop talking about it now! My England shirts have gone back into hiding until Euro 2028, when, like millions of other fans, I'll once again convince myself that football really is coming home. Surely one day it has to happen! Anyway, enough football... let's get back to collecting.

With Halloween just around the corner, it seemed only right that this month's cover stars the iconic Ecto-1 from Ghostbusters. Alwyn Brice returns with another instalment of our Screen Machines series, taking a closer look at one of the most recognisable movie vehicles ever made. We also round off our celebration of the Ford Fiesta's 50th anniversary with the second part of Steve Coles' excellent feature, while Keith D'Souza sits down with Oxford Diecast's Managing Director for another fascinating Meet the Maker interview, offering a brilliant insight into one of Britain's best-known model manufacturers.

Hot Wheels fans are in for a treat too, as Mike Pigott explores the imaginative Designers Challenge range, created in

2008 when Mattel invited professional automotive stylists to celebrate the brand's 40th anniversary. And, as teased in last month's Next Month page, Andrew Ralston uncovers the fascinating story of how Dinky Toys were used in France to help teach the rules of the road.

It's certainly one of the more unusual collecting stories we've featured!

Over in Collectors Gazette, we're excited to launch a brand-new monthly series, The Thrill of the Chase, following Charlie's relatable hunt for vintage toys and unusual collectables. We'd love to know what you think, so please do get in touch if you enjoy it. You can email us at CollectingEditorial@warnersgroup.co.uk. Elsewhere, we explore the world of collectable jigsaws, meet this month's Collecting Champion, take a look back at the legendary Palitoy story, and even go a little loopy for Betty Boop. A brilliant mix of collectables, if we do say so ourselves!

Finally, I wanted to mention some exciting news from behind the scenes. From August, Warners Group is proud to be taking on the running of BP Fairs. Barry Potter and his family have done an incredible job building and organising some of the country's best-loved toy fairs over the past 46 years, and we're honoured to be continuing that legacy. With our collecting magazines and the new World of Collecting website, the fairs are a perfect fit and give us even more opportunities to meet collectors face to face. You can read more about the handover on page 6, and I hope we'll see many of you at a BP Fair in the months ahead.

Have a great September, and we'll see you in the November issue.

**Happy collecting,
Luke**

DIECAST COLLECTOR

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NEWS

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HOT WHEELS LAUNCHES NEW MODELS FOR POP CULTURE LOVERS

MATTEL has unveiled three new Hot Wheels collectables as part of its latest Mattel Creations release.

The “Fandom in the Fast Lane” collection brings together designs inspired by Netflix’s KPop Demon Hunters, Stranger Things and Top Gun, celebrating major pop culture franchises through detailed diecast releases.

The line-up includes a KPop Demon Hunters Porsche 911 GT3, featuring blue fur-style deco, tiger stripes and sharp white teeth across the grille. Fans can also pick up the Stranger Things 10th Anniversary Hawkins Van, an all-diecast 1983 Chevy Van with Real Riders wheels, “Hawkins Power and Light” detailing and plastic mini figures.

Completing the collection is the Top Gun 40th Anniversary Set, which comes in break-frame packaging inspired by Goose’s cockpit photo and displays two diecast fighter jets in the film’s famous inverted position. ■



BARRY POTTER FAIRS JOINS WARNERS GROUP

AFTER more than 46 years of organising toy fairs, Barry Potter and his family have stepped down, with Warners Group taking over the running of BP Fairs.

The existing format of the fairs will remain unchanged, including the BP Fairs name, table layouts and established stallholder positions. Barry and his family will also work closely with Warners to ensure a smooth handover.

Barry Potter said: “Running Toy Collectors Fairs for more than 46 years has been a privilege and a joy for us all. Looking to the future, Warners are the perfect team to take things forward.”

“With their experience of running events and their knowledge of the collecting scene, the fairs will be in very safe hands and have great potential to reach an even wider audience.”

“Most importantly, whether you attend as an exhibitor or a visitor, you can look forward to many more great fairs.”

Stephen Warner, Managing Director of Warners Group, said: “We are delighted to welcome BP Fairs to Warners Group. It is a highly respected and long-established events business with a loyal community of collectors, visitors and stallholders.”

“BP Fairs is a natural fit alongside World of Collecting and our growing portfolio of specialist events and content. We look forward to supporting the fairs as they enter their next chapter.”

Coming up in September: Visit BP Fairs at Sandown Park on Saturday 5 September, Coventry on Sunday 13 September, Bolton Stadium on Sunday 20 September and the NEC Birmingham on Sunday 27 September. For more information, visit bpfairs.com or worldofcollecting.co.uk. ■



NEW STAR WARS FIGURE UNVEILED

AN all-new Star Wars Knights of the Old Republic Darth Revan figure has been unveiled by Sideshow and pre-orders have opened. The figure comes in two different sizes and features a highly detailed sculpt and an alternative head.

The premium format figure is 23 inches tall and stands over a fallen Mandalorian Crusader ship. This version comes with exclusive light-up flames on the base as well as enhanced

illumination in Darth Revan's dual Lightsabers. This version costs \$1,020 and will ship between November 2026 and February 2027.

The collector edition figure is 18.9 inches tall and costs \$680, with shipping expected at the same time as the premium format figure. Both versions are inspired by Darth Revan's appearance in Star Wars: Knights of the Old Republic, capturing the character's

dark robes, distinctive red-and-silver mask and red and purple Lightsabers. The alternate portrait offers collectors another display option, showing Revan unmasked with a battle-worn look. Sideshow's latest release is likely to appeal strongly to fans of Star Wars Legends and the Knights of the Old Republic games, where Revan remains one of the franchise's most popular and mysterious Sith characters. ■

THE HOT WHEELS SEARCH HAS STARTED

MATTEL announced a global search for the first-ever Hot Wheels 'Tiniest Team Principal', with one winner to be selected from each of the United States, the United Kingdom and Mexico. The winners will also be flown, with their families, to Hot Wheels headquarters in El Segundo, California, where they will meet the design and executive teams behind

Hot Wheels and Formula 1 and take part in picking and designing their own Hot Wheels F1 diecast car. Each 'Tiniest Team Principal' will step into an official ambassador role for the Hot Wheels brand and receive VIP access to a Formula 1 Grand Prix. Submissions can include custom track set builds, race predictions, original designs, or a passionate

explanation of how they would run an F1 team.

Entries will be reviewed by a judging panel that includes Formula 1 President and CEO Stefano Domenicali, 2009 FIA Formula One World Drivers' Champion and F1 Ambassador Jenson Button, Mattel's General Manager and Head of Vehicles and Building Sets Ted Wu, and Hot Wheels designer Kristina Albrecht. ■

NEWS

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MATCHBOX ARE ALL SET TO HIT THE BIG SCREEN

THE first trailer for Matchbox The Movie was unveiled at San Diego Comic-Con in July, ahead of the film's global premiere on Apple TV on 9 October 2026.

Inspired by Mattel's iconic diecast vehicles, the action-packed adventure follows a group of childhood friends whose lives are turned upside down by the unexpected return of their former leader, Sean. Now an undercover CIA agent, Sean unwittingly draws the group into a frantic international mission to save the world.

Directed by Sam Hargrave, Matchbox The Movie stars John Cena alongside Jessica Biel, Sam Richardson, Teyonah Parris and Arturo Castro. With high-speed pursuits, explosive stunts and plenty of familiar Matchbox models brought to life, it looks like it could be a great movie night for diecast collectors and action-film fans. ■



NEXT MONTH

NOVEMBER 2026 Issue 349

PLUS...

- Auction results
- All the latest news
- Extensive selection of new model releases
- And much more



Marvel Comic-Con Special Editions

We take a look at the exclusive Hot Wheels Marvel models released for San Diego Comic-Con, exploring the sought-after convention-only editions.

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NEWS

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ABOVE Dinky Toys 501 Foden Diesel Wagon sold for £4,655.

BELOW LEFT Rare Dinky Toys 503 Flat Truck achieved £4,165.

BELOW CENTRE Dinky Toys 502 Flat Truck realised £3,062.

BELOW RIGHT Dinky Toys 101 Sunbeam Alpine Sports climbed to £919.



DINKY DOMINATES AT VECTIS

AN outstanding private collection of Dinky Toys attracted collectors from around the world when it went under the hammer at Vectis Auctions.

The two-day sale featured 995 lots, including scarce pre-war models, elusive colour variations and highly desirable trade packs, eventually realising an impressive £146,461.

Among the biggest talking points were a trio of rare Foden lorries, all of which comfortably exceeded their estimates.

- The Dinky Toys 501 Foden (Type 1) Diesel Wagon: Estimated at just £140, this scarce US-only issue raced away to £4,655, making it one of the highest-priced models of the sale.

- The Dinky Toys 503 Foden (Type 2) Flat Truck: Another exceptional rarity, this Type 2 Flat Truck with tailboard sold for £4,165 against an estimate of £900.

- The Dinky Toys 502 Foden (Type 2) Flat Truck: The surprises kept coming as this attractive green-bodied Flat Truck climbed from an estimate of £200 to a remarkable £3,062.

Other notable results were: The pre-war Dinky Toys 29C Double Decker "Dunlop" Bus generated strong bidding as one of the collection's most desirable early models, and a Dinky Toys 101 Sunbeam Alpine Sports in light turquoise, complete with blue interior and driver, sold for £919 against an estimate of just £80. ■



LEGO LEADS THE WAY

ALSO at Vectis handmade LEGO Volkswagen T1 Transporter pickup, produced in extremely limited numbers and carrying “Muryar Bishara” and “Julsolejren 67” lettering, changed hands for £1,103, comfortably exceeding its £320 estimate. Star Wars also proved popular, with a group of more than 50 loose LEGO Star Wars minifigures selling for £465 against an estimate of £60 to £80. Meanwhile, a sealed LEGO Star Wars Ultimate Collector Series AT-AT (75313) marched to £1,225, more than double its £600 estimate.

Everyone’s favourite bear from Darkest Peru demonstrated his enduring appeal when a rare 42-inch Gabrielle Designs shop display Paddington Bear sold for £2,082 against an estimate of £300 to £400. A scarce Lone Star James Bond 007 Harpoon Gun proved



licensed toys remain highly collectable, firing its way from a £240 estimate to an impressive £1,592. One of the biggest surprises came from an unlikely source. A group of six Corgi and Husky catalogues, leaflets and retailer sales aids, consigned by a former Mettoy employee, sold for £2,083 after being estimated at just £80. ■



New model of the month

Keith D'Souza picks a standout new release. This month, he reviews OttOmobile's 1978 PONTIAC Firebird.

OttOmobile

1978 PONTIAC Firebird Trans Am (Starlight Black)

Scale: 1:12 Price: €129.90

SKU: G098

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

Few American performance cars are as instantly recognisable as the second-generation Pontiac Firebird Trans Am. While the Ford Mustang, Chevrolet Camaro and Dodge Charger often dominate today's model line-ups, the black-and-gold Trans Am occupies a unique place in automotive history. Thanks largely to its starring role in the 1977 blockbuster *Smokey and the Bandit*, the Pontiac became an overnight cultural icon, transforming into one of the most desirable American performance cars of the late 1970s.

OttOmobile has chosen the 1978 version for its latest 1:12 release, and it proves an inspired choice. The larger scale showcases the styling that made the Trans Am so memorable while allowing the French brand to demonstrate the attention to detail for which it has become renowned.

The first impression is one of presence. Even at rest, the Firebird looks purposeful, its long bonnet, low roofline and sweeping rear quarters perfectly conveying the stance of the original. OttOmobile has captured the proportions exceptionally well, avoiding the slightly awkward appearance that can sometimes affect enlarged resin models. Every curve flows naturally into the next, creating a convincing miniature of Pontiac's celebrated muscle car.

Naturally, the bonnet takes centre stage. Dominating the panel is the legendary gold 'Screaming Chicken' decal, reproduced with crisp printing and accurate positioning. Beneath it sat Pontiac's mighty 6.6-litre V8, while the distinctive shaker scoop became one of the defining styling cues of the era. OttOmobile has recreated this feature faithfully, giving the model the visual drama collectors expect.

The glossy black paintwork provides the perfect contrast for the extensive gold graphics, while neatly applied badging demonstrates the precision increasingly

associated with OttOmobile's larger-scale releases.

The wheels deserve particular praise. Pontiac's attractive gold 'snowflake' alloys were among the defining features of late-1970s Trans Ams, and OttOmobile has reproduced them beautifully. Finished with excellent depth and definition, they are wrapped in correctly treaded Goodyear tyres that complete the authentic appearance. Combined with the car's muscular stance, they reinforce the impression that this Firebird is ready to put the pedal to the metal and leave an increasingly frustrated Buford T. Justice in its wake.

Inside, the high standard continues. One advantage of 1:12 scale is the opportunity to reproduce details that would be difficult to achieve convincingly in smaller sizes, and OttOmobile has made full use of the extra space.

The bucket seats feature convincing texture, while the dashboard faithfully recreates the distinctive instrument binnacle and switchgear. The steering wheel is correctly proportioned, the centre console

crisply moulded and the brightwork adds welcome contrast to the predominantly red interior. Even the seat belts have been carefully represented, adding another layer of realism without appearing oversized.

As with most OttOmobile releases, this is a sealed resin model with no opening panels. Some collectors will inevitably prefer functional features, particularly in this generous scale. However, the absence of opening doors and bonnet has clearly allowed OttOmobile to concentrate on achieving excellent body fit, consistent shut lines and an impressive overall finish. Few collectors are likely to feel short-changed.

Equally appealing is the value for money. Large-scale resin models often command intimidating price tags, yet OttOmobile continues to offer subjects that remain within reach of the average enthusiast. Given the size of the model, the quality of the finish and the level of detail throughout, the Firebird is a compelling proposition in today's market.

Ultimately, OttOmobile has produced a fitting tribute to one of America's most celebrated performance cars. It successfully captures both the style and spirit of the 1978 Pontiac Firebird Trans Am, combining accurate proportions with crisp detailing and an imposing road presence. Whether your affection for the Trans Am stems from Pontiac's engineering or repeated viewings of *Smokey and the Bandit*, this is a model that deserves serious consideration. ■



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MATRIX
Aston Martin Lagonda Series 1
1974-1975 (Blue Metallic)
SCALE: 1:43 PRICE: £127.99
PRODUCT NO: MX40108181

After facing financial pressure, Aston Martin came up with this enticing offering, launching the 5.3 litre V8-engine powered four-door saloon at the 1974 London Motor Show.

matrixscalemodels.nl



MATRIX
Maserati V4 Sport
1929 (Maroon)
SCALE: 1:43 PRICE: £127.99
PRODUCT NO: MX51311012

Featuring a ridiculous 16-cylinder engine, the Maserati V4 Sport was known for its torpeda design and record-high speeds, making it a standout of its era.

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MATRIX
Marcos GT 3 Litre
1968-1971 (Yellow)
SCALE: 1:43 PRICE: £127.99
PRODUCT NO:

Acting as the most powerful version of the Marcos GT, this was a V8 engine-led powerhouse, with 140 bhp and top speed of 120mph.

matrixscalemodels.nl



SOLIDO
Fiat F595 Abarth
2023 (Red)
SCALE: 1:18 PRICE: £51.99
PRODUCT NO: S1811304

A compact performance car that is known for its vibrancy and personality, the Fiat F595 Abarth boasts an urban design and 1.4-litre, 16-valve turbocharged T-Jet engine.

solido.com



SOLIDO
Toyota Supra Mk4 (A80)
2001 (Candy Orange)
SCALE: 1:18 PRICE: £64.99
PRODUCT NO: S1807609A

Taking inspiration from the first Fast and the Furious film, the Toyota Supra Mk4 was driven by Brian O'Conner and supered up to the max.

solido.com



NOREV
Volkswagen 1303 w. Christmas Tree
1973 (Red)
SCALE: 1:18 PRICE: £79.99
PRODUCT NO: NV188678

Known for its wide, curved windscreen, the 1303 is a descendant of Volkswagen's Beetle and is the perfect vehicle for carrying a festive decorative item.

norev.com

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NOREV
Citroen 2CV
1986 - Paris Mon Amour (Pink)
SCALE: 1:18 PRICE: £79.99
PRODUCT NO: NV181474

Used for the Paris Mon Amour romantic tour, where couples were driven around the French capital, this tailored Citroen is a critical part of Parisian heritage.

norev.com

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MATRIX: 1953 DAIMLER D536 "GREEN GODDESS" BY HOOPER. 1/18 SCALE. LTD: 109. £64.99 £199.20



MATRIX: 1948 BRISTOL 400 DHC, PININFARINA, BLUE. £74.99 £59.99



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Spectrum Pursuit Vehicle (SPV) (Blue)

SCALE: 1:50 **PRICE:** £29.99 **PRODUCT NO:** CC96308

The Spectrum Pursuit Vehicle is one of Spectrum's most impressive machines. Designed as its main land-based combat vehicle, the SPV is fast, heavily armoured, fully armed and even capable of travelling through water. The bulletproof vehicle measures 25ft (7.62m) long, has ten wheels and can reach speeds of more than 200mph (322km/h). One of its most unusual features is its driving position. With no conventional windscreen, the driver sits facing backwards in an aircraft-style seat and uses television monitors to control the vehicle.



The driver's seat is built into a sliding side panel, which also provides access to the SPV. Inside, the crew has advanced radar, sensitive two-way radios, air conditioning and a supply of protein-rich food, allowing them to remain self-sufficient for long periods. When it comes to firepower, the SPV is equipped with laser cannons, ground-to-air missiles and electrode-ray cannons – the only weapons capable of effectively tackling the Mysterons. Corgi's model measures 14.4cm long, 6.2cm wide and 5.7cm high.

uk.corgi.co.uk



CORGI

Thunderbirds F.A.B. Collection - FAB 1 (Pink)

SCALE: 1:36 **PRICE:** £39.99 **PRODUCT NO:** CC00605

Inspired by the nostalgic TV show Thunderbirds, the FAB 1 is an elongated vehicle with 6 wheels, domed windscreen and Rolls Royce-inspired design features.

uk.corgi.co.uk



CORGI

Volkswagen Campervan Happy Birthday (White)

SCALE: 1:43 **PRICE:** £34.99 **PRODUCT NO:** CC02734

Decorated with a Happy Birthday message, the Volkswagen Campervan is an iconic piece of design known for its promotion of wanderlust and is often fitted with a 2.0-litre TDI diesel engine.

uk.corgi.co.uk



BP FAIRS



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Sandown Park Racecourse, Portsmouth Road, Esher, Surrey, KT10 9AJ
10:30am - 3:00pm | early bird entry from 8:00am £15 | Adults £8, Senior £7.50,
Children £2 (under 5s free)

Sunday 13th September - Coventry

The Connexion Leisure Club, Leamington Road, Coventry, CV8 3FL
10:30am - 3:00pm | early bird entry from 8:00am £7 | Adults £3.50, Senior £3,
Children £1 (under 5s free)

Sunday 20th September - Bolton Stadium

Bolton Stadium, The Premier Suite, Burnden Way, Horwich, BL6 6JW
10:30am - 3:00pm | early bird entry from 8:00am £9 | Adults £4.50, Senior £4,
Children £1 (under 5s free)

Sunday 27th September - NEC Birmingham

Hall 18, National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, B40 1NT
10:30am - 3:00pm | early bird entry from 8:00am £20 | Adults £11, Senior £10,
Children £2 (under 5s free)

Sunday 4th October - Buxton

The Pavillion Gardens, St. John's Road, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 6XN
10:30am - 3:00pm | early bird entry from 8:00am £7 | Adults £3.50, Senior £3,
Children £1 (under 5s free)

Sunday 11th October - Doncaster Racecourse

Doncaster Exhibition Centre, Leger Way, Doncaster, DN2 6BB
10:30am - 3:00pm | early bird entry from 8:00am £10 | Adults £6, Senior £5.50,
Children £2 (under 5s free)

Visit www.bpfairs.com or scan the QR code
for all details on the events





CONRAD
Liebherr LTR1220 telescopic crawler crane 'Weldex'

SCALE: 1:50 PRICE: £310.00
PRODUCT NO: 2746/06

www.diecastconstruction.co.uk

The limited-edition Liebherr LTR1220 telescopic crawler crane in Weldex UK livery is an exclusive Diecast Construction release, restricted to just 100 pieces, supplied with an 8-page information booklet and a numbered collector card.



UNIVERSAL HOBBIES
Komatsu PW138 MR-11 wheeled excavator

SCALE: 1:50 PRICE: £89.99
PRODUCT NO: UH8190

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

The latest Komatsu release is a standout model, packed with detail and functionality, featuring an undercarriage with an adjustable blade and outriggers, fully operational digging equipment and a complete hydraulic-line package.



REPLICARS
Komatsu PC200i-12 tracked excavator

SCALE: 1:50 PRICE: £159.00
PRODUCT NO: N/A

www.spiel-modellkistl.de

The Komatsu PC200i-12 is part of Komatsu's latest excavator generation, offering fine detailing, including a fully modelled cabin interior, linked metal tracks and neatly raised hydraulic lines enhancing the model's realism and presentation.



REPLICARS
Komatsu PC220LCi-12 tracked excavator

SCALE: 1:50 PRICE: £159.00
PRODUCT NO: N/A

www.spiel-modellkistl.de

The European-release PC220LCi-12 is a well executed model, featuring a detachable toothed bucket, a full set of hydraulic lines including auxiliaries, linked metal tracks with wide pads and a detailed, fully replicated cabin interior.



DIECAST MASTERS
Caterpillar 352 tracked excavator

SCALE: 1:50 PRICE: £209.99
PRODUCT NO: 85792

www.diecastconstruction.co.uk

This new excavator is a strong addition to the latest releases, convincingly capturing the real machine's proportions and styling, with authentic digging-equipment movement and a finely detailed cabin and body.



DIECAST MASTERS
Caterpillar 374 tracked excavator

SCALE: 1:50 PRICE: £226.99
PRODUCT NO: 85793

www.diecastconstruction.co.uk

The quarry-spec Cat 374 tracked excavator is a robust, all-metal model featuring full safety railings, a linked tracked undercarriage, a detailed replicated cabin interior and the heavy-duty ME boom and stick configuration.



DIECAST MASTERS
Caterpillar 140 LVR motor grader

SCALE: 1:50 PRICE: £141.99
PRODUCT NO: 85794

www.diecastconstruction.co.uk

Caterpillar's 140 LVR motor grader features an articulated chassis, steering front axle, fully moveable blade, adjustable rear ripper, oscillating rear bogies and a well-detailed, and a fully populated cabin interior.



DIECAST MASTERS
Caterpillar 789 off-road haul truck

SCALE: 1:50 PRICE: £452.99
PRODUCT NO: 85794

www.diecastconstruction.co.uk

This is a heavy, highly detailed release featuring a steering front axle, metal railings, access ladders, cabin with opening doors, rock knockers, a detailed rear axle and a smooth, functional tipping dump body.

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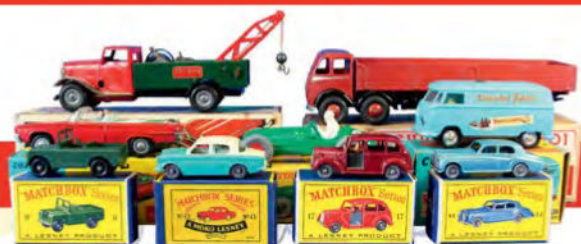
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UNIVERSAL HOBBIES

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PRICE: £104.72 SCALE: 1/32 PRODUCT NO: X991024174000 (UH6741)

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Front wheels are steerable and all the wheels are fitted with the tyre pressure regulation system. The

hinged bonnet opens and the cab has warning beacons, LED work lights and folding mirrors. There's good access to the cab interior with both doors and the rear window opening. Beautifully laid out and detailed, the interior has grey pattern matting, foot pedals, digital dash behind the steering wheel and monitor on the driver's seat armrest.

At the rear, the tractor has a working three-point rear linkage with adjustable length top link. Supported on rams, there's also a slide under the rear axle to lock the lower links in the raised position. Also, there's a pin for attaching trailed equipment.

<https://shop.fendt.com>



BRITAINS

David Brown 990 Selectamatic Tractor

PRICE: £21.99 SCALE: 1/32 PRODUCT NO: 43415

Largely metal tractor with steerable wheels and working plastic rear linkage. On the driver's platform, there are gear levers, foot pedals, and dash detail.

www.britainsfarmtoys.co.uk



BRAEMERE MODELS

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PRICE: £124.99 SCALE: 1/32

The assembled kit features working rear door, rotating wheels, rubber tyres and detailed grills. It fits MarGe, Welly, Siku and Newray trucks.

www.braemeremodels.co.uk



BRITAINS

Claas Arion 6.190 Tractor

PRICE: £38.99 SCALE: 1/32 PRODUCT NO: 43435

Britains refreshed Arion tractor sports the latest style bonnet and decals. It has working linkages front and rear, steerable wheels and detachable cab.

www.britainsfarmtoys.co.uk



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From rallying to racing

Born in Belgium and exported to countries like the USA and Canada, FINA motor oils was also a relevant Motorsport sponsor from the second half of the 1980s until the late 1990s. Around that era, FINA was the title sponsor of many BMW works entries across a variety of disciplines, from rallying to GT and prototype endurance racing to touring racing. After looking at some of the most relevant rally cars sponsored by FINA in the late 1980s, in Part 1 of this episode of Racing Colours, we now proceed to the following decade to look for completely different types of cars, painted with the same white, blue and red colours of the typical FINA livery.

A NEW LIVERY

The change in cars and decades also prompted changes in FINA liveries. Marketing people always want something new, from time to time, and

Last month we focused on rally entries of FINA-sponsored cars, in another episode of Racing Colours. For Part 2, **Francisco Mota** looks at the transition from rally stages to track racing.

this was the right time to change the appearance of FINA in Motorsport, in the minds of FINA marketers, at least. They were probably right, as the brand's awareness was about to grow considerably.

From rally stages in some WRC events and sponsoring semi-works teams, FINA was now convinced that a stronger investment in Motorsport was due. So, they embarked on a new program that started with the BTCC, and that would take them to the Endurance world championship and the 24 hours of Le Mans, at first with GT cars and then in the prototype class. A lot happened from 1993 to 1999.

1:43 SCALE MODELS

Tobacco sponsorship was still very powerful at this stage in all kinds of Motorsport. When the ban came, a few years later, it also affected scale models. As of today, model makers are not allowed to sell scale models featuring the logos and/or brands of any tobacco company. This makes for incomplete liveries that do not look great in a collection. In several cases, the missing logos or brand decals can be found, allowing the collector to apply them to the scale model. In the case of FINA-sponsored scale models, there is obviously no such problem. This makes these cars easier to replicate exactly



ABOVE From left to right we have McLaren BMW F1 GTR, Le Mans 1996 (Minichamps), BMW V12 LM 1998 (Starter) and BMW 318i BTCC 1993 (Minichamps).

as they raced in period, making them more attractive for model makers to release.

Racing Colours is a major collecting theme and many model makers do not neglect FINA-sponsored cars. So, it was not so difficult to find the models we wanted for Part 2, even though some of those scale models have been out of production for a long time. However, there's always that website we all know that provides the scale model we "need".

BTCC ATTACK

The early 1990s saw BMW enter the BTCC as a works team in the top-level class. The car used as the base for building the racing machine was a sedate 318i four-door sedan. With a heavily modified four-cylinder engine, the structure received a full roll bar, and the suspension was lowered and stiffened. By regulation, the car had to keep the standard body, without any changes. That made it look even meaner, as it did to all the rivals.

Minichamps made a replica of the #6 1993 BMW 318i E36, which Steve

Soper raced that season. The base scale model looks very close to the street version, so it served Minichamps very well. They only had to add larger crossed-spoke wheels and tyres, different mirrors, and the racing livery. The rear half of the body features a chequered flag in the colours of FINA and BMW, a very different livery from the old days of two stripes.

Inside the cabin, the standard dash is the only piece that comes from the street car, just like in the real car. A roll bar, racing seat and smaller details like a fire extinguisher or racing gearbox knob replaced the rest of the standard interior.

The second E36 shows how regulations changed from 1993 to 1996. Winkelhock drove car #22, which featured the aero kit allowed under the Supertouring regulations: front

spoiler and rear wing. The suspension is much lower, and the livery uses the chequered-flag theme as a strip along the car. In the cabin, we can find a new kind of racing seat and a complex roll bar. Perforated brake discs are visible across the crossed-spoke wheel rims.

MCLAREN & BMW

McLaren F1 is one of the most famous hypercars ever produced. The genius of F1 designer Gordon Murray conceived the car; however, the engine was a V12 from BMW. The car was not meant to be a racing car at all; however, some customers demanded a version for endurance racing. The McLaren BMW F1 GTR was born, and it won the 24 Hours of Le Mans in 1995. For the following season, both works cars were painted in a new FINA livery, still keeping the chequered flag as the motif

'From rally stages in some WRC events and sponsoring semi-works teams, FINA was now convinced that a stronger investment in Motorsport was due. So they embarked on a new program that started with the BTCC, and that would take them to the Endurance world championship and the 24 hours of Le Mans, at first with GT cars and then in the prototype class.'



1



2



3



for the longitudinal stripe and adding a large white-on-blue logo on each side. The most interesting part was the rear engine cover, painted with the flags of the three drivers who drove each car at 24h Le Mans.

This 1996 edition also featured a double-bubble headlamp cover, a roof air intake, and a longer front splitter. Car #39 is a model by HPI Racing, while #38 is by Minichamps. Look closely, and it isn't difficult to find that the HPI diecast is the better model.

BMW was serious about winning Le Mans again, and the 1997 regulations

gave them the chance to extensively improve their car, which received a new name: McLaren BMW F1 GTR LM.

RETURN OF THE LONG TAIL

The most obvious difference was the longer rear overhang, or "long tail" in endurance language. It was fundamental to improve aerodynamics, along with a much larger rear wing and a longer wheelbase. The front grille was redesigned, as was the rear side. The basic livery was more or less the same, without the big driver's flags.

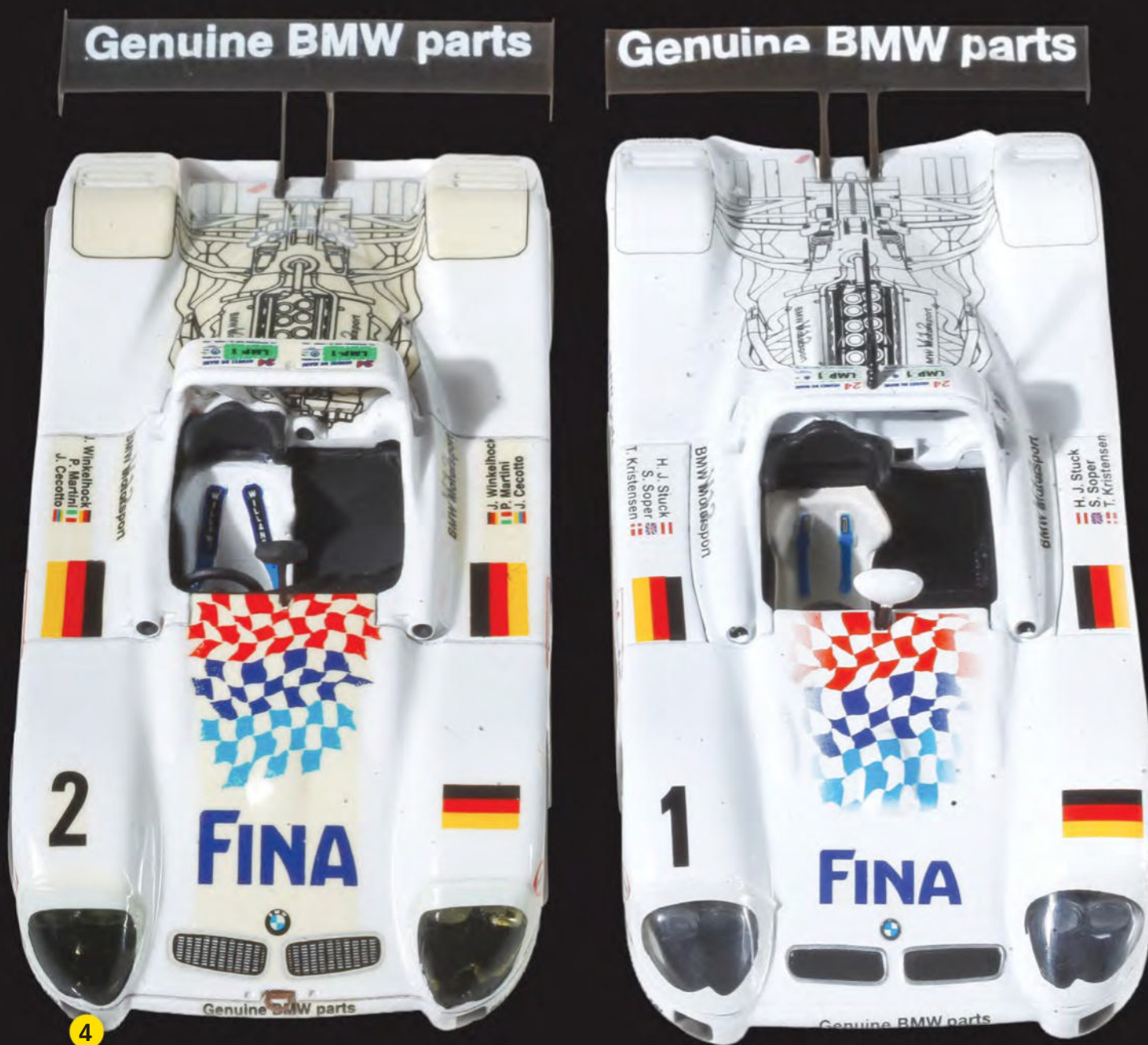
This is a pair of extraordinary

diecasts, made when Minichamps was at the top of its game in the 1:43-scale model class.

CLIMBING TO PROTOTYPES

After finishing Le Mans 1997 in second and third places overall, only beaten by a Porsche prototype, the only thing left for BMW to do was to climb to the prototype class. So, they did.

For the 1998 season, BMW entered a pair of open-top prototypes known as the BMW V12 LM. The cars were conceived in cooperation with Williams Engineering and retained the 6.0 V12



BMW engine from the McLaren F1, with a few evolutions. However, rear drivetrain vibrations ended both cars' races due to a major design fault. The livery featured a "faux" double-kidney grille at the front to make the prototype look familiar to BMW owners. FINA logos featured at the front, with the now-traditional chequered flag and the same white-on-blue solution on both sides. The highlight of this livery was the technical drawing of the engine, gearbox, rear suspension, and tyres, printed on the rear engine cover, a real work of art. Scale model #1 is a Minichamps diecast, while the #2 is a works hand-built resin kit by Starter. There are a few differences between

1. BMW FINA at the BTCC with a standard 1993 318i (left) and a 1996 Supertouring 320i (both Minichamps).
2. On the left, a model by Minichamps, the other is by HPI. Both McLaren BMW F1 GTR, both diecast.
3. A pair of identical 1997 McLaren BMW F1 GTR LM diecast, from an era when Minichamps was at the top of the game.
4. The two BMW V12 LM from 1998, on the left the Starter model and the Minichamps, on the right.

them, making the diecast look better in areas like the double headlamps, single rearview mirror, antenna mounted on the roll-bar, and even the outline of the engine. However, the decal on the rear wing is threatening to peel off, a defect we have seen on almost every identical Minichamps model. The Starter handbuilt has better-looking BBS-style wheels and a lower ride height; it misses the antenna, but the cockpit has a few more details. The truth is, both models look good side by side, being a more interesting pair than if they were

both made by Minichamps.

BMW did not finish their presence in the endurance championship, nor at Le Mans in 1998. They would return the following season with an evolution of the 98 prototype and win at Le Mans against all the major rivals, dominating the event with both cars. By this time, FINA was no longer the title sponsor—a decision they surely regret to this day. BMW, after winning Le Mans, sent the car to the museum and announced their next target was Formula 1. That is another story. ■



A night intruder

This month we turn our attention to an Axis aircraft from World War Two with this 1:72 scale Messerschmitt Me 410A-1 as flown by Luftwaffe pilot Lt Rudolf Abrahamczik (AA29702).

The Messerschmitt Me 410 Hornisse (Hornet) was a heavy fighter and Schnellbomber ('Fast Bomber') designed and produced by the German aircraft manufacturer Messerschmitt. It was flown by the Luftwaffe during the latter half of World War Two.

Work began on producing a successor to the Messerschmitt Bf 110 in 1937; however, the resulting Me 210 proved unsatisfactory, leading to production being halted in April 1942. Various options were considered, including the ambitious Me 310 derivative. Officials favoured an incremental improvement, which was represented by the

Jarrold Cotter looks at a new Corgi release which models a fast and heavily armed Luftwaffe night intruder that prowled the dark skies over England in late 1943, the Messerschmitt Me 410.

Me 410. Although visually similar to the preceding Me 210 and sharing sufficient design similarities to allow incomplete Me 210s to be converted into Me 410s, the two aircraft had key differences. Chiefly, the Me 410 was powered by larger Daimler-Benz DB 603 engines, had a lengthened fuselage and automatic leading edge slats.

During late 1942, the Reichsluftfahrtministerium (RLM/Ministry of Aviation) was sufficiently convinced by the programme to proceed with quantity production of the type, the first Me 410s being delivered during January 1943. Upon

their entry to service, the type was promptly flown on night-time bombing missions in the British Isles, where the night-fighters of the Royal Air Force (RAF) typically struggled to intercept it. The Me 410 was also used as a fighter against the daylight bomber formations of the United States Army Air Forces (USAAF); it was moderately successful against unescorted bombers through 1943, but proved to be no match in a dogfight with the lighter Allied single-engine fighters, such as the North American P-51 Mustang and Supermarine Spitfire. Following the Normandy landings, Me 410s were amongst



the numerous Axis aircraft sent against the incoming Allied forces.

From mid-1944, all Me 410s were withdrawn from Defence of the Reich duties and production was phased out in favour of heavily armed single-engine fighters as dedicated bomber destroyers. The final role of the Me 410 was aerial reconnaissance.

MODEL HISTORY

The Luftwaffe's long-range night intruder campaign in the closing years of the war aimed to sow chaos among Allied air operations. These Fernnachtjagd missions saw lone aircraft infiltrate bomber streams or strike vulnerable targets as crews relaxed on their approach home after gruelling missions. The twin-engined Messerschmitt Me 410 proved perfectly suited to this dangerous role, as its combination of speed and heavy armament made it a formidable nocturnal predator.

Operating in conjunction with the regular bomber force, yet with more specific targets, these night intruders ventured alone into the dark skies over Britain. However, the moment they crossed the English Channel they became the hunted. Britain's

sophisticated air defence network had been refined to deadly efficiency by this stage of the war, and darkness offered little sanctuary. RAF de Havilland Mosquito night-fighters proved to be the ultimate nocturnal hunters, exacting a heavy toll on Luftwaffe aircraft of all types, including the Me 410.

This particular aircraft wore a camouflage scheme optimised for night intruder operations and was flown by Lt Rudolf Abrahamczik, one of the Luftwaffe's most accomplished pilots. A highly decorated bomber pilot with more than 230 combat missions to his name, Abrahamczik's expertise in this perilous role exemplified the skill and courage required to survive in Britain's hostile night skies. Serving with 14./KG2 in late 1943, this Me 410A-1 represents a fascinating chapter in the deadly cat-and-mouse conflict played out in the darkness above wartime England.

THE MODEL

This exceptional Aviation Archive diecast model captures the formidable Messerschmitt Me 410A-1 very well. Every detail of the Me 410 has been faithfully reproduced, from its authentic dark and light grey topside camouflage scheme to its menacing profile. The undersides are all-over black on this historically accurate late 1943 camouflage scheme. It has crew figures, rotatable propellers and optional parts to display the model with undercarriage up or down. It comes complete with a sturdy stand. The 1:72 scale model has a length of 18cm, a height of 5.5cm and a wingspan of 22.5cm.

This model has a retail price of £94.99 and, at the time of writing, was still available direct from Corgi or can be bought from your usual good retailers. ■



Note that the aircraft's propeller spinners are black and white.



This view shows the night intruder's camouflage scheme well.



A good view of the black underside of the model.



The model is supplied with a sturdy stand to display it on.



A photo montage showing Corgi's new 1:72 scale model of the Messerschmitt Me 410A-1 in a night-time skyscape.

Remember when ‘mint and boxed’ was all the rage back in the 1980’s? Prices seem to shoot up with boxes sometimes worth more than the models they contained. Joking aside, it’s nice to have the original packaging with our models. Packaging is by nature fragile and easily damaged. So, aside from the obvious wear and tear and missing flaps, what else is there to contend with?

CRUSHING CONCERNS

Crumpled boxes can often look a lot worse than they are. Boxes can get crush damage over time and generally lose their shape and rigidity. If you have a box that’s been badly crushed, you may want to try this. First, submerge your box into a bowl of warm water containing a small drop of Fairy Liquid and leave to soak.

Once the glue has separated, you’ll be left with a flat piece of scored card. Dab it dry and flatten the surface down. Next, heat up an iron- yes, heat up an iron- then place the cloth over the box and slowly move the iron around it. It will gradually disperse the water. Continue to turn the box over, doing both sides equally. Once sufficiently dry, leave the box pressed between some heavy books for at least a couple of days.

After this, use a PVA glue to stick the box back together. Press the glued edge flat and press again using the books. Once dry, it should have its old rigidity restored. In the past I’ve even used a touch of spray starch on one particularly dilapidated Corgi box, and it worked a treat!

A LITTLE GRUBBY

After years of handling, boxes tend to get grubby and marked. There are several ways to clean them. One old trick is to use rolled-up pieces of white bread, which apparently pick up the dirt off the surface. Personally, I use a professional-quality Staedtler eraser, which tends to remove the worst without damaging the box. Whatever you do, however, do not use a pen and eraser, as it is too harsh and will likely damage the surface.

Easier to clean are the box labels that are gloss-coated. Think of the Dinky labels on supertoy boxes and the lid labels on Hornby train sets, and you’ll know the ones I mean. A small touch of furniture Polish, a finger and a duster are all that’s required. Don’t spray directly onto the label and work slowly. Strangely, it works the same on old children’s annuals, and you’ll be surprised at how much dirt will come off.

TOP Always take time to assess damage. Cleaning the label on this box is fine, the rest is probably best left alone.



The Renovation Game: Part Nine

In this instalment, **Ian McDermott** delves into the care and repair of boxes.

DIY

If a box is torn or split, be very wary of doing anything too intrusive. An honest and easily reversible repair is far more preferable to something covered in glue and patches. That said, if there’s no box to fix, you could have a go at making your own. There are lots of templates available on the Internet, though be wary as not all of them are accurate in either proportions or colour registration. Getting the correct card to make boxes can also be a bit difficult. Oddly, the pulp board of cereal boxes often matches that of old model boxes. Always use good quality permanent spray adhesive such as 3M’s photo mount. If you don’t, all your good work will soon come unstuck. If you’re clever on the computer, you could also come up with your own artwork for code 3 boxes!

RESTORE IT

If you’re really serious, some art shops sell restoration products aimed at archivists and book restorers. Here you’ll be able to buy starch-based patches for tears, invisible mending aids, and everything else. All of these will aid sympathetic restoration, which, in the case of boxes or rare gift sets, would be well worth investing in and swotting up on.

Next time, I’ll be looking into the colourful world of tinsplate. ■



ABOVE All too often boxes end up crushed and damaged. This box definitely needed some TLC.



ABOVE The same box afterwards. Sturdy enough to place the model onto and looking good once again.

WHAT GOT YOU INTO SCALE MODEL COLLECTING?

I started collecting diecast as a child back about 1964 and it very quickly became something I was completely fascinated by. I've always loved cars, and when Matchbox models started appearing in a local hobby shop, they immediately caught my attention because they were both realistic and affordable, which made them accessible even at a young age. The first model I can clearly remember buying was the #73 Ferrari (I think it was that one), and that really set everything in motion for me. From that point on I was hooked. I still have every model I bought back then as I never parted with them. Some of the earliest ones I remember actually playing with are the MB41 Ford GT and the MB66 Greyhound bus, and I still have both of those as part of my collection today.

WHAT DO YOU COLLECT?

I collect anything with wheels really, although Matchbox was definitely my first love in diecast and still holds a special place in the collection. What keeps me interested is the ability to appreciate the craftsmanship, design detail, and the little stories behind each model, whether it's a commercial vehicle, a race car, or something more obscure. Over the years this has grown into a very broad collection that now numbers over 200,000 diecast models covering all brands and scales up to 1:18. That includes just one 1:18 piece as well as the original fire truck from the Times Square Toys R Us, which is a nice standout item. I currently have models from over 400 different brands, which really shows how diverse the hobby has become for me. It's less about strict collecting rules now and more about appreciating the variety and history within diecast as a whole.

WHAT ARE YOUR HINTS AND TIPS ABOUT COLLECTING?

The biggest lesson I've learned over the years is simply to buy what you like rather than what you think you should buy or what might increase in value. It's very easy to get caught up in trends or chasing rarity, but the most satisfying parts of collecting come from pieces that genuinely appeal to you personally. I'd also recommend setting a loose theme at the beginning so you have some direction, but don't be afraid to expand or evolve that focus as your interests grow over time. Another key point is to buy to enjoy, not to invest, because the enjoyment lasts much longer than any potential financial return. It's also worth getting to know other collectors and sharing knowledge and experiences, as that really enhances the hobby. One of the best places for that is the Matchbox Collectors International



Driven to collect

With over 200,000 models from more than 400 brands, **Jim Gallegos** shares the passion behind one of diecast collecting's remarkable journeys.

Gathering of Friends Convention in Albuquerque, USA, which was even voted Diecast Hall of Fame's number one convention in 2024.

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

The one model I would still love to add to my collection is the Matchbox Number 4 Triumph Motorcycle in copper. It's something I've had on my radar for a very long time, but in all the years I've been collecting I have never actually seen one come up for sale. It has almost become a bit of a personal benchmark piece rather than just another model to tick off a list. I imagine it does exist out there somewhere, but it is clearly very elusive and does not surface often, if at all. I would absolutely love to add it one day if the opportunity ever came along, especially at a sensible price. It's one of those items that sits in the background of a long collecting journey, always in mind but never quite within reach. ■

TOP The blue Camaro was my very first Hot Wheels model, and I never took it out of the blister pack. Even after all these years it's remained exactly as I bought it. It reminds me where my Hot Wheels journey began and is one of those models that I'll never part with because of its personal significance.



ABOVE This is my favourite model in the collection. It's my Ambassador Bus, and what makes it even more special is that it has been signed by members of the Mattel Matchbox team. It combines a model I really enjoy with memories of the people behind the brand, which makes it completely irreplaceable to me.

What we reckon

One of the most respected collectors in the hobby today, Jim's collection is truly expansive, impressive and comprehensive. One can only imagine the challenge of displaying or storing more than 200,000 models. Yet one sentiment from Jim's philosophy strikes true: buy what you like rather than what you think you should buy. With over 400 brands represented in his collection, it is easy to forget just how diverse our hobby really is – and how much there is still to discover. As Ferris Bueller famously said: "If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it." **Keith D'Souza**



A Tipple Delivering TK

After I explored the Bedford TK tippers in June's 'Then and Now' issue, I decided to dig a little deeper in some of my boxes of models as I knew there was another Corgi 1:50 lurking somewhere in there. To my surprise, not one, but another pair of TKs were unearthed (isn't it nice when you find a model you'd forgotten you had?). These two are short flatbeds in the rather tasteful and very period-looking brown livery of Whitbread Brewery. The large is Corgi's Premium Edition 1:50 and the small is in 1:76 and from EFE's Brewery Series.

Around the start of the 21st century, Corgi released a series of models as 'Premium Editions'. These were highly detailed models, although I'm not sure if they were any more detailed than other similar releases from the time, and sold in card boxes with lids and a slim outer sleeve proudly stating these were 'one of only 2000 models produced', with each model

In this month's 'Little and Large', **Steve Coles** goes in search of a once common sight on Britain's roads: the Bedford TK Flatbed delivering beer.

receiving a unique numbered sticker on its underside.

So, on to the models themselves. We will start with the largest from Corgi. This was released as model 23202 in 1999 as part of the Premium Editions range and identified as a 'brewery' model. This Bedford TK also comes complete with a load consisting of beer bottles in crates which sits [loose] on the flatbed.

For those readers who may have missed the June 'Then and Now', I think Corgi have done a cracking job with the overall shape of the distinctive-looking TK cab. The detailing on this model is also superb. The separate, clear headlights complete with chrome outer rings really lift the front. Silver 'BEDFORD' lettering and

the Griffin badge are neatly done. Cast-in windscreen wipers have been picked out in black, while the very slim door handles have been picked out in silver. The header board on the cab proudly wears the Whitbread name and tankard logo. The number plate PTP180J is fitted correctly on the front bumper. I particularly like the gold coach lining on the sides of the cab with a matching gold crest of some description and fleet number. Also worth noting on the cab is the delightful silver finish to the step and front part of the wheel arch, representing the chequer plate fitted by Whitbread to those areas of high wear. A Brewery History Society photo of a similar age TK show Corgi have done a good job replicating the plate.



Behind the cab is a nicely finished flatbed with the Whitbread logo along the sides. The surface of the bed appears to be planks of wood, which looks good as the contrast of light brown works well with the dark brown paintwork. Just visible under the flatbed are the tiny round red taillights mounted on the rearward-most part of the chassis as well as the rear mudguard mounted square number plate. The separate load has gold-lidded bottles within light brown crates.

The period photo also shows the design of the flatbed is very different to that used by Corgi. The photo shows the headboard to be taller than the cab itself, whereas Corgi's is just about up to the top of the rear window. I guess for Corgi, trying to accurately recreate every design difference in all the flatbeds they made was unviable, so a generic one was used for all releases, which is totally understandable!

Moving on to the smaller TK then. This was first released in October 1999 as 23401BS, which was part of EFE's Brewery Series, which consisted of 12 models (excluding the EFE 20th anniversary livery) released between April 1997 and October 2003. Like the larger Corgi model, EFE has done a good job with the shape of the TK cab. It wears a slightly different-shaped header board on top of the cab but has the same Whitbread and tankard logo. What did strike me when I first sat them side by side was the fact they wear the same number plate and fleet number. While this EFE manages without the gold coach lining around the doors and cab side, it does have the gold painted fleet number B2763 and a coat of arms

FACING PAGE Subtle differences to note are the different-style roof header boards, silver around the number plate, and the silver on the front wheel arch on the Corgi (left).

ABOVE Without their loads, the subtle differences between the beds become more obvious, although both appear to be made of planks of wood.

crest (despite being larger, the one on the Corgi is not recognisable as a coat of arms). The silver chequered plate is missing from the front of the wheel arch, but the step is painted silver at least.

The headboard on the flatbed is of a similar height to the one on the Corgi, but EFE have made cut-outs so the driver would at least be able to see out of the rear window. The bed part is a lighter brown compared to the body, but not as light as the Corgi. I do like the Whitbread logo on the rear lip of the flatbed though – a nice touch. It is also interesting to note the different detailing on the chassis of the flatbeds. EFE have included the rear number plate as an oblong on the rear of the chassis, along with a pair of square red and amber tail lights. The spare wheel and fuel tank are also on opposite sides on both models; most likely due to the way the basic chassis was designed. The supplied load with the EFE is, like the Corgi, loose, but this one consists of bottles in crates as well as silver beer kegs.

Overall then, these are a really pleasing pair of models of what appears to be the same lorry. There are some subtle differences between them, but then that is the fun of these articles: picking out these subtle differences. And with that, I'm in need of some refreshment. ■



1. Different number plate and tail light treatment around the back. EFE included a Whitbread logo on the rear of the flatbed.
2. Corgi included a reasonably realistic load of gold-topped beer bottles in crates, which can be removed as they are loose.
3. One of five lorries released by EFE with a Whitbread livery. This one was the only one in the later 'Brewery Series'.
4. One of five lorries released by EFE with a Whitbread livery. This one was the only one in the later 'Brewery Series'.
5. Again, the subtle differences between the beds becomes quite obvious



FERRARI BERLINETTA

Production: 1970

Catalogue: 1970

Box Styles: G

As the beautiful Ferrari Berlinetta made the change to Superfast in 1970, having clung onto its exquisite metallic green paintwork with the equally fantastic wire wheels, there was almost a tinge of regret from many to lose those magnificent wheels but the Superfast wheels do suit the beautiful lines of this car so well. Early versions kept the green but soon this gave way to various shades of red, but it looks amazing in any colour. The green transitionals carry a huge premium and, when they do come up, can exchange hands for sums well into three figures.

ALFA CARABO

Production: 1971-75

Catalogue: 1971-75

Box Styles: H

It had to be something special to replace the Berlinetta, so why not another gorgeous Italian car? Certainly the most spectacular car released in 1971 was the Alfa Carabo. Carabo was a Bertone-designed concept car based on an Alfa Romeo 33 racing chassis. The name Carabo, Italian for scarab beetle, comes from the beetle-wing doors that were later used on the production Lamborghini Countach, also designed by Bertone. While the real car was fluorescent green with a black chassis, red nose and black interior, Lesney chose to paint the model in its seemingly favourite colour of metallic pink, with a yellow chassis and white interior. Only the rear slatted panel was the correct colour, which was a separate, black plastic

Superfast 1969-1982

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

component. Colours aside, the Matchbox model was an excellent representation of the real thing.

ALFA CARABO

Range: Streakers

Production: 1975-76

Catalogue: 1976

Box Styles: J

No 75 Alfa Carabo was now to be red (despite retaining its original basic colour scheme for the 1975 advert), although it kept its yellow base and lower bodywork. Wearing sandy yellow and lime green graphics for its entire upper body length, this was only around for a short time, replaced by Helicopter for 1977.

HELICOPTER

Production: 1977-81

Catalogue: 1977-81

Box Styles: K

Called "Seasprite" on the base and just "Helicopter" on the box and in the catalogue,

it was based on the American-built Kaman Seasprite.

The main fuselage was painted white, the undercarriage was in red plastic, and it rode on two tiny, non-Superfast wheels. On each side was an "RAF Rescue" label. The only variations related to the tint of the windows.

HELICOPTER

Production: 1982

Catalogue: 1982

Box Styles: L

Unlike the model it replaced, the new Helicopter was not based on a real chopper and was a generic, fit-the-box type. It had a metal fuselage in white, with "MBTV News" printed in blue on the boom.

The interior (including pilot), engine and skids were made from one piece of black plastic, while the underside was in orange plastic, and the windows were in deep amber. The main rotor could spin, and could also fold up to fit into the box, while the small tail rotor also span.

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GAZETTE

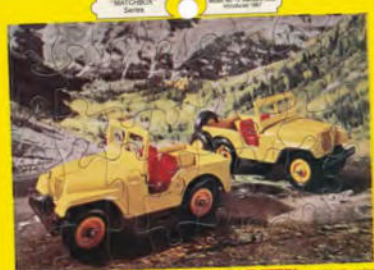
The Palitoy Force

How a British toy icon brought the galaxy to collectors



» PIECES OF THE PAST

How toy cars and classic motoring scenes found their way into the fascinating world of collectable jigsaws



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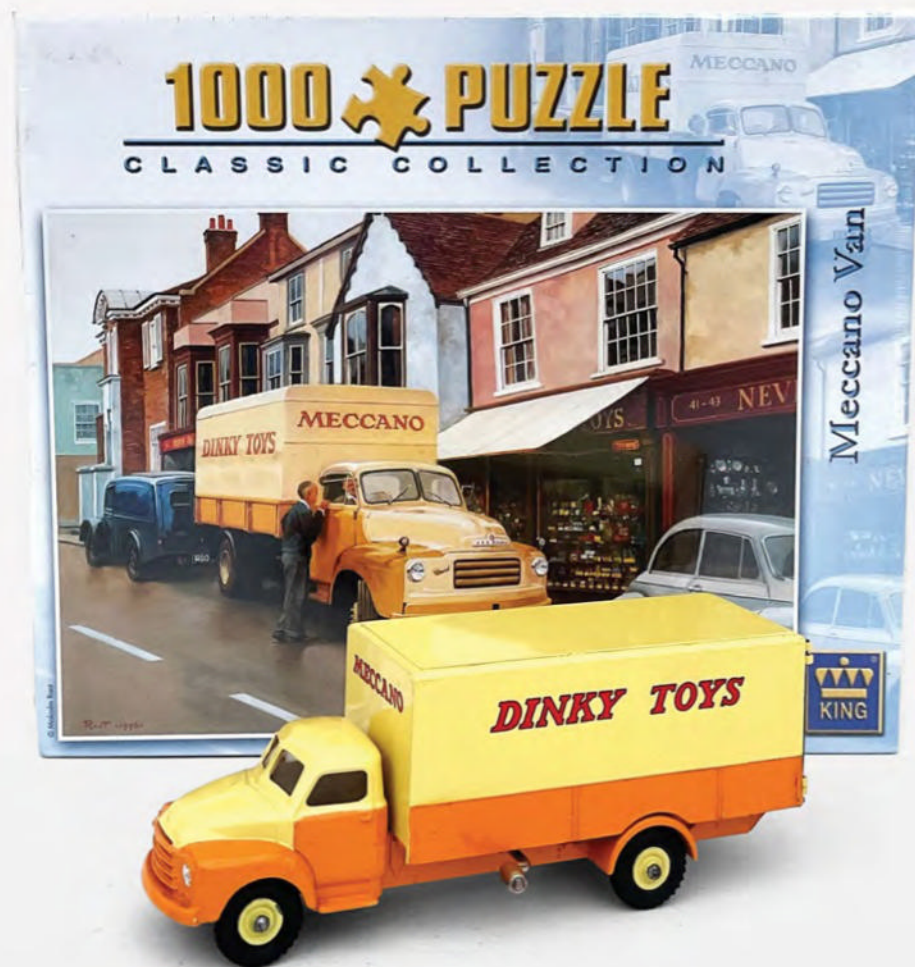
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Parents and grandparents never tire of telling youngsters that when they were young they were content with much simpler amusements than the iPads, smartphones, Xboxes and other fancy devices that children can't live without these days. True enough, but something that equally surprises me is that certain basic playthings of the past still have an enduring appeal. Something as traditional as a jigsaw, for example, is still popular, as can be seen from the endless number of puzzles to be found using images from Disney Pixar animated films – including, of course, 'Cars'.

That got me thinking about the connection between cars and jigsaws. A remarkable number of companies are very active in this market at the moment, one of the most prolific being Ravensburger, part of a German-based group whose origins date back to a publishing business that's over a century old. Despite their history, though, Ravensburger puzzles draw heavily on nostalgia for bygone British life. Typical of their approach is 'Roadside Stop', a scene by vintage transport illustrator Kevin Walsh showing a Tudor-style country inn with the coach driver looking on enviously at the well-heeled motorists passing by in an MGA and E-Type Jaguar. In the same vein, 'A Passion for Speed' shows favourite British classics – Jensen, Aston Martin DB5, Mini Cooper, E Type and MGB – on the shores of Lake Coniston with Donald Campbell's 'Bluebird' roaring past in the background. What all these jigsaws have in common is their depiction of an idealised vision of the past. It may be a view of the past as we imagine it, rather than as it actually was, but that's all part of the appeal.

The nostalgic draw of old toys is just as powerful as real vehicles, and these also find their way into jigsaw puzzles. Not so long ago, Marks and Spencer had a 1000-piece 'Vintage Cars' jigsaw showing mostly 1960s diecast toys in obviously played-with condition, piled high as if in a scrapyard. Many of them were from the Matchbox series, such as the Volkswagen Beetle, Commer milk float, and Land Rover Safari, together with a few Corgis and the upside-down cab of a Lone Star Impy Foden. An interesting mix of subjects: too old for today's children to relate to them, but recognisable to an older generation who might have been inspired to buy the puzzle, allegedly for a younger family member but really because they liked it themselves!

The same approach is seen in Galison of New York's 'Rainbow Toy Cars'. This time, instead of being piled up as if in a scrapyard, the cars are laid out in neat rows, but still show signs of being played with and enjoyed. The puzzle is so named as the toys



Motoring memories

Jigsaws and toy cars – two popular pastimes from a bygone age which hold a powerful nostalgia for collectors today. As **Hazel Ralston** shows, there is sometimes an overlap between these two hobbies.

are arranged in lines of different colours and the subjects chosen are a random mix of old and new, with a definite preference for Volkswagen cars and vans. Collectors will immediately spot the Matchbox camper van, the Impy Microbus and the Lledo 'Cinzano' van. Like most of the jigsaws mentioned so far, this contains 1000 pieces.

One puzzle neatly brings together the hobbies of toy collecting and jigsaws: the Corgi Toys jigsaw produced by Gibsons of Surrey, contained in a box in the vintage yellow and light blue Corgi colours. Made as recently as 2012, this now regularly

appears at toy auctions as a collector's piece in its own right. A quick check on eBay showed one for sale for £149 – but another look revealed a second one being offered at £17 as a 'buy it now', so you can draw your own conclusions as to value!

Now we come to two particular favourites of mine inspired by toys made by Meccano Limited, drawing on nostalgia for two of the most popular names in the

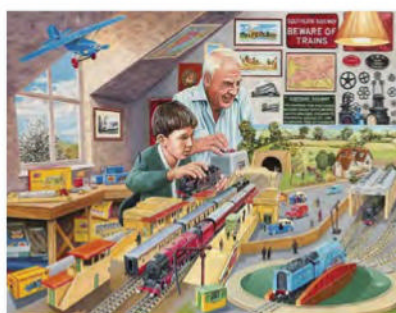
ABOVE Artist Malcolm Root produced this evocative view of a Bedford van parked outside a typical 1960s toy shop. The scene recalls the Dinky Supertoys Pallet-Jekta van.



Produced by puzzle-makers Ravensburger, this set of Disney Pixar Cars scenes introduces young fans of the films to the hobby of making jigsaws.



'Roadside Stop', one of many nostalgic roadside scenes by illustrator Kevin Walsh.



In this 1000-piece jigsaw from Gibsons of Surrey, Grandad seems to be having a great time with his railway layout in the attic.

collecting world – Hornby-Dublo and Dinky Toys.

The first one is entitled 'Grandad's Attic', a 1000-piece puzzle made by Gibsons, a family-run firm based in Surrey with a history dating back to 1919. The scene, guaranteed to bring a warm glow to those of a certain age, is based on an illustration by Trevor Mitchell. The artist is a native of West Yorkshire who began his working life in a London advertising agency and subsequently went freelance with his depictions of vintage transport and other nostalgic scenes on greetings cards and, especially, on jigsaws for Gibsons with whom he has had a close working relationship since 2004.

'Grandad's Attic' certainly ticks all the right nostalgic boxes. Who doesn't love a loft with a railway layout? The artist's style depends on painstaking attention to

detail, and any Hornby-Dublo or Dinky collector will vouch for the accuracy of the scene. Grandad's layout uses the three-rail system which remained available until 1964 although Hornby had been transitioning to two-rail since 1959. An LMS 'Duchess of Atholl' stands at the station platform. At the same time, in the car park you can spot some of the Dinky Dublo vehicles designed as accessories for train layouts: two Austin taxis, a Morris Royal Mail van and a Commer delivery van. Grandad (maybe a former railwayman himself) is obviously neat and tidy, as he has carefully kept the boxes for his toys and it seems that he hasn't yet assembled his Hornby Dublo Goods Depot kit. The scene brings together the older and younger generations, though the cynic might say that the facial expressions suggest that Grandad is enjoying it more than his grandson! The same artist has also produced an evocation of an old toy shop of a kind which used to exist in every town but has now well-nigh disappeared. Sold through branches of The Works, this scene, like 'Grandad's Attic', contains precisely-drawn images of familiar model cars of the era like the Corgi Hillman Hunter Safari and Dinky's Spectrum Patrol Car.

Trevor Mitchell, the designer of these puzzles, was once asked why so many of his jigsaws took the form of nostalgic scenes. He replied that "when someone does a jigsaw puzzle they are likely to be absorbed in the picture for long periods, so I try

to make it look engaging, welcoming, the sort of place you want to step into in your imagination and wander round, perhaps back in your childhood or younger days if you're an older person, or to explore back in time if you're young."

Also drawing inspiration from the era of the Binns Road factory in Liverpool is the 'Meccano Van' jigsaw made by Netherlands-based King International. This shows an orange and yellow Bedford resembling the well-known Dinky Supertoys Pallet-Jekta van, which had a mechanism inside designed to deliver plastic pallets onto the blades of another popular Dinky of the era, the Coventry-Climax forklift truck. The van is shown outside a typical toy shop whose window display offers a mouth-watering



ABOVE Trevor North's illustrations crop up in many jigsaws and children's books dealing with transport themes. This Triumph police car, which has a 1970s look, was created using Victory's traditional 'hand cut' method.



ABOVE Corgi Toys jigsaw by Gibsons, produced in 2012, is now a collector's piece. (Photo courtesy of Vectis Auctions)



ABOVE 'Rainbow Toy Cars' is a study in lines and colours, produced as a jigsaw by a company called Galison.

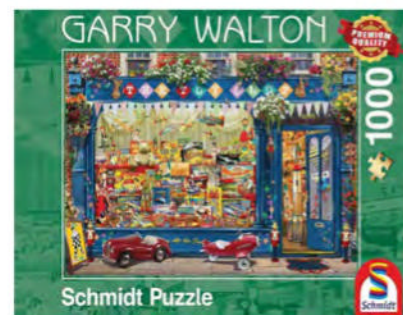
selection of Dinky Toys sitting on top of their yellow boxes. The rear box section of the van pictured is smaller than the Dinky version, but this is quite accurate, as period photos show that such a truck did exist. Research suggests this vehicle was used to ferry components between Binns Road and Meccano's other facility at Speke, rather than for deliveries of finished products to shops. Still, we can allow a bit of 'artistic licence'! The artist is Malcolm Root, a Fellow of the Guild of Railway Artists and the jigsaw dates from 1996.

Although featuring toys of the past, most of these puzzles are of fairly recent manufacture and play heavily on nostalgia. If we go further back in time, there were relatively few jigsaws around with a toy car connection during the sixties when Dinky, Corgi and Matchbox cars were so popular with children. There are, however, quite a few that feature vehicles drawn in a style that recalls the artwork of children's books of the past. This is no accident, as illustrators such as T. E. North worked for both jigsaw makers and book publishers. Some of the nicest transport-related puzzles are made of plywood and carry the name Victory, a brand created in the 1920s by Gerald Hayter, who started making puzzles in his garden shed. At its peak of popularity in the 1950s, Victory employed 100 people, but demand declined with the increased competition from similar puzzles made from cardboard. There are collectors who

specialise in Victory wooden jigsaws, and some of them have painstakingly catalogued all the varieties they can find. Plenty of these are still around, and they're not too expensive – perhaps because their wooden construction means they can withstand years or even decades of being put together and taken apart. Even today, they sometimes turn up in charity shops.

Of the main toy car brands, the one which saw the potential of jigsaws was Matchbox. The initiative seems to have come from the American distributor, Fred Bonnar, who offered a series of card jigsaws in 1969, each of them consisting of a photograph of a model in the Matchbox range. These were a bit different from conventional puzzles, as the picture had a frame around it, and on the back of each piece there was a thin film to peel off so the piece could be stuck onto the board permanently. When complete, you could pin it to the wall. No doubt most were completed, but some Matchbox collectors are willing to pay more for an unused example still wrapped in polythene. Subjects chosen include late-sixties Matchboxes like the Lincoln Continental, Mercury Cougar, Snow Tractor and Volkswagen Camper van.

In 1982 the Models of Yesteryear craze was in full swing and – again in the US – there appeared a five-hundred-piece jigsaw, based on a group photo of vehicles in the current range. This was made by a New Jersey firm called Nordevco, evidently with



'Toy Shop' designed by Garry Walton, a British illustrator, for a German firm called Schmidt. He has allowed his imagination full rein, as the scene contains a mixture of American toys, Japanese tin cars and a very British Austin J40 pedal car.



With only nine pieces, it would not take a child very long to complete this mini-puzzle by Victory, depicting a Comet airliner!



Two from the 1969 Matchbox jigsaw series distributed by the Fred Bonnar Corporation of the USA.

the co-operation of Matchbox, whose logo is prominently displayed on the box.

Jigsaw puzzles like these can be an ideal means of relaxation on long winter evenings and are a hobby that all the family can take part in irrespective of age. Let's leave the last word to Daniel McAdam of the Jigsaw Puzzle Club who says on that organisation's website that "If [jigsaws] are addictive – and they are – they are a harmless addiction." ■



Growing up during the 1960s and '70s, the toys produced during those two decades impart a delightful squishy feeling of nostalgia. In a world of increasing madness, a comforting shangri-la is of utmost importance to me. Due to my advancing years, Pokémon cards, Funko Pops, small action figures, even Transformers, barely touch the spot, although this new column will embrace recent collectable fields.

I begin with a true story. The reason why we set the alarm for 6.30 am at weekends and, in all weathers, venture to boot markets, toy fairs, transport-related events and the like, in the hope we find something rare or wondrous amongst the myriad of stalls.

Last year a lady I know, an experienced car boot enthusiast, was perusing an array of large cardboard boxes full of old books, steeped in front of a Luton Van. She knew little about such items, but those Lovejoy instincts drew her to the pitch.

Within a fifth box perused, the lady saw an old book about Sir Ernest Shackleton, the famous Antarctic explorer. A quick browse and she noted scrawled writing on a front inside page. The woman asked the seller how much? "£5", came a gruff reply. No haggle required, so out came a

The Thrill of the Chase

Charlie has been involved in the glorious amphitheatre of collectable vintage toys for over 40 years. A magpie collector with a garage heaving with bygone treasures, he sets off in pursuit of vintage toys, unusual collectables and the occasional bargain, wherever the trail leads.

'bluey'. The book was popped into her trolley amidst other items already bought.

She never gave this tome a second thought until after arriving home. During that enjoyable period of 'viewing the spoils', the lady decided to research the indecipherable scrawl. Could the writing have a connection to Shackleton? A Google pursuit followed. To her disbelief, not only was it by the explorer's hand, but a note dedicated to his primary expedition

sponsor, William Dederich.

Then, towards the back of the tome, she came across a menu with photographs placed between two pages. A dinner given for Shackleton by Dederich at a London hotel in 1917 to celebrate his famous Endurance expedition. She later learned Antarctica Aficionados had no knowledge of this gathering, let alone seen the menu.

BOOM! The metal detectorist had struck a gold hoard. A scratchcard devotee

won the jackpot. Into a specialist auction the signed book and menu went. Some months later, the bidding began. The final total (drum roll)... £7,000 before commission. The thrill of the chase had triumphed. This true story jolts the senses. The next time that 6.30 am alarm rings and you see it mizzling outside, what do you do? Go back to sleep or miss a chance of a lifetime? Such opportunities are still out there, even in 2026.

Back to terra firma and vintage toys.

The Corgi Monte Carlo Set (No.38) is one of my favourites. Released in April 1965 and produced for only two years, today, a M/B version sells for BIG money. A recent example on eBay sold for £1,200, yet ToyMart.com suggests a far higher value of over £2,700. Even an original box with no models sells for hundreds of pounds.

So, there I was at a toy fair and to my delight a restored version was for sale. The three cars had been professionally repainted. The cardboard box with its inner was a good photocopy. Sale price: £30. The cash was in the seller's hand before you could say 'Rally'. Those early gift sets were Corgi at its prime. Other favourites include the Buick Riviera and Marlin Rambler Kayak. I enjoy the unique packaging. That 1960s artwork is so special.

Forward to modern times, and unlike the Corgi James Bond car series, which has been flogged to death with one new saturated product after another, at least the Thunderbirds FAB 1 still holds a dignity. Agreed, a new release has appeared this year, but there's been a sensible chronological order after the original Dinky model in 1966.

At a recent fair, I came across a boxed 40th Anniversary edition produced in 2005 by Corgi. Limited to just 5,000 units, the model is painted in a darker, more fluorescent pink than the normal version. There are echoes of the sought-after Dinky FAB 1 in a similar colour scheme from 1970.

Perhaps, this Anniversary item is a future collectable? Although a M/B example can already sell for up to £90.

While on a Spring break in the West Country, I was browsing a charity shop – as you do – and saw an unusual sight. A cabinet rented out to a vintage toy seller. There were some nice items for sale, including a Corgi Bedford TK Articulated Newmarket Stables lorry, released in 1973, in excellent condition with undamaged decals. Based on the Chipperfield's Circus Horse Transporter, some bright spark at Corgi's office must have said, "Hang on. We can use the same mould for a different



model." I paid £10 for it. A fair price, in my view.

There was also a chipped, but good condition Dinky Foden 8 wheeled Flat Bed for £15. Hasn't the price of these unboxed models fallen? What was a £40 value only a few years ago, today £20 is more the norm. Dinky Guy Vans have experienced a similar fall from grace.

Recently, I chatted to a rare breed of collector. Someone who actually runs a shop, overlooking a physical road. Remember them? There used to be three or more in every town, but the incessant rampage of online auctions has destroyed this once important essence of collecting enjoyment. It is called progress... allegedly.

The man had taken a pitch at an outdoor fair and was, in his words, "Having a clear out." Standing against his table legs were six framed pictures. Three original Theatre flyers and three posters primarily from the early 1980s. I am a sucker for such items.

"How much?" I quizzically asked. He knows me from over the years. The man smiled. "You can have the six for £9." Knock me down with a feather. I gave him a tenner. "Please, keep the change", I embarrassingly said. He laughed and gave me a £1. I am still not sure what the trading etiquette is even after 40 years.

One of the many lessons learned from "doing the miles" is to carefully look at each stall's contents and then look again. It is surprising what can lurk within the shadows.

A recent example was discovering a Dinky Sunbeam Rapier in clean condition hiding behind a large carriage clock. I had arrived late to the fair and my expectations of finding a bargain were remote. Yet, this little gem in two-tone blue and turquoise, produced between



1. The restored Corgi Monte Carlo Set.
2. The Corgi FAB 1 40th Anniversary Model.
3. Intrepid explorer, Ernest Shackleton.

1958 and 1963, had not been discovered and was only priced at £3.

I end with another true tale. I was at an outdoor transport-related event in the late Spring. It was the first of this year's heatwaves – 31 centigrade, and the public were being "lobsterised". Stallholders selling vintage toys were not happy. Trade was almost non-existent. Time for a much needed refresher. I took my two grandchildren to a nearby ice-cream van to buy them their favourite banana lolly. The queue was four deep.

While paying, I cheerily said to the vendor, "You must be enjoying a bumper sales day." He looked at me oddly. "Nah mate, it's too hot! People don't buy ice-cream when it's too hot."

Damn our British weather! ■

Incredibly, Betty Boop celebrates her 96th birthday this year, yet she still remains as sexy and glamorous as ever. And she's probably never been more popular with just about every commodity obtainable in a Betty Boop style – clothing, art, ornaments, pictures, homeware, school accessories, beach toys – you name it, and you'll find a Betty Boop version somewhere!

The Official Betty Boop Fan Club, run by Fleischer Studios, offers a variety of goodies when you join, such as receiving the latest news of Betty Boop events, films and musicals; information about the latest products; you'll also get access to GIFs and phone backgrounds; there's a seasonal newsletter, digital surprises and goodies. I spotted that you can even get advice on drawing Betty and enjoy a cocktail recipe. With everything digital, and no fee as far as I could see, simply sign up with your email to become a member.

Betty Boop was America's queen of the animated screen who made her cartoon debut on 9th August 1930. Back then, however, she looked quite different. Animator Myron 'Grim' Natwick created her as an anthropomorphic French poodle nightclub singer, the girlfriend of another canine character called Bimbo.

Animator Myron 'Grim' Natwick was born in Wisconsin and trained at art schools in Chicago, New York and Vienna. His life and work spanned the entire history of animation from silent Mutt and Jeff cartoons all the way through to the 1995 animated film *The Thief and the Cobbler*. Grim Natwick lived to the ripe old age of one hundred.

The cartoon that Betty Boop made her debut in was *Dizzy Dishes*, the sixth in the Fleischer Studios series of animated cartoons – *Talkartoons*, produced by Paramount Pictures throughout the 1930s. You can actually find this cartoon online, and it's definitely worth searching for, as it's fabulously whacky and very funny. You could say they don't make them like that anymore! Betty Boop became completely human in *Any Rags* in 1932, when her long ears became large, hooped earrings. In this film, which you can also watch online, Max Fleischer had her name in big bold lettering on his title image. He must have known how popular she was going to become.

Natwick based her on Helen Kane, a popular singer of the 1920s known as the Boop Boop a Doop girl. He based her figure on Mae West and found the right voice for her in Mae Questel, who was also the voice of Olive Oyl in the *Popeye* cartoons.

Betty Boop was created with an adult



1

Are you a Boopaholic?

Every other month, **Ann Evans** and **Rob Tysall** will be visiting a toy collector's club or society. This month they've discovered the Official Betty Boop Fan Club – an online club for anyone interested in the 1930s beauty, Betty Boop.

audience in mind, and in the 1930s when much of America was gripped by the Great Depression, she came as a welcome relief to audiences who fell in love with her mix of innocence and sensuality. There's no denying that the music in these animations was enjoyable too.

She became the queen of the animated screen and America's first animated sex symbol. She was the star of *Talkartoons* and given her own series which lasted throughout the 1930s.

Many years before Marilyn Monroe's skirts were being lifted by gusts of wind,



Betty Boop was doing just that, her blend of innocence and sass being way before her time. For some, however, she was a little too ahead of her time. In 1933, the Betty Boop short film *Boilesque* was banned in Philadelphia for being too risqué. Then in 1935 the Hays Act came along, which was brought in with the aim of 'cleaning up the media'. As such, Betty's outfits became less skimpy, her saucy garter was hidden behind the longer hemlines, and Betty Boop lost her oop-a-doop!

In 1939 she came to the end of her reign with *Rhythm on the Reservation* being possibly her last cartoon; nevertheless, she had notched up around 100 Betty Boop cartoons and made a name for herself as America's first multi-talented female cartoon star.

She had also attracted a fan base that was to grow and grow, and a flood of Betty Boop memorabilia – or Boopabilia as it's sometimes known by her fans, who in turn are sometimes referred to as Boopaholics.

Nuneaton mum of three and gran of one, Dawn Johnson has been a Betty Boop fan for the last 15 years, loving all things Betty Boop, particularly the figurines. "The family are never stuck in knowing what to buy me for a present," said Dawn. "They know they can't go wrong if they buy me something that's Betty Boop. I really love the figurines which you can buy for quite reasonable prices. The most I've spent on one is £65 for a Danbury Mint."

"I'm always on the look-out for Betty Boop things, and not just figurines," smiled Dawn, sporting a Betty Boop



tattoo on her shoulder. "I love useful items too, such as my Betty Boop fleece which is nice and toasty. My key ring and make-up bag have Betty Boop designs and even my mobile phone has a changing Betty Boop screensaver."

One of the first figurines she bought was Biker Betty – the old-style motor bike being one of the things that attracted her to this particular resin figure. She continued, "Shoes Betty is another favourite of mine."

With such a massive amount of Betty Boop collectables on the market, any fan would be spoilt for choice. Dawn, however, knows precisely the one item she would love to own. "I'd love a Betty Carousel, which features Betty in different outfits on the carousel horses. It's my dream to own one of those one day."

Asked what it is about this 1930s star

1. The Betty Boop Skyscraper cookie jar.
2. Betty Shoes is one of Dawn's favourite figurines. (Photograph: Rob Tysall)
3. The Danbury Mint carousel.

who is still adored by millions today, Dawn said, "The thing is, Betty Boop looks the way most women would like to look – well, without the oversized head. But basically, I just think she's a classy bird!"

And many people would agree with her.

If you're interested in becoming a Boopaholic, visit www.bettyboop.com/fanclub. There are also Facebook groups for anyone interested in collecting, buying, and selling Betty Boop collectables. Search Facebook for 'Betty Boop Items for Sale' (35,000 members) and 'Betty Boop Collectors' (11,000 members). ■

It was the mid-1970s when Keith Bradley's business acumen first emerged. He and his parents decided to get rid of some unwanted household bits and pieces at Derby's Saturday flea market.

On that first day, they took the princely sum of £15, which at the time seemed like a fortune! The family continued trading there for the next few years until Keith left school in 1980. A year later, he had a full-time market stall. His Dad believed that being self-employed was a good idea.

A few years later, model vehicles became more popular, led by a growing interest in Matchbox Yesteryear models. "They were the acceptable face of adult collecting," says Keith, "and inspired the formation of new companies like Lledo, as well as the revived range of Corgi Classics."

As a small boy, Keith vividly remembers the Yesteryear models standing on a pelmet of a home front room window. These had been collected by his mother. Every so often, they were taken down to wash off the cigarette tar and also for Keith to play with. This memory became indelibly marked and later, in his late teens, attracted him to collect the range. To coin a phrase, the die was cast!

As time went by, the Derby market stall moved further towards selling model vehicles until it was nearly all such items. Keith continues, "Also, around then, I began attending the early swapmeets to sell models. After setting up a stall, I would leave my Mum in charge and spend the rest of the show buying models for my own collection."

Then, a decade later, as with so many business people, the internet, in particular eBay, changed everything. Ironically, his father, still alive and now a sprightly 90-year-old, beat his son to this endeavour. He began using the online auction house in 2003, realising it was "a good way of flogging stuff", and Keith followed a year later. His Dad called himself 'The-Corner-Shop', influenced by his favourite TV programme, Ronnie Barker's 'Open All Hours'. It's also why Keith named his eBay business 'Son-of-the-Corner-Shop'.

Meanwhile, he continued to make a good living at the Derby market, but by 2007 Keith made the decision to close the stall after 28 years, and eBay became his primary source of trading.

Under the name Keith's Cars of Derby, he is a one-man band and epitomises Britain's hard-working self-employed. He averages a 12-hour day and does everything himself, including checking new orders; ordering models from a number of different wholesalers; marketing and promotion; as well as packing sold items and sending them off.

As the sole member of staff, there are



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 Keith Bradley of Keith's Cars of Derby, AKA son-of-the-corner-shop on eBay.

always a million and one things to do each day. So, even while the kettle is boiling, Keith will be on the computer, sorting out the latest order or wrapping another model ready for posting.

There is added pressure because, in his words, "eBay is the most competitive platform to sell on, so I try to do everything efficiently and provide the best possible service I can. I do the same for my regular customers who buy from my Diecast Collector Magazine advertisement, many of whom I have the pleasure of speaking to every month when my latest ad appears."

He continues, "I'm in the 'Joy Business', so not only is it important to give good service, but it is also the right thing to do. People put their trust in me to supply the model they want, and I don't wish to disappoint. They will always experience a personal service because, at the end of the day, it is just me!"

In a good week, Keith attracts around 100 sales, which all emanate from his eBay shop. Eighty per cent are from the UK, and the rest are from around the world, mainly from America, Australia, and Europe. At any one time, he has around 1,600 models for sale, as well as multiple listings on some items.



1. Keith Bradley holding the new MCG 'Starsky & Hutch Ford Gran Torino.
2. Keith in His Stock Room.

After 22 years, Keith has attracted over 75,000 positive feedback responses and has nothing but good things to say about the auction house. He explains, "I have reached a certain level of business, so I can work with the company's concierge team, where I am able to talk to a human being if any problems arise. I am treated well, enjoy the personal touch, and have little interest in other sales platforms."

Yet, Keith has to work harder to attract the same annual income. He smiles wryly: "I came across an old accounts book the other day and noted I was taking more money in 2013. I am still doing OK, but my primary customers are of advanced years, and when they cease collecting, there are fewer younger ones to replace them."

Keith adds, "Buying is easy today; selling is not. The opposite to 30 years ago. I have a shed full of stuff to sell, but I don't have the time." He points out, "And as they sit there, their value declines."

He explains, "Those people born between, say, 1925 and 1975 have an affinity for model cars. And we have been riding that demographic wave ever since. Now it is coming to an end. Today, some youngsters have no idea what a Dinky or Corgi is and why the more run-of-the-mill models are dropping in value."

This emphasises the growing conversation within the industry that many youngsters today are simply not interested in model vehicles. For them, it is Pokémon cards, LEGO, Transformers, action figures, Star Wars, and the like.

Another trend Keith has noticed is that



the model collecting field has become more specific. In the past, for example, people collected all the Yesteryear ranges, and the same was true of Corgi Classics. Now, it is more about certain cars or vehicles.

Today, the only events he takes a pitch at are two classic car-related shows each year at the NEC, where it is worth his while even when table costs are high. He says, "Half the people attending toy fairs these days are simply not interested in model vehicles, whereas everyone who goes to these shows is interested in cars."

His popular sellers include Corgi Vanguards, Oxford Diecast, Solido, GreenLight, and 1/18 brands like MCG and Sun Star. He also sells Vitesse, IXO, Spark, Matrix, and many others.

When asked what gives him real pleasure from his business, he stops to think. "I don't wish to sound mercenary, but my joy comes from selling. If a new model is announced which I know my customers will like, I think, 'Yes, this will be a good seller, and my clients are going to really love it.'"

He adds, "For I am in the Joy Business. I not only gain joy from selling, but also



3. A Recently Produced Oxford Diecast Model of the Rolls-Royce Phantom.
4. Oxford Diecast Jensen Interceptor MK 111.
5. MCG James Bond Renault 11 Taxi from 'A View to a Kill'.

gain great satisfaction from knowing my customers are experiencing a similar joy too."

Keith then reflects: "I have had a good business run, and I'm sure there will still be a market for me until I retire. I absolutely love what I do and hold a sense of contentment at the end of a working day, when the postie drives off in his van with that day's orders. I experience satisfaction from the knowledge that I've done a good job." ■

The Palitoy name has been big business, with collectors willing to pay a premium for that all-important logo, irrespective of the product.

Covering areas from dolls, games and hobbies and even Star Wars figures, Palitoy really was the best of British brands, and now auctioneers are crying out for those original Palitoy Star Wars figures because there simply aren't enough to go around.

The company's history dates to 1919 when, at the age of just 18 and working as a typewriter salesman, founder Alfred Pallet decided to set up a company to manufacture plastic soap bar containers after getting a substantial order from Woolworth.

Cascelloid Limited was based in an old lodging house on Britannia Street, Leicester, and in its first year it made only £90.

His first toy was the Flitafast windmill in 1920, which was also taken by Woolworth. It was a summer product, so production transferred to babies' rattles. His first doll was Diddums in 1925, based on the quirky drawings of Mabel Lucy Atwell. More character dolls, all in celluloid, followed and household items such as hair brushes, collar studs and egg timers. In September 1927, fire destroyed the Britannia Street factory and its contents. If not the cause, the inflammable celluloid would certainly have fanned the flames.

Despite this tragic setback, which took one life, a new factory was opened in nearby Cobden Street. Things progressed rapidly. By 1930 Cascelloid was employing 250 people and manufactured products for Woolworths, Marks and Spencer, Boots, Rowntree, Courtauld and Huntley Palmer.

In 1931, Cascelloid became a subsidiary of British Xylonite Company Ltd., which specialised in plastic innovations – in fact, it was the first company to use injection moulding to make products. Alf remained as Managing Director and a new factory was built on Abbey Lane in Leicester. In 1935 the company registered the name Palitoy Playthings as a homage to Alf. The name was first used when an old snooker hall was bought in Coalville, where soft-bodied dolls were produced. A new factory was built behind the hall, but the Second World War intervened, and all factories were taken over for the war effort.

Pallett retired during the war, and when peace returned, Cascelloid continued to expand its toy range, producing push-and-pull-along toys, squeaky baby toys, model vehicles, fancy-dress costumes, board games, and even table tennis sets. Many patents were lodged, including sleeping



The best of British

Bob Brechin, former Palitoy Chief Designer, shares the fascinating story behind one of Britain's most iconic toy companies.

eyes for dolls. The press named it 'The House of Constant Progress'.

However, it was really the mid-1960s that saw the company rise to new levels. Another transfer of ownership resulted in the name changing to Bakelite Xylonite Limited, and the new owners wanted to split the industrial work in Leicester from the growing Toy Division of BXL in Coalville. Miles Fletcher was headhunted to turn what was a manufacturing/sales operation into a modern toy marketing concern. He and Bob Simpson from the Leicester commercial department moved to Coalville with a team, including design

and development, and introduced three toys which changed the fortunes of the Palitoy brand – Tressy, Tiny Tears and Action Man – increasing sales ten-fold. BXL decided to sell this little goldmine and the Palitoy brand, and the Coalville factory was bought by General Mills in the USA to add to its group of American toy and game companies.

PALITOY AND ACTION MAN

Although it has been said that salesman Hal Belton bought his grandson a GI Joe figure during a trip to the States, showing it to general manager Miles Fletcher, an



interview in 2019 with Bob Simpson, who went on to be MD after the General Mills acquisition, tells a different story. He and Fletcher were directed to this revolutionary toy concept by a business friend, and the licence was settled with Hasbro during a visit to the New York Toy Fair in 1965.

Action Man was launched in 1966. Initially, the range was identical to GI Joe in Palitoy packaging. From 1968, the toy was transformed into a British icon, introducing British-themed outfits and vehicles. There were concerns about whether boys should play with a 'doll' and, in fact, the term was banned when discussing the range.

GROWTH IN THE 1970S.

Action Man became the flagship toy concept in the Palitoy range, but throughout the 1970s, many toys were introduced to join Tressy, Tiny Tears, and Action Man, either through licensing from Kenner or other international toy companies, including Big Loader

Construction from Tomy. A new Parker Games division was launched with a complete range licensed from US sister company Parker Brothers, later boosted by Pocketeers, also from Tomy, and by new games developed at Palitoy. Another licensee was Mego, who provided action figures based on comic characters, including Superheroes. So, by the end of the 1970s, the Palitoy sales had grown tenfold once again.

PALITOI AND STAR WARS

The link with Kenner led to one of the most important periods of Palitoy's history. It enabled Palitoy to release Star Wars toys in the UK in 1978. At first the British toy trade was very reluctant to commit to Star Wars because it wasn't thought wise to sell toys based on films; space films had never been very popular; and Kenner could not provide sufficient evidence to Palitoy that there was a future. The Early Bird Pack was also rejected. A man came to the rescue. Palitoy offered discounted Action Man product if an initial order of Star Wars was

1. This Palitoy Cascelloid Tressy fashion doll, with silver hair and a yellow dress, sold at a Vectis auction for £100 against an estimate of £50.

2. Palitoy Action Man Vintage 34154 Tank Commander - flock head figure with firm hands.

3. A vintage Palitoy Star Wars Stormtrooper.

4. The author, former Palitoy Chief Designer, Bob Brechin

accepted. This worked. The reluctance to commit is why so many collectors are keen to acquire those original Palitoy Star Wars toys because they simply weren't produced in the same quantities as figures from the follow-up films when retailers were clamouring for more.

Since the initial purchase of Palitoy, General Mills had added more European toy companies to its portfolio. The worldwide phenomenon of Star Wars prompted the founding of an autonomous General Mills Toy Group, headquartered in New York, to handle all of its toy business without interference from the corporation. This led to a policy of global branding and a rationalisation of all European marketing and production. At Palitoy, Bob Simpson,

who had directed the company since the General Mills takeover, was replaced with Peter Waterman and a completely new management team.

The factory was reorganised to introduce American production techniques. Under the auspices of the New York Toy Group, a special team was set up at Maidenhead to pursue the global branding throughout Europe. Starting with Star Wars toys, packaging was printed in three languages with no company logos. Products could now be strategically moved around Europe, and those that did not resonate globally were dropped. Relationships with other toy companies that were competitors of Kenner and Parker Brothers, such as Tomy, were terminated.

New acquisitions such as Airfix, which had become part of Palitoy in 1980, were subsequently sold to Borden Inc, owners of Humbrol. The highly respected Mainline Railways was dropped and later came back to the UK through Bachman. One of the critical moves was the closure of the Palitoy Design and Development Department in August 1984, shortly after news that the Action Man licence was being returned to Hasbro.

With no creative element, all new product would be developed in the US and manufactured mostly in the Far East. Tiny Tears, which had been such a popular 'baby doll' since 1965, after a flirtation with manufacturing it in China, gave way to the American creations Strawberry Shortcake and Care Bears. The Coalville site had been gradually losing manufacturing since Tressy products were sourced from Hong Kong in 1964, and by 1984 it was basically a packing-out and distribution centre. The state-of-the-art warehouse/distribution centre at nearby Ashby de la Zouche was now superfluous and sold to Reddifusion.

All these changes and reorganisation, and a determination by Palitoy to concentrate on a smaller number of core products, eventually bore fruit. In the 1985 Palitoy catalogue, Peter Waterman reported that by the end of 1984 the total UK toy business was £850 million at retail value, an increase of £100 million on 1983. The company theme for 1985 was 'Growing Together', which 'reflects the growth achieved by Palitoy and our customers and the further growth opportunities'.

He promised strong marketing support to maintain this growth with £3 million for promoting Star Wars toys alone. A bombshell! As customers were reading this at the British Toy Fair in January, General Mills announced that it would divest itself of its Toy Group.



1. An early Palitoy advert promoting the original Star Wars action figures.

2. A plaque on the former Palitoy site.

Why? In 1980, the General Mills Toy Group had decided to produce video games for playing on domestic machines. Overproduction and too many inferior products led the boom and hype of video games to turn into a slump known as the 'Great Video Games Crash of 1983'. Toy Group took a tremendous hit with a loss of \$10 million.

General Mills decided to spin off the Toy Group, and in November 1985, a new company, Kenner Parker Toys, traded on the New York Stock Exchange; consequently, the Palitoy name ended. The factory site at Coalville remained in operation as Kenner Parker from 1986. Within two years, the factory site was owned by Tonka, which would later sell it to Hasbro. It was finally sold in 1994, with



the Play-Doh manufacturing machine moving to Hasbro's facility in Ireland. Today the former Palitoy site is a business park with a variety of industries, offices and a conference/training facility.

Almost 50 years of a Coalville toy factory came to an end, but the Palitoy name will live on for much longer. ■



The book club

Ed Karswell ponders the world of model collecting.

The other day I was looking up something on the internet regarding pre-war Dinky toys. A whole plethora of sites, lists, and photos abounded. I momentarily thought back to when I first started collecting and the absolute paucity of printed material that was available. I say available, because frankly, if I couldn't find it in my hometown, I wasn't going to be able to get one. My first three books on old toys were really all I knew on the subject. The first was *Metal Toys* by Gordon Gardener and Alistair Morris. It was actually published not far from me and was part of a series of quality collector's books. Printed mainly in black and white on art stock paper, I still have two copies today and still refer to them. Of course, being printed in 1980, many of the toys are pre-1960, which just adds to the charm. Whilst many of the prices seem very cheap to our eyes, it's interesting to note that more than a few have come down markedly in real terms. Fashion is no respecter of age, unfortunately. It's possibly my favourite book on the subject due to its sentimental link.

The second book, *British Diecasts* by Graham Thompson, is another book that fired my imagination. It was a selection of the author's personal favourites from a few manufacturers and all the better for it. It also features some of Graham Thompson's restored models, which encouraged me, as generally collectors frowned on repaints. I was fortunate enough to meet Graham at Sandown Park a few years ago and tell him how much the book had inspired me.

The third book was *Model Cars and Road Vehicles* by Patrick Trench. This was a master class in both writing and meticulous research. Although incredibly well put together, it nevertheless has a perceptive humour that makes it very engaging. It also showcases Patrick's love of the more obscure makes, bringing them into the fold, if you will. Copiously illustrated, it was a go-to reference book. A stall holder of many years standing, it's always been

a pleasure to catch up with Patrick and exchange notes. Always humble, Patrick's always been a great advocate for the hobby, whether he wanted to be or not.

All the books previously mentioned were current and in the shops when I began seriously collecting, so finding them was easier. The fourth book I picked up in the second-hand bookshop was, of course, the daddy of them all, *Dinky Toys, 1934 to 1964* by Cecil Gibson. First published in hardback in 1966, then later in softback by Mike and Sue Richardson, it's become legendary in collector's circles. There was far less information available when Gibson wrote the book, and indeed many collectors only have a copy out of respect. That aside, it's still a fascinating read from a historical perspective. The model listing and numerical tables in the back of the book were very interesting indeed too. There were others, the DMC evaluator series that were written and produced locally to me, were excellent value for money. Over the years, my bookcase has swelled with books on all makes and genres. These, however, are the ones that set me on my way. Now scrolling through pages on a neon screen is all very well, but with my feet up and a G&T, there's nothing better than settling down and having a flick through a few old toy books. I rest my case. ■

'Scrolling through pages on a neon screen is all very well, but there's nothing better than settling down and having a flick through a few old toy books. I rest my case.'



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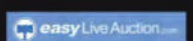
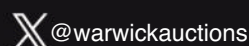
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One of the most interesting – and certainly the most innovative – ranges of diecast model cars was the Designers Challenge line, produced by Hot Wheels in 2008. To mark the 40th anniversary of the Hot Wheels line, Mattel commissioned designs from professional automotive stylists at some of the world's leading motor manufacturers. The aim was for each stylist to design a car that captured the company's image and values. A panel of Hot Wheels designers and motoring journalists judged the submissions, and one design from each manufacturer was selected for development into a Hot Wheels car. Six models were produced, using designs from Ford, General Motors, Chrysler, Lotus, Mitsubishi and Honda. A seventh model submitted by an internal Hot Wheels designer was also produced. The series was something of a mixed bag. Some appeared to be quite feasible designs for full-size concept cars, while others were unlikely and more like standard Hot Wheels cars. The series was released as a stand-alone range and sold at a higher price point than standard mainline cars. All models were fitted with 'Co-Moulded' wheels; two-piece, six-spoked wheels with non-removable tyres. They featured a higher degree of finish than regular Hot Wheels cars, including additional painted details, but unlike other deluxe ranges, they had plastic bases.

ABOVE The HW40, the Mitsubishi Double Shotz, and the Lotus Concept from the Hot Wheels Designer's Challenge range.

The Designer's Challenge range

Mike Pigott examines this innovative Hot Wheels range, designed by real automotive stylists from leading motor manufacturers.

Each casting was produced in four versions: the first release was in the original colours, while subsequent reissues were in different colours. They were packaged in standard-sized blister packs with backing cards unique to each model; all featured the Designers Challenge logo, the original concept drawing, and the stylist's signature. The back of the colour card gave details about the designer and the story behind the design.

FORD GANGSTER GRIN

In recent years, some of the most popular concept cars have been 'retro' designs, using styling evocative of earlier, iconic designs of the same manufacturer. Many of these, including the Volkswagen New Beetle and the Fiat 500, have led to successful production runs, while others, such as the Holden Efijy, remained as one-off show cars. In the USA, concept designs based on modified hot-rods have proved popular, with cars such as the Chrysler PT Cruiser and

the Plymouth Prowler reaching production. Ford had some success with the 2003 Ford Thunderbird, which captured the spirit of the original 1955 T-Bird.

The Ford entry for the Designers Challenge was Gangster Grin, which drew on earlier Ford styling. It was designed by Steve Gilmore, who had worked at both Mattel and Ford and later became chief designer. Gangster Grin echoed a modified 1949 Mercury Eight Club Coupe, a popular car with hot-rodders and customisers. The car had the chopped roof, slab sides and faired-in rear wheels of a custom Mercury. The huge grinning grille, presumably the source of the car's name, featured a central 'bullet' ornament reminiscent of a 1950 Ford. The roofline was extremely low, with a sloping rear deck and oval-shaped rear window.

The first release was painted metallic maroon with dark pink flame designs painted along the sides. A thick silver styling spear ran down the sides, while the body panels



and windows were finely outlined in silver. The base and grille were plated plastic, and the slim windows were red-tinted. The other issues were pink with purple flames, yellow with green flames, and all-over black.

GM CHEVROLETER

General Motors entered the Chevrolet, another retro design. While it had styling cues from earlier Chevrolet models, it seemed more inspired by 1930s land speed record cars. It was designed by Amaury Diaz Serrano, a senior industrial designer at General Motors in Detroit and a Hot Wheels collector. Chevrolet was a low, wide roadster with open wheels and torpedo-shaped fairings behind the seat headrests, supposedly powered by a V-16 engine. It featured the scalloped sides of early Corvettes and the wide, toothy grille of a 1950s Chevy.

The original design and first-wave model were in light metallic blue with a silver base, grille, and '40' racing numbers. The other three releases were in metallic red, black with silver stripes, and white with blue stripes.

DODGE XP-07

From the third of the 'big three' American motor companies, Chrysler, came the Dodge XP-07. It was created by senior designer Marc Reisen, who says it was inspired by both the 1960s Chrysler Turbine Car and the classic Hot Wheels car Twin Mill. There seems to be very little resemblance to the Turbine Car, which was a slightly futuristic-looking hardtop saloon, and possibly only the intended power plant was inspired by it. The car looked much more like Twin Mill, with its twin engines, short rear overhang and set-back cockpit with crescent-shaped windscreen. However, the dual chrome engines are tubular and protrude from the vehicle's sides. The XP-07 has a Dodge grille with a cross motif, and is fitted with 'beam' style headlights and taillights. The car has no doors, and there doesn't appear to be any way to enter the cockpit.



TOP LEFT The Designer's Challenge Lotus Concept. TOP RIGHT The Dodge XP-07. ABOVE The Honda Racer.

The first release was in a very nice shade of ruby red, with the interior, engines and lights in chrome plastic, and a black plastic base. Further releases were in metallic dark blue, black with flames and white with flames.

LOTUS CONCEPT

The only British vehicle in the range was Lotus Concept, designed by Steve Crijns, who was the lead designer at Lotus Group in the UK. The most feasible of the Designers Challenge models, Lotus Concept features the front end of the Lotus Elise matched with new roadster bodywork. The design features a steeply raked windscreen with a raised ridge in the middle that flows into the console, forming a division between the open seats. Behind the cockpit, the sides flow into a wasp waist that widens again over the rear wheel arches. A number of limited-edition specialist roadsters were based on the Elise chassis, such as the spartan Lotus 340R... so, technically, the Lotus Concept could have been a production car.

The first version was in all-over orange, with a black interior and base, and a bare-metal piece comprising the rear spoiler and side exhausts. Other releases were in red, pearlescent white and metallic grey.

HONDA RACER

The first of two concepts from Japanese companies, Honda Racer was designed by Guillermo Gonzales, the principal designer at Honda's American studio in Los Angeles. Gonzales took a very different approach from the others in the challenge, and came up with a bizarre twin-hulled racing car with a central, mid-mounted V-10 engine. The clever aspect of the design is that, when viewed from above, the car resembles the Honda 'H' logo.

However, it's a pretty unlikely vehicle, with dual driver cockpits containing two rather squashed drivers. The original design had an open front area with 'outrigger' style wheels, although the model had an additional cross-brace to protect the front axle.

Like the design concept, the first variation was painted pearlescent white, with red trim on the air intakes and along the sides, plus black windscreens. The V-10 engine was chrome, with red-painted cam covers, while the curly exhaust pipes were black. The base is white plastic, and the twin drivers are red. Subsequent examples were painted red and black, yellow and black, and black with blue trim.



MITSUBISHI DOUBLE SHOTZ

The strangely named Double Shotz was created by Gary Ragle, a stylist from Mitsubishi's US design studio in Michigan. The car is intended as the ultimate rally car, developed from Mitsubishi's rally-winning Lancer EVO series. It features a trapezium-shaped grille, similar to contemporary Lancers, plus slim headlights. Double Shotz takes its name from its twin exposed front and rear engines, which are based on the real Mitsubishi 4G63 Turbo engine and feature red covers. The car has a wraparound windscreen and a roof-mounted air intake, although there appears to be no access to the cabin. Mitsubishi Double Shotz is quite an intriguing design, although any car with two exposed engines seems fairly unlikely to make it into production.

The original release was in a very nice shade of metallic light grey, with a brown base. The interior and engines were chrome, with red glazing and red tyres exclusive to this model. The other versions were in matt black with red trim, orange with an orange base, and yellow with a white base.

HW40

The last model in the series was HW40, an in-house design from prolific Hot Wheels stylist Jun Imai. It's uncertain whether it was the intention to have a Hot Wheels person contribute a design, or whether this was added at the last moment because one of the real motor manufacturers pulled out; but by having an in-house designer somewhat defeats the purpose of the exercise, which was to have professional, outside stylists use their skills to create a model car. HW40 is named to mark the 40th anniversary of Hot Wheels, but is a fairly mediocre design



TOP LEFT Packaging for the Mitsubishi Double Shotz.

TOP RIGHT The Mitsubishi Double Shotz.

ABOVE The HW40, the in-house design. BELOW Card back for the HW40.

either as a concept vehicle or an anniversary special. A muscular-looking coupe, it has a wrap-around windscreen that also forms the bonnet and grille surround; a fairly silly design that in reality would involve removing the windows whenever the engine is serviced. In essence this is just another generic Hot Wheels car, and not even a particularly noteworthy one.

Again, four versions were produced. The standard version was in metallic light green with chrome engine and interior, a black base, and blue-tinted glazing. Other variants were in black with a chrome interior and clear glazing, then in red and blue, both with clear glazing and a black interior.

All of the models were later incorporated into the regular Hot Wheels Mainline range, although with standard wheels and less detailing. Gangster Grin is particularly popular as a promotional model.

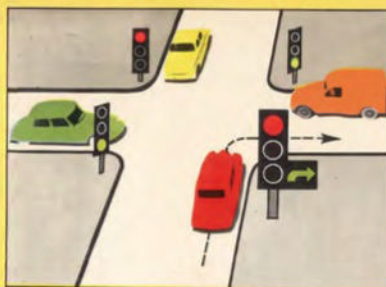
The Designers Challenge was an interesting exercise in developing model cars from a different source, and, on the whole, it seems to have been a success in bringing new designs to the table. Of the seven models, only Lotus Concept seems to be a workable design, although Ford Gangster Grin, GM Chevrolet and Mitsubishi Double Shotz



would have made very impressive full-size concept cars. However, Dodge XP-07, Honda Racer and HW40 are strictly in the realm of fantasy! ■

exceptions à la priorité à droite

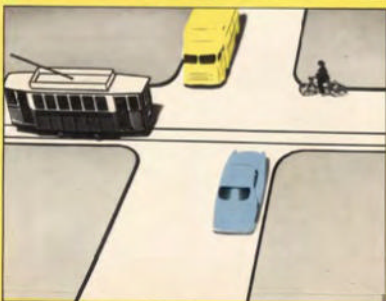
Feu rouge fixe avec flèche verte horizontale : la voiture rouge peut tourner à droite malgré le feu rouge. Les voitures verte et orange passent, mais la voiture rouge. La voiture jaune doit attendre au feu rouge.



On perd la priorité de passage à la rencontre des véhicules prioritaires annonçant leur approche par signaux spéciaux : la voiture de police passe la première, puis la voiture orange, puis la moto, enfin le camion jaune.



On perd la priorité de passage lorsqu'une voie ferrée traverse la chaussée : le tramway passe le premier, puis le camion jaune, puis la moto, enfin la voiture bleue.



FACING PAGE Spot the Dinky Toy! Heavily reworked illustrations show the French Dinky Simca Cargo van 'Bailly' (33AN), Berliet fire engine (32E) and Plymouth Belvedere (24D). The red car is a Vespa 400 – bigger than the Dinky version, so probably based on the Quiralu. The convertible looks like the Solido Mercedes 190SL.

TOP FAR RIGHT Underneath the artistic licence, it is just possible to identify the models which inspired these pictures. Judging by the scale, the 2CV van is the one by JRD rather than the French Dinky.

BOTTOM FAR RIGHT This colourful 'Code de la Route' for children was printed for free distribution, probably in schools. This time, though, the artwork is in comic style and doesn't seem to be influenced by toy cars.

Juvaquatre in 'Gendarmerie' livery, but perhaps he couldn't get hold of an example. Nor could he find a suitable model to represent a tramcar of the period, and had to resort to drawing one himself.

This 'hybrid' approach to illustrations can also be seen in the picture showing who has priority when joining a major road from a side road. If you're a collector of obsolete diecasts, you can certainly have some fun identifying the vehicles. The yellow delivery van is clearly based on the French Dinky Simca removals van, usually found in 'Bailly' livery, while the American car is another Dinky, the Plymouth Belvedere. For the sports car, the compilers have picked the Solido Mercedes 190SL. Also pictured is a Vespa, a popular French microcar of the fifties, modelled by Dinky, but the proportions of the one shown are larger, suggesting this is based on the Quiralu version. However, the illustrator has changed things to suit his purposes: the pictures are based on photographs, but these have been retouched. Dinky produced the Plymouth in black/green, orange/grey and blue/grey, but not in two-tone yellow and black. For some reason, the Mercedes sports has been left as it was in the monochrome photo.

The strangest image of all is the one of an articulated timber lorry, which shows how the compilers of the book would 'pick and mix' models to get what they needed. In the section of text about large commercial vehicles transporting long loads, there's a photo of a model that couldn't be found in any toy shop. The cab is a Unic as used with the French Dinky car transporter, but the timber trailer, with side supports and chains, comes from a Renault timber transporter made by another company, CIJ (Compagnie Industrielle du Jouet). This is surprising as Dinky themselves made a timber transporter with a Willème cab. Why bother swapping the cab and trailer around? Why not just use either the standard CIJ or Dinky issues? Perhaps it had something to do with the illustration fitting the



1. A curious 'hybrid' model – Dinky at the front and CIJ at the rear.



2. The photographer used the French Dinky Unic cab.



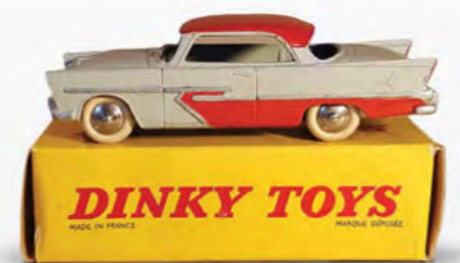
He then attached it to the trailer of the CIJ Renault timber truck.

dimensions of the vehicle described in the text. It may be significant that the artist seems to have redrawn the tree trunks to make them longer and has also added a red warning light at the back, which was a legal requirement.

If 'Le Code de la Route Illustré' was aimed at drivers, another of the Automobile Club de l'Ouest's publications was designed for children using the roads as pedestrians and cyclists. This booklet was widely distributed in the sixties and is still easy to find today. The text is written by an Inspector of Primary Schools, so the tone is rather teacher-like and contains exercises and questions; on the other hand, the illustrations are lively and vibrantly coloured.

The artist Jean-Louis Pesch was a well-known French comic illustrator, and he clearly loved drawing cars, incorporating not only the familiar Citroëns and Renaults of the time but also more unusual vehicles, such as the Lancia Aurelia and the A.C. Aceca.

Ironically, the artwork in the publication aimed at children doesn't draw inspiration from toy cars, whereas the one for adults does. Maybe that indicates that, even back

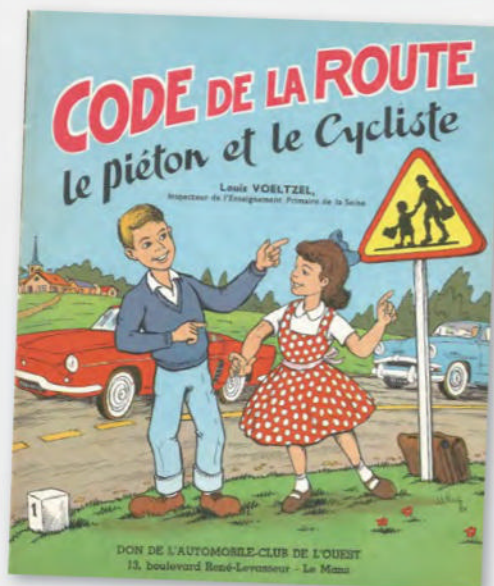


ABOVE The artist for the booklet chose his own colour scheme for the Plymouth. The actual Dinky came in various other combinations, such as this one in orange and grey.

in the sixties, before adult toy collecting became a serious hobby, there was something about Dinky Toys that resonated with grown-ups!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Photographs of the Dinky and CIJ models courtesy of ajouetparisien.com ■



PRICE GUIDE

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



♦ Autoart Signature 1:18 scale Koenigsegg CCX in orange. serial no. 1163, boxed with certificate of authenticity. **Sold for £200, David Duggleby Auctioneers & Valuers, July.**



♦ Motorbox Exoto 1988 Jaguar XJR-9LM #2 in Silk Cut livery. driven by Johnny Dumfries/Jan Lammers/Andy Wallace, boxed. **Sold for £220, David Duggleby Auctioneers & Valuers, July.**



♦ Exoto Grand Prix Classics 1:18 scale Gilles Villeneuve Ferrari 312T4 #12. 1979 Championship 2nd with Ferrari umbrella, boxed. **Sold for £320, David Duggleby Auctioneers & Valuers, July.**



♦ Limited edition CMC 1:18 scale diecast model. car no.M065 Mercedes Benz W25 1934 in white, boxed. **Sold for £90, David Duggleby Auctioneers & Valuers, July.**



♦ Minichamps 1:18 Ayrton Senna Racing Car Collection Toleman Hart TG184 1984. #19 car with Segafredo Zanetti decals, boxed. **Sold for £200, David Duggleby Auctioneers & Valuers, July.**



♦ Autoart Signature Jaguar D-Type 1955 LeMans 24 Hours Winner. racing no. 6 in racing green, boxed. **Sold for £130, David Duggleby Auctioneers & Valuers, July.**



♦ Limited edition Hot Wheels 2010 Ferrari 512S #20 1000 Kilometres of Buenos Aires 1971. Boxed and in good condition. **Sold for £65, David Duggleby Auctioneers & Valuers, July.**



♦ Limited edition V12 Sport 1:18 scale model no. V12S-04 Ferrari 312 P Spyder BOAC '500' 1969 #60. limited edition no. 32/50, in acrylic display case. **Sold for £40, David Duggleby Auctioneers & Valuers, July.**



♦ Minichamps 1:18 scale Bentley Speed Six. The Blue Train Car, boxed. **Sold for £100, David Duggleby Auctioneers & Valuers, July.**



♦ Limited edition Hot Wheels 2010 Jamiroquai Enzo Ferrari. Boxed and in good condition. **Sold for £70, David Duggleby Auctioneers & Valuers, July.**



♦ Limited edition CMC 1:18 scale diecast model car no.M069 Ferrari Dino 156 F1 'Sharknose' 1961 racing no. 3 in red. Dutch GP Graf Berghé von Trips, boxed. **Sold for £130, David Duggleby Auctioneers & Valuers, July.**



♦ Pauls Model Art Minichamps Michael Schumacher Collection Mercedes GP Petronas 2010 Showcar. Boxed and in good condition. **Sold for £45, David Duggleby Auctioneers & Valuers, July.**



♦ Motorbox Exoto Jaguar XJR-9 IMSA. in white, green and red Castrol livery #60, boxed. **Sold for £160, David Duggleby Auctioneers & Valuers, July.**



♦ Limited edition CMC 1:18 scale diecast model car no.M068 Ferrari Dino 156 F1 'Sharknose' 1961 racing. no. 2 in red, Italian GP Phil Hill, boxed. **Sold for £150, David Duggleby Auctioneers & Valuers, July.**



♦ Paul's Model Art Minichamps Ayrton Senna Racing Car Collection 1:12 scale. McLaren MP4/4 Honda V6 Turbo 1988 World Champion car with Marlboro decals. **Sold for £190, David Duggleby Auctioneers & Valuers, July.**



♦ ERTL Blade Runner 1:64 diecast metal replicas four vehicle set. no. 1891, in original box. **Sold for £220, David Duggleby Auctioneers & Valuers, July.**



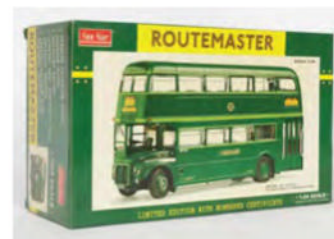
♣ **Paul's Model Art Minichamps** 1:18 Lotus F1 Team Lotus Renault E21 K. Räikkönen 2013 #7 car. Boxed and in good condition. **Sold for £140, David Duggleby Auctioneers & Valuers, July.**



♣ **Boxed ltd edn 1/24 scale Sun Star 5003 Bedford OB Duple Vista Coach.** FOT 214 King Alfred, box very good, diecast excellent. **Sold for £65, Wessex Auction Rooms, July.**



♣ **Danbury Mint 1964 James Bond Aston Martin DB5.** the model is Excellent in Excellent to Good box. **Sold for £60, Tennants Auctioneers, July.**



♣ **Sun Star, a boxed 1:24 Scale 2904 AEC Routemaster Coach "Green Line" livery, Route 715 Hertford.** Although not checked for completeness conditions generally appears Near Mint in a generally Excellent box with internal packaging. **Sold for £150, Vectis Auctions, July.**



♣ **Boxed 1/72 ltd edn Corgi Aviation Archive AA27201 Avro Vulcan B2 XH558 Vulcan To The Sky Return To Flight October 2007 diecast model.** diecast excellent and appearing complete, box very good. **Sold for £85, Wessex Auction Rooms, July.**



♣ **Boxed Autoart Millennium 1/18 BMW 2002 L diecast model.** in black, excellent condition. **Sold for £85, Wessex Auction Rooms, July.**



♣ **Dinky: A boxed French Dinky Toys vehicle, Coupe 2+2 Ferrari 250 GT Pininfarina, Reference 515.** Original box in good condition. Some slight paint wear to vehicle, otherwise good. **Sold for £85, Hansons Auctioneers and Valuers, July.**



♣ **Sunstar, a boxed 1:24 scale London Transport Routemaster Bus 2901 RM8 VLT8 Original Routemaster "Red" with Certificate.** Although not checked for conditions appears generally appear Near Mint in a generally Excellent box. **Sold for £120, Vectis Auctions, July.**



♣ **Boxed 1/32 Corgi Aviation Archive AA34601 World War II Bombers On The Horizon DH Mosquito B MKXVI Moncton Express III 692 Sqn No.8 Group 1944 diecast model.** diecast excellent and appearing complete, box very good. **Sold for £75, Wessex Auction Rooms, July.**



♣ **Boxed Corgi Gift Set No 47 Working Conveyor on Trailer with Fords 5000 Super Major Tractor and Driver diecast model.** complete with inner packaging, diecast excellent, good box. **Sold for £130, Wessex Auction Rooms, July.**



♣ **Corgi: A boxed Corgi Toys, Ford Cortina GXL Whizzwheels, Reference 313.** Original windowed box, in good condition, with slight crushing. Contents appear complete, in very good condition. **Sold for £100, Hansons Auctioneers and Valuers, July.**



♣ **Sun Star 1/12th scale 4791 1956 Morris Minor Traveller - dark green, grey interior and wood panelling effect.** Although unchecked for completeness conditions appear Fair to Good (window wiper missing therefore there maybe other broken/missing parts). **Sold for £70, Vectis Auctions, July.**



♣ **Boxed 1/32 Corgi Aviation Archive AA34603 World War II Attack By Night DH Mosquito B IX ML907 HS-B No.109 Sqn Late 1944 diecast model.** diecast excellent and appearing complete, box very good. **Sold for £80, Wessex Auction Rooms, July.**



♣ **Boxed Corgi 438 Land Rover diecast model.** in excellent condition with very good box. **Sold for £70, Wessex Auction Rooms, July.**



♣ **Corgi: A boxed Corgi Toys, The Beatles Yellow Submarine, Reference 803.** Original windowed box, in good condition, slight crushing and damage to window, card has some slight tearing. Contents in very good condition. **Sold for £80, Hansons Auctioneers and Valuers, July.**



♣ **Boxed 1/32 ltd edn Corgi Aviation Archive AA34409 North American Mustang Mk.IV GA-S 112 Sqn RAF Italy May 1945 diecast model.** diecast excellent and appearing complete, box very good. **Sold for £65, Wessex Auction Rooms, July.**



♣ **Danbury Mint 1964 James Bond Aston Martin DB5.** silver (Excellent model, box Excellent). **Sold for £90, Tennants Auctioneers, July.**



♣ **Corgi: A boxed Corgi Major Toys, Ecurie Ecosse Racing Car Transporter, Reference 1126.** Original box, in good condition with slight edge wear to the lid. Vehicle in very good condition, with slight paintwear. **Sold for £95, Hansons Auctioneers and Valuers, July.**



♣ **Sun Star, a boxed 1:24 Scale No.5001 1947 Bedford OB Duple Vista FDK571 "Yellow Motor Services" Coach (Wingmirrors Included).** Although unchecked for completeness condition appears to be Good to Excellent within Good box and comes with original internal packaging. **Sold for £60, Vectis Auctions, July.**



▲ Corgi, a boxed 36502 "The Italian Job" Three Piece Mini Set and Blue and White Coach. conditions generally appear Near Mint in a generally Excellent box. **Sold for £260, Vectis Auctions, July.**



▲ WSI Models, a Boxed 1:50 Volvo FH5 Glob 6x4 "Cadzow" 02-3638. condition appears Excellent to Near Mint within Excellent to Near Mint box. **Sold for £110, Vectis Auctions, July.**



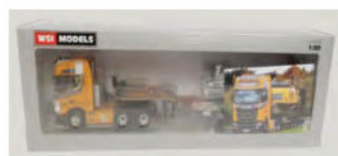
▲ Corgi Toys No. 494 Bedford Tipper Truck, red cab and chassis with yellow tipper. sold in the original yellow & blue card box - near mint. **Sold for £35, Lacy Scott & Knight, July.**



▲ French Dinky Toys No. 535 Citroen 2CV comprising maroon body with grey roof and light grey hubs. housed in the original card box, condition Near Mint, box Near Mint. **Sold for £50, Lacy Scott & Knight, July.**



▲ Conrad, a boxed 1:43 scale Limited Edition No.103401 Mercedes 1955 Car Transporter in dark Blue, metal ramps along with Silver (Brumm) Mercedes Racing Car. Condition appears Good but would benefit from a further clean due to display purposes in generally Good silver/blue box. **Sold for £45, Vectis Auctions, July.**



▲ WSI Models, a Boxed 1:50 Scania S Highline I CS20H 6x2 Tag Axle + Semi Lowloader - 4 Axle + Ramps "3B Construction" 02-2777. condition appears Excellent to Near Mint within Good to Excellent box. **Sold for £150, Vectis Auctions, July.**



▲ A Corgi Toys Whizzwheels No. 509 "Rijkspolitie" Porsche Targa 911S Police Car. Orange and white body with a black roof and Dutch police labels, housed in its original but worn window box. **Sold for £40, Lacy Scott & Knight, July.**



▲ French Dinky Toys No. 24Z Simca Versailles, comprising a light blue body with off-white roof and spun convex hubs. housed in the original card box, condition Near Mint, box Very Good. **Sold for £40, Lacy Scott & Knight, July.**



▲ Corgi Toys GS3 "Batman" Gift Set Batmobile & Batboat. model conditions appear Good with some damage to the windscreens, Batmobile has the aerial missing and general age wear. **Sold for £70, Vectis Auctions, July.**



▲ A US Model Mint 1/43 scale white metal model of a US-17S 1949 Willys Jeep Pickup (Willys Service), finished in Autumn Brown. Housed in the original foam-packed box. **Sold for £40, Lacy Scott & Knight, July.**



▲ Corgi Toys No. 1144 Chipperfields Circus crane truck Scammell Handyman Cab. comprising red and light blue body, with rhinoceros in a cage, housed in the original window display box with plastic insert. **Sold for £110, Lacy Scott & Knight, July.**



▲ French Dinky Toys No. 545 De Soto Diplomat. comprising salmon pink body with black roof and spun concave hubs, complete with white tyres, housed in the original card box, condition Near Mint, box Very Good. **Sold for £50, Lacy Scott & Knight, July.**



▲ WSI Models, a Boxed 1:50 Scale Volvo FH4 Glob. XL 8X4 + Manoevr - 6 Axle "McIntosh Heavy Logistics" 02-4308. condition appears Excellent to Near Mint within Excellent to Near Mint box. **Sold for £140, Vectis Auctions, July.**



▲ A 25 Years of Brooklin Models Silver Anniversary set comprising 1936 Pierce Arrow 1601 Sedan, together with a 1937 Pierce Arrow Travel Lodge. both in original foam packed box. **Sold for £50, Lacy Scott & Knight, July.**



▲ Dinky Toys No. 905 Foden flat truck with chains, comprising an all-green body with light green hubs and a second-type cab; chain posts in good order. Housed in the original blue & white striped card box. Condition Near Mint, box Very Good. **Sold for £70, Lacy Scott & Knight, July.**



▲ Dinky Toys No. 111 Triumph TR2 Sports Car. comprising salmon pink body with blue interior and matching hubs, complete with racing No. 29, housed in the original all-card box. **Sold for £40, Lacy Scott & Knight, July.**



▲ WSI Models, a Boxed 1:50 Scania R Highline I CR20H 6x4 Wrecker "Crouch Recovery" 02-3607. condition appears Excellent to Near Mint within Excellent to Near Mint box. **Sold for £150, Vectis Auctions, July.**



▲ Corgi Toys No. 438 Land Rover 109WB. comprising a green body, yellow interior, and spun hubs, sold in the original blue & yellow card box, very good condition. **Sold for £45, Lacy Scott & Knight, July.**



▲ French Dinky Toys No. 24U Simca Aronde comprising sage green body with matching hubs and white tyres. housed in the original all-card box with all end flaps, condition Near Mint, box Very Good. **Sold for £50, Lacy Scott & Knight, July.**



▲ Dinky Toys No. 186 Mercedes-Benz 220SE. finished in RAF blue with off-white interior and spun hubs, and housed in the original card box, condition Near Mint, box Very Good. **Sold for £40, Lacy Scott & Knight, July.**



♣ **Dinky Toys No. 132 Packard Convertible.** comprising tan body with red interior, driver figure and red hubs housed in the original all-card correct colour spot box, condition Near Mint, box Very Good. **Sold for £50, Lacy Scott & Knight, July.**



♣ **Dinky Toys No. 157 Jaguar XK 120 coupe .** comprising an off-green body with cream ridged hubs, in the original green colour spot all-card box (Excellent -Box Good.) **Sold for £75, Lacy Scott & Knight, July.**



♣ **Dinky Toys No. 38F Jaguar SS.** in blue body with grey interior and blue hubs, loose example (Very Good) with paint fatigue to the rear. **Sold for £70, Lacy Scott & Knight, July.**



♣ **Shackleton FG Foden Flatbed.** dark blue cab and back, grey chassis with red mud guards, silver hubs, together with matching trailer playworn housed in worn original box. **Sold for £160, Lacy Scott & Knight, July.**



♣ **Dinky Toys No. 189 Triumph Herald Saloon.** comprising white and light blue body with spun hubs and housed in the original red and yellow panelled all-card box, condition Very Good, box Near Mint. **Sold for £40, Lacy Scott & Knight, July.**



♣ **Dinky Toys No. 157 Jaguar XK 120 coupe.** comprising a scarlet sage upper and torquose lower body with cerise ridged hubs, in the original correct colour spot all-card box (Excellent, Box Good). **Sold for £80, Lacy Scott & Knight, July.**



♣ **Dinky Toys No. 981 British Railways Express horse box.** comprising maroon body with red Supertoys hubs housed in the original blue & white Supertoys card box. **Sold for £60, Lacy Scott & Knight, July.**



♣ **Triang Spot On Models No. 145 London Transport Routemaster bus.** comprising red body with black base plate and Ovaltine livery, loose example in very good original condition. **Sold for £110, Lacy Scott & Knight, July.**



♣ **Dinky Toys No. 132 Ford 40-RV.** comprising metallic blue body with yellow interior and cast wire work hubs, housed in the original plastic display casing. **Sold for £70, Lacy Scott & Knight, July.**



♣ **Dinky Toys No. 102 MG Midget sports car.** comprising light green body with cream interior and cream hubs and driver figure, in the original correct colour spot all-card box (Very good, box good). **Sold for £80, Lacy Scott & Knight, July.**



♣ **ENTEX (USA issue kits) 1.20 scale, 9027 Honda Civic CVCC 3-Dr RS Coupe.** Road/Rally options, Opening doors, bonnet, tailgate, Metal suspension/springs & full engine/interior detail, 1976 issue, Rare version RS kit, Ex Bandai model kit, (Mint sealed bags inside box). **Sold for £60, Lacy Scott & Knight, July.**



♣ **Triang Spot-On No. 215 Daimler SP250.** comprising red body, cream interior with spun hubs and grey base, housed in the original card box (Very Good-Box Poor). **Sold for £80, Lacy Scott & Knight, July.**



♣ **Dinky Toys, 238 Jaguar D Type Racing Car.** in turquoise body with yellow hubs and yellow driver, housed in the original all-card box (Excellent, Box very good.) **Sold for £75, Lacy Scott & Knight, July.**



♣ **Dinky Toys No. 38F SS Jaguar.** in red body with red ridged hubs and darker red interior, loose. **Sold for £70, Lacy Scott & Knight, July.**



♣ **ENTEX (USA issue kits) 1.20 scale, 9305 BMW 3.5 CSL Grp 5 Racing #2 H.Kelleners.** Opening doors, Metal front/rear spring, interior detail & working steering, 1978 issue, Ex Nitto model kit, (Mint Factory sealed). **Sold for £60, Lacy Scott & Knight, July.**



♣ **Corgi Toys 1126 Ecurie Ecosse Racing Car Transporter .** Blue body with yellow lettering, silver trim, pale yellow interior and spun hubs. **Sold for £130, Vectis Auctions, July.**



♣ **Dinky Toys No. 157 Jaguar XK 120 coupe.** comprising a yellow and grey body with grey ridged hubs, in the original correct colour spot all-card box (Near Mint, Box Good). **Sold for £60, Lacy Scott & Knight, July.**



♣ **Dinky Toys No. 38F SS Jaguar.** in off brown body with black ridged hubs and blue interior (Very Good). **Sold for £70, Lacy Scott & Knight, July.**



♣ **FUJIMI 1.16 scale, World Super Car Series. RC101 Lamborghini Countach LP400 inc Full detail engine/chassis/interior.** All opening over 300 parts, 1st issue ex Swiss shop stock (Mint sealed bags inside box). **Sold for £85, Lacy Scott & Knight, July.**



♣ **Corgi Toys 224 Bentley Continental Sports Saloon.** Excellent, couple of pin prick chips, bright example in Fair blue and yellow carded picture box - complete but stained. **Sold for £60, Vectis Auctions, July.**



♣ **Western Models WMS 41 1949 Jaguar Mk V Saloon**. metallic dark silver/grey, red interior, chrome trim & wheels - Near Mint in Excellent box.. **Sold for £70, Vectis Auctions, July.**



♣ **Triang Spot-On 211 Austin Seven Mini**. Unusual dark blue body, white interior with black steering wheel, cast spun hubs - Good Plus with some small marks in Fair carded box. **Sold for £900, Vectis Auctions, July.**



♣ **Corgi 403m Bedford "KLG Plugs" Delivery Van**. red body, silver trim, flat spun hubs, mechanical motor - Good Plus to Excellent, paint rub to front bumper, still a lovely bright example in a generally Good blue carded picture box with pencil price marks. **Sold for £170, Vectis Auctions, July.**



♣ **French Dinky Toys 36A Log Carrier**. Burnt orange cab with silver trim, yellow trailer including convex & concave hubs with log load - Good Plus to Excellent, couple of small paint chips but still a bright example in a Good blue and white striped lift off lid box. **Sold for £80, Vectis Auctions, July.**



♣ **Corgi Toys 491 Ford Consul Cortina Super Estate Car**. graphite grey body with wood effect side and rear panels, off white interior, chrome trim and spun hubs - Near Mint in Excellent blue and yellow carded picture box. **Sold for £130, Vectis Auctions, July.**



♣ **LEIMATEC PRESTIGE handbuilt brass H0m narrow gauge 202/7E passenger coach**, second class in MOB blue/cream livery. appears unused as new - excellent in excellent box. **Sold for £250, Excalibur Auctions, July.**



♣ **LEIMATEC PRESTIGE handbuilt brass H0m narrow gauge 202/7D passenger coach**, second class in MOB Advertising livery. appears unused as new - excellent in excellent box. **Sold for £250, Excalibur Auctions, July.**



♣ **LEMACO hand-built brass H0m narrow gauge FZe 6/6 double baggage electric railcar** in MOB livery. very good in very good box. **Sold for £600, Excalibur Auctions, July.**



♣ **LEIMATEC PRESTIGE handbuilt brass H0m narrow gauge Be 4/4 + Abt twin electric railcar** in MOB livery. very good in very good box. **Sold for £1,200, Excalibur Auctions, July.**



♣ **HAG - A Swiss Outline H0 gauge 26036-20 Re 456 electric locomotive** in Sihltalbahnhof red livery, vendor advises DCC fitted. excellent in very good box. **Sold for £170, Excalibur Auctions, July.**



♣ **ACME - An Italian Outline HO gauge 60030 E402 class electric locomotive** in FS grey/silver livery, vendor advises DCC fitted. excellent in very good box. **Sold for £140, Excalibur Auctions, July.**



♣ **LILIPUT HO gauge L133925 limited edition Swiss outline Stadler KISS 4-car double deck EMU** in SBB/RVV livery. appears as new - Excellent in Excellent box. **Sold for £320, Excalibur Auctions, July.**



♣ **Boxed Ltd edn Hornby OO gauge R3805 BR Class 5MT 4-6-0 45379 The One:One Collection locomotive**. Boxed and in good condition. **Sold for £85, Wessex Auction Rooms, July.**



♣ **Boxed Hornby OO gauge R30216 LNER Class A3 4-6-2 Harvester No 2573 locomotive**. Boxed and in good condition. **Sold for £80, Wessex Auction Rooms, July.**



♣ **Hornby O gauge Caerphilly Castle GWR 4-4-2 4073 locomotive & tender** in green livery. Boxed and in good condition. **Sold for £130, Wessex Auction Rooms, July.**



♣ **Boxed Hornby OO gauge R1091 The Royal Train electric train set**. Complete and excellent condition. **Sold for £100, Wessex Auction Rooms, July.**



♣ **Boxed Hornby OO gauge R1282 Mallard Record Breaker train set**. appearing to be complete, track unchecked. **Sold for £120, Wessex Auction Rooms, July.**



♣ **Hornby Dublo (Pre-War) EDP1 Passenger Set**. consisting of Sir Nigel Gresley 4498 LNER and articulated LNER coach (bogies have little visible fatigue) (all Good) in set box (Fair, worn to edges, lacks identifying label). **Sold for £300, Tennants Auctioneers, July.**



♣ **Hornby Dublo 3 Rail 3221 Ludlow Castle BR 5002 Locomotive**. Excellent model in a fair box. **Sold for £160, Tennants Auctioneers, July.**



♣ **Hornby Dublo 3 Rail 3235 Dorchester BR 34042 Locomotive**. Excellent model in a fair box. **Sold for £110, Tennants Auctioneers, July.**



♣ Hornby (China) OO Gauge R9684 Murdoch Locomotive. from Thomas & Friends, DCC Ready (Excellent model, box Excellent.) *Sold for £1,000, Tennants Auctioneers, July.*



♣ Bassett-Lowke 4-4-0 BR 41109 Locomotive. 3 rail electric (Excellent model, box Good). *Sold for £220, Tennants Auctioneers, July.*



♣ Bassett-Lowke O Gauge 4-6-0 The Princess Royal 6200 Locomotive LMS. In good to fair condition. *Sold for £480, Tennants Auctioneers, July.*



♣ Wrenn: A boxed Wrenn Railways, OO/HO Gauge Locomotive, 4-6-2 Class A4 "Silver Link" Green BR 60014, Reference W2211/A. Original box, with packing rings and instructions. No stamp. *Sold for £110, Hansons Auctioneers and Valuers, July.*



♣ Hornby O Gauge 4-4-0 Eton Southern 900 Locomotive. 20 volt (Good, some retouching). *Sold for £280, Tennants Auctioneers, July.*



♣ Bassett-Lowke O Gauge 0-6-0 BR 64193. 3 rail electric (Excellent model, box Good). *Sold for £150, Tennants Auctioneers, July.*



♣ Constructed O Gauge Kit 4-4-0 Adams Class T3 Locomotive With Motor. finished in green as Southern E560, on display rail in acrylic case. *Sold for £450, Tennants Auctioneers, July.*



♣ Wrenn: A boxed Wrenn Railways, OO/HO Gauge Locomotive, 4-6-2 Class A4 "Gannet" Black NE 4900, Reference W2213/A. Original box, with packing rings and instructions, some slight crushing to box lid. "Packer No. 6" stamp. *Sold for £160, Hansons Auctioneers and Valuers, July.*



♣ Hornby O Gauge 4-4-2 Caerphilly Castle GWR 4073 Locomotive. clockwork (Good-Excellent, one tender brake handle detached). *Sold for £100, Tennants Auctioneers, July.*



♣ Bassett-Lowke O Gauge 0-6-0T LNER 433. 3 rail electric, black (Good model, box Fair, has been painted green). *Sold for £120, Tennants Auctioneers, July.*



♣ Constructed O Gauge Kit Rhymney Railway Class 0-6-2ST Locomotive With Motor. finished in green as Sir Alan Wilson 20, on display rail in acrylic case. *Sold for £150, Tennants Auctioneers, July.*



♣ Wrenn: A boxed Wrenn Railways, OO/HO Gauge Locomotive, 4-6-0 Castle Class "Brecon Castle" Light Green BR 5023, Reference W2221. Original box, with packing rings and instructions. No stamp. *Sold for £110, Hansons Auctioneers and Valuers, July.*



♣ Hornby O Gauge E120 0-4-0T LNER Special Tank Locomotive. 20 volt (Good). *Sold for £70, Tennants Auctioneers, July.*



♣ Bassett-Lowke O Gauge 2-6-4T LMS 2603. 3 rail electric, black (Good). *Sold for £480, Tennants Auctioneers, July.*



♣ Hornby: A boxed Hornby Railways, OO Gauge, "The World of Thomas the Tank Engine" locomotive and tender, "Gordon" 4, 4-6-2. Reference R383. Original box, in good condition, some wear. Untested for working order. *Sold for £60, Hansons Auctioneers and Valuers, July.*



♣ Hornby O Gauge LE220 Pantograph Locomotive 10655. 20-volt, red/cream with green lining (roof and chassis repainted, some retouching to sides). *Sold for £220, Tennants Auctioneers, July.*



♣ Bassett-Lowke O Gauge 4-6-0 Flying Scotsman LNER 103. 3 rail electric (Good model, box Fair). *Sold for £280, Tennants Auctioneers, July.*



♣ Hornby: A boxed Hornby Railways, OO Gauge, "The World of Thomas the Tank Engine" locomotive and tender, "James 5" the Red Engine, 4-6-0. Reference R852. Original box, in good condition, some wear. Untested for working order. *Sold for £70, Hansons Auctioneers and Valuers, July.*



♣ Wrenn: A boxed Wrenn Railways, OO/HO Gauge Locomotive, 4-6-2 "Bodmin" Green BR 34016, Reference W2236/A. Original box with packing rings and instructions. "Packer No. 6" stamp. *Sold for £130, Hansons Auctioneers and Valuers, July.*



♣ Hornby O Gauge No.2 Mixed Goods Set. consisting of c/w 4-4-2T LNER 6 locomotive, NE wagons: Open, brake and Cattle truck; Shell tank wagon all with 2nd type chassis's (all Good) in set box (Good). *Sold for £160, Tennants Auctioneers, July.*



♣ Marklin 4-4-0 Schools Class Locomotive Merchant Taylors Southern 910. c/w (Good-Fair, in painted Bassett-Lowke box). *Sold for £280, Tennants Auctioneers, July.*



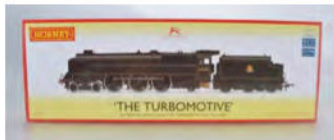
♣ Wrenn: A boxed Wrenn Railways, OO/HO Gauge Locomotive, 4-6-2 Class A4 Green "Great Snipe" LNER 4495, Reference W2209/A. Original box, with packing rings and instructions. "Packer No. 2" Stamp. Untested for working order. *Sold for £120, Hansons Auctioneers and Valuers, July.*



♣ Wrenn: A boxed Wrenn Railways, OO/HO Gauge Locomotive, 4-6-0 Royal Scot "Grenadier Guardsman" Green BR 46110, Reference W2262. Original box. "Packer No. 3" stamp. Untested for working order. *Sold for £120, Hansons Auctioneers and Valuers, July.*



♣ Wrenn: A boxed Wrenn Railways, 00/HO Gauge Tank Locomotive, 0-6-0 "S.E. & Chatham Railway" 69. Original box with packing rings. "Packer No. 3, Ref. No. 08834" stamp. **Sold for £170, Hansons Auctioneers and Valuers, July.**



♣ Hornby (China) boxed 00 Gauge R30135 BR black Princess Royal Class 46202 'The Turbomotive' Locomotive and Tender. in original box with outer despatch box, Excellent, unused, box Very Good-Excellent. **Sold for £90, Special Auction Services, July.**



♣ Hornby (China) boxed 00 Gauge R3831 BR green late crest Class A2/2 60505 'Thane of the Fife', Locomotive and Tender. in original box with sleeve and outer despatch box, Excellent, unused, box Very Good-Excellent. **Sold for £80, Special Auction Services, July.**



♣ Hornby (China) boxed 00 Gauge R3382TTS BR green early crest Merchant Navy Class 35023 'Holland-Afrika Line' Locomotive and Tender with Twin Track Sound. in original box with sleeve, Excellent, appears unused, box Very Good. **Sold for £90, Special Auction Services, July.**



♣ Hornby (China) Kernow Exclusive boxed 00 Gauge Great Western Railway green Mk 3 Triple coach pack, R4872 comprising TGS Coach, TSO Coach and Buffet Car. all in original boxes with pack sleeve Excellent, all appear unused, boxes Excellent. **Sold for £160, Special Auction Services, July.**



♣ Bachmann exclusive Collector's Club boxed 00 Gauge 31-880K S&DJR blue Class 4F 0-6-0 Locomotive and Tender No 58. in original box, Very good, appears unrun, possibly test run only, box very good. **Sold for £120, Special Auction Services, July.**



♣ Bachmann exclusive for Model Zone boxed 00 Gauge 39-050Z blue and grey Mk2 Mobile Track Assessment Coaches two coach pack (one pack, two coaches), comprising DB977387 and DB977337. both in original boxes with outer pack sleeve, Very Good, appear unrun, boxes Very Good (one pack, two coaches). **Sold for £90, Special Auction Services, July.**



♣ Heljan 00 Gauge Metropolitan Bo Bo Locomotive. boxed 9000, Metropolitan Bo Bo locomotive No 20 in maroon livery, DCC sticker on box untested, excellent, box Good. **Sold for £110, Special Auction Services, July.**



♣ Dapol for Hattons 00 Gauge Diesel 10000 Locomotive, boxed, 10001GP BR diesel locomotive 10001. in black and silver livery, Very good, box Very good. **Sold for £80, Special Auction Services, July.**



♣ Accurascale Limited Edition for Rails of Sheffield 00 Gauge Class 31 Diesel Locomotive, boxed, with plastic sleeve, ACC2842-DCC. Class 31 Severn Valley Railway 31413, BR blue special, with certificate 184/250, Excellent, box Very good. **Sold for £130, Special Auction Services, July.**



♣ Wrenn 00 Gauge boxed W2266/A BR green West Country Class Golden Arrow 34092 'City of Wells' Locomotive and Tender. with two arrows on sides and Headboard on front, three packing rings, tissue and instructions, in original box stamped Packer No 2 20592, Excellent, appears test run/very lightly run only, box Very Good. **Sold for £340, Special Auction Services, July.**



♣ Wrenn 00 Gauge boxed W2238 BR green Merchant Navy Class 35028 'Clan Line' Locomotive and Tender. with 3 packing rings, Instructions and tissue, in original box stamped Packer No 3 Ref 07519, excellent, appears test run/ lightly run only, box Good, creases in one lid corner. **Sold for £150, Special Auction Services, July.**



♣ Repainted renamed and detailed Hornby unboxed BR weathered green West Country Class 4-6-2 34033 'Chard' Locomotive and Tender. modified to a very good standard, in a storage box, Very good. **Sold for £100, Special Auction Services, July.**



♣ Genesis by Athearn American HO Gauge Steam Locomotive and Tender, boxed ATHG97010 Mountain Mt-4 4-8-2. #4352 in Southern Pacific black/orange/red livery, with Tsunami sound, (untested) and instructions Very good, box Very Good. **Sold for £130, Special Auction Services, July.**



♣ Bassett Lowke O Gauge 0-4-0 Peckett No 1017. 3 Rail electric, some wear to paint, Good condition. **Sold for £400, Special Auction Services, July.**



♣ Bassett Lowke O Gauge 4-6-0 Loco and Tender Southern Lined Green 'Lord Nelson'. No 850, 3 Rail Electric, Loco and tender has been rebuilt and modified from a original Royal Scot, in a fitted wooden box. **Sold for £500, Special Auction Services, July.**



♣ Bassett Lowke O Gauge 4-6-2 Loco and Tender LMS Maroon, 'Princess Elizabeth' No 6201. 3 Rail Electric, replacement coupling on tender together with cut out, faded colour to loco and tender, Good - Very Good. **Sold for £600, Special Auction Services, July.**



♣ Professionally Kitbuilt and painted O Gauge LMS Lined Maroon 'The Royal Air Force' No 6159 4-6-0 Loco and Tender. One smoke deflector missing, both nameplates have broken off the loco, one set of steps missing from the offside of Tender, otherwise Excellent. **Sold for £320, Special Auction Services, July.**



♣ Golden Age Finescale O Gauge BR Blue ex Southern Railway rebuilt Merchant Navy Class 'Royal Mail' 35003 4-6-2 locomotive and Tender. Appears unused, Excellent on wooden display plinth measuring approx 63cm long x 16cm wide x 22cm high with cover. **Sold for £1,800, Special Auction Services, July.**



♣ Golden Age Models Finescale O Gauge BR Green ex Southern Railway rebuilt Merchant Navy Class 'Peninsular & Oriental SN Co', No 35006 4-6-2 Locomotive and Tender. appears unused, Excellent on wooden display plinth measuring approx 63cm long x 16cm wide x 22cm high with cover. **Sold for £1,500, Special Auction Services, July.**



♣ A Martin Finney O Gauge Finescale kit LSWR T9 (London and South Western Railway) No 117 4-4-0 locomotive and tender accredited as built and painted by Chris Weston with Alan Harris Wheels. would benefit from a light dusting, Cab roof is lose, otherwise Excellent, in excellent wooden carry box. **Sold for £1,500, Special Auction Services, July.**



♣ A Star Wars Empire Strikes Back Millennium Falcon by PALITOY. in original box, appears complete with instructions - Good in Good box. **Sold for £150, Excalibur Auctions, July.**



♣ A Star Wars Empire Strikes Back AT-AT Vehicle by PALITOY. with original box and instructions - Good in Fair box. **Sold for £140, Excalibur Auctions, July.**



♣ An original Star Wars Death Star Action Playset Cat No. 33351 by PALITOY. Appears complete and has been assembled to show the item in its entirety, complete with original 1977 box and instructions. Good in a Good box. **Sold for £1,200, Excalibur Auctions, July.**



♣ Lego Ideas #52 The Orient Express no. 21344, boxed. Box opened, but bags remain sealed and instructions present. **Sold for £170, David Duggleby Auctioneers & Valuers, July.**



♣ Lego Disney Castle. no. 71040, boxed. **Sold for £300, David Duggleby Auctioneers & Valuers, July.**



♣ Lego Creator Assembly Square no. 10255, boxed. Seal appears to have been opened. **Sold for £160, David Duggleby Auctioneers & Valuers, July.**



♣ Lego Disney Pirates of the Caribbean Dead Men Tell No Tales Silent Mary. no. 71042, boxed. **Sold for £280, David Duggleby Auctioneers & Valuers, July.**



♣ Lego Disney Train and Station. no. 71044, boxed. **Sold for £340, David Duggleby Auctioneers & Valuers, July.**



♣ Gabrielle Designs Paddington Bear Aunt Lucy teddy bear. with hat, spectacles, jacket and coins, in very good condition. **Sold for £200, Wessex Auction Rooms, July.**



♣ Boxed Steiff Disney Showcase Collection Mickey Mouse as Steamboat Willie. numbered 5444, complete with tags and inner packaging, very good condition with good outer box showing some storage squash. **Sold for £65, Wessex Auction Rooms, July.**



♣ Lego - Boxed Lego 43020 Editions FIFA World Cup Official Trophy set. sealed and excellent. **Sold for £85, Wessex Auction Rooms, July.**



♣ LEGO - #3450 Statue of Liberty, re-bagged with instructions. Good to Excellent in Fair to Good box with tape repairs. **Sold for £320, Vectis Auctions, July.**



♣ Lego (Sealed) #8038 Star Wars. The Battle of Endor, assumed Mint, within Good Plus to Excellent sealed packaging (minor scuffs and edge wear on the box). **Sold for £240, Vectis Auctions, July.**



♣ LEGO (Sealed) #75290 Star Wars - Master Builder Series. Mos Eisley Cantina, assumed Mint, within Excellent to Near Mint sealed packaging (some scuff marks on the box). **Sold for £220, Vectis Auctions, July.**



♣ LEGO (Sealed) Star Wars #75059 - Ultimate Collector Series. Sandcrawler, assumed Mint, within Good Plus to Excellent sealed packaging, (some scuffs and scratches on the box). **Sold for £420, Vectis Auctions, July.**



♣ LEGO (Sealed) #75313 Star Wars - Ultimate Collector Series. AT-AT, assumed Mint, within Good Plus to Excellent sealed packaging and Fair carton. **Sold for £1,000, Vectis Auctions, July.**



♣ **Deans Rag Book Lakeland Bears Morris Bear.** brown plush, dressed as a Morris Dancer, would benefit from cleaning due to storage odour and some foxing to clothing otherwise Good. **Sold for £45, Vectis Auctions, July.**



♣ **Steiff Sooty (Harry Corbett's Sooty Show).** white tag 663932, LE 2000, 2011, apricot and black mohair teddy bear, includes certificate, Some brown marks/stains to the back of the head, leg and arm area on the right hand side otherwise Good Plus. **Sold for £90, Vectis Auctions, July.**



♣ **Steiff Sunny teddy bear.** white tag 035746, LE 1000, pale yellow mohair, chest tag, swing label, certificate (pencil notation to envelope), Excellent Plus. **Sold for £130, Vectis Auctions, July.**



♣ **R John Wright Paddington Bear,** 2001. wearing felt duffel coat and bush hat, label "Please Look After This Bear" tied around neck with a key, carrying leather suitcase, with certificate, Within box (slightly foxed in areas), Slight storage odour and discolouration to the trims of golf bag otherwise Good Plus. **Sold for £400, Vectis Auctions, July.**



♣ **Steiff Santa's Elf Teddy Bear,** 2000. white tag 670572, LE 3000, beige mohair, certificate, box, Good Plus box with outer trade carton, Good Plus to Excellent. **Sold for £70, Vectis Auctions, July.**



♣ **Steiff Sweep (from Harry Corbett's Sooty Show).** white tag 664410, LE 2000, grey and black mohair, with working squeaker, swing label attached, certificate, within Good Box and outer trade carton, Good Plus to Excellent. **Sold for £260, Vectis Auctions, July.**



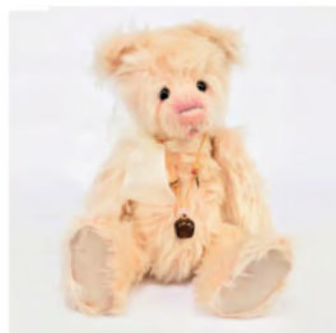
♣ **Steiff Soo Panda (from Harry Corbett's Sooty Show).** exclusive to the UK and Ireland, black and white mohair Panda wearing printed pink cotton pinafore, includes swing label, certificate, Excellent Plus, within Good Plus to Excellent box and outer trade carton. **Sold for £420, Vectis Auctions, July.**



♣ **Charlie Bears Aunty B panda bear.** CB191953B, plush, swing labels, Excellent Plus. **Sold for £160, Vectis Auctions, July.**



♣ **Charlie Bears Signals Dragon.** CB212159, green plush, swing label, Excellent Plus. **Sold for £220, Vectis Auctions, July.**



♣ **Charlie Bears Isabelle Collection Candyfloss teddy bear.** Excellent Plus to Near Mint. **Sold for £220, Vectis Auctions, July.**



♣ **Hecla rare vintage teddy bear.** Fair Plus to Good, wearing brown linen dungarees and jacket, pale pink shirt. **Sold for £440, Vectis Auctions, July.**



♣ **Scarce Tipp & Co (Germany) German Mercedes Benz Fuhrer Staff Car tinplate model.** with 'WH - 5329' number plate, with clockwork key, missing figures. **Sold for £380, Wessex Auction Rooms, July.**



♣ **c.1930's German tinplate clockwork powered tanker by GFN (Gebruder Fleishmann Nuremberg)** with red hull. some paint wear but very good overall, 11.5" approx length. **Sold for £150, Wessex Auction Rooms, July.**



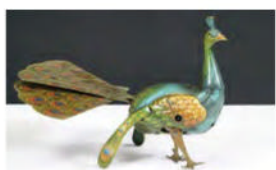
♣ **Early 20th Century Pre-War Distler tinplate clockwork Dancing Monkey.** with original coiled spring tail, marked 'Made In Germany', in very good condition overall with some marks and chips. **Sold for £48, Wessex Auction Rooms, July.**



♣ **Original Early 20th C Lehmann German lithographed tinplate clockwork 721 Zulu Ostrich Mail cart with driver.** in playworn condition with signs of general age related wear, but in fair condition, with Lehmann makers mark to rear or model. **Sold for £200, Wessex Auction Rooms, July.**



♣ Early 20th Century Blomer & Schuler (Pre Moko Lesney) German Jumbo The Elephant tinplate clockwork model. with original cord tail, marked to bottom. **Sold for £120, Wessex Auction Rooms, July.**



♣ Early-Mid 20th Century Blomer & Schuler German tinplate clockwork peacock. with moving rising and fanning tail, marked 'Made In Germany DRP Ang DRGM', in very good condition. **Sold for £75, Wessex Auction Rooms, July.**



♣ Mid 20th C Arnold tin plate ocean liner. showing some paint loss but overall in good condition. **Sold for £75, Wessex Auction Rooms, July.**



♣ Hess (Nuremberg) tinplate wind up battleship model. circa mid 20th Century, showing wear, good overall. **Sold for £80, Wessex Auction Rooms, July.**



♣ Mid 20th C Marx wind up tinplate Litho Rookie Police Motorcycle. rider in white shirt, red trousers and red hat, motorcycle main body yellow, showing paint wear but in a good overall play worn condition. **Sold for £70, Wessex Auction Rooms, July.**



♣ Arnold Mac 700 tinplate clockwork motorcycle model. no key, showing paint wear but in a good overall play worn condition. **Sold for £190, Wessex Auction Rooms, July.**



♣ Orobr Bodenlauf Running wind up tinplate model plane. showing some rust and wear, 13.5" approx length. **Sold for £120, Wessex Auction Rooms, July.**



♣ Technofix Western Germany Tinplate Clockwork model No. GE258 motorcycle and rider. comprising a grey and cream tin printed body with tin printed engine and driver figure, numberplate to read GE255 with stabiliser wheel, loose example The clockwork motor is in working order. **Sold for £65, Lacy Scott & Knight, July.**



♣ Highway Patrol With Sirens - Jaguar E Type inspired Tinplate Friction Drive Police Car. late 1980's China Made - Good Plus with some paint loss to sirens, in Good picture card box. **Sold for £80, Vectis Auctions, July.**



♣ Unconfirmed Manufacturer Clockwork Saloon. Green with silver trim, chrome tinplate base - See-Photo - Excellent Plus (Small roof Mark) in a Good (Slightly Grubby) carded box. **Sold for £160, Vectis Auctions, July.**



♣ Original Mid 20th C Schuco tinplate clockwork Donald Duck, with makers marks. in good condition overall with some light signs of wear. **Sold for £160, Wessex Auction Rooms, July.**



♣ Schuco Tinplate Clockwork Varianto Elektro 3118. Red with black base, chrome trim and amber windows - Near Mint in a Excellent lift off lid box with label and Complete with lead in bag. **Sold for £110, Vectis Auctions, July.**



♣ Wells Brimtoy Pocketoy 9/504 Tinplate Clockwork Vauxhall Saloon Car. Metallic blue with silver trim and black solid wheels - Excellent overall (Slight loss Of Paint To Bumper & Grille) - Lovely bright example of a harder to find issue in a Good carded box. **Sold for £220, Vectis Auctions, July.**



♣ JW (Germany) Tinplate Wind-Up Novelty. Good Plus overall (Bright Example) - (Approx L21cm/H17cm). **Sold for £35, Vectis Auctions, July.**



♣ Wells Brimtoy Pocketoy 9/503 Tinplate Clockwork 6-Wheeled Bus. Red and cream with grey roof, Early issue with smooth hubs, white tyres and "Thanks For Buying British" Adverts - Good Plus to Excellent (Bright Example) in a Good (Displays Well) carded box. **Sold for £190, Vectis Auctions, July.**

eBuys

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



Item: MB4: Rare Matchbox Diecast '57 Chevy In White/metallic Blue Body Opening Bonnet.
Condition: Fair condition model, unboxed.
Sold for: £264.47 (13 bids).



Item: Corgi Toys, 851 Magic Roundabout Train Set, rare Original.
Condition: Very good condition, has the odd mark.
Sold for: £255.80 (34 bids).



Item: Corgi Toys, Gift Set 22 James Bond Set, rare Ex-Shop stock, Original.
Condition: Very good condition, has the odd mark.
Sold for: £518.00 (27 bids).



Item: Corgi Toys, 267 Batmobile 1st issue, (2) rare Matt Black, Original.
Condition: Very good condition in original box.
Sold for: £525.00 (27 bids).



Item: Corgi Toys, Gift Set 22 Farming Set very rare, Original.
Condition: Great condition, complete set.
Sold for: £515.00 (17 bids).



Item: kogure Japan vintage tinsplate 1966 Chevrolet convertible ultra rare.
Condition: Very good original working condition.
Sold for: £208.99 (16 bids).



Item: Rare 1920's Lehmann Masuyama Tin Wind-up Rickshaw Tinsplate wind up.
Condition: Working, good considering age.
Sold for: £782.60 (41 bids).



Item: Top Secret Ignition Model R33 GT-R BNR33 Gold 1/18.
Condition: Great condition, with original box.
Sold for: £309.55 (1 bid).



Item: Dinky Poch 530 Citroen DS 19 Very Rare.
Condition: Good condition, crack in the windshield. The box is genuine, but not a POCH version.
Sold for: £1,715.33 (1 bid).



Item: BBR 1/18 Ferrari 288.
Condition: Model in good overall condition, comes with all original packaging.
Sold for: £390.24 (15 bids).



Item: Antique Early 20thC BING German Clockwork Tinplate Nautical Submarine Toy w/ Key.
Condition: Original Unrestored, working Condition.
Sold for: £224.38 (31 bids).



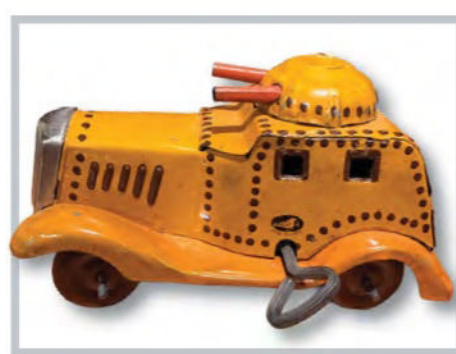
Item: Vintage Asahi AN Japan Tin Wind Up Deep Sea Diver Robot Toy Undersea Explorer.
Condition: In good working condition.
Sold for: £471.20 (26 bids).



Item: Vintage 1930's Marx Pinocchio Tin Wind Up Toy Delivery Movie TV Pop Culture.
Condition: Good condition for age. Non-working.
Sold for: £222.13 (32 bids).



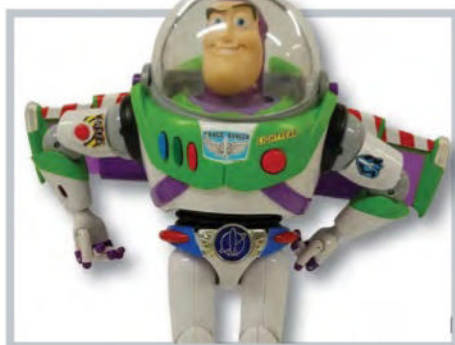
Item: Tardis Doctor Who, Denys Fisher Toys, Vintage, 1970s.
Condition: Good condition. Original box.
Sold for: £513.92 (2 bids).



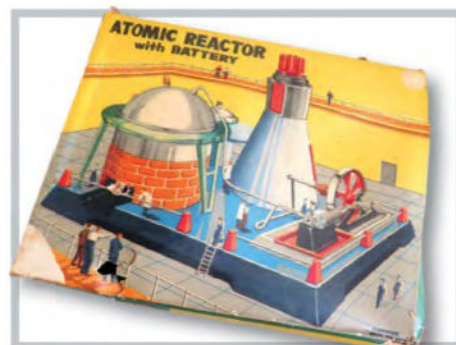
Item: Vintage Pre War Rare Army Military Tank Truck Armored Car Tin Toy Japan Wind Up.
Condition: In good working condition, slight rust.
Sold for: £205.68 (30 bids).



Item: Rare 1930s Marx Popeye the pilot 8.5" tin wind-up toy airplane.
Condition: Great working condition, minor wear.
Sold for: £369.39 (28 bids).



Item: Thinkway Toys Buzz Lightyear 30cm Action Figure Disney Toy Story.
Condition: Very good condition.
Sold for: £240.00 (44 bids).



Item: Vintage 50s Marx ATOMIC REACTOR Tin Toy with a Steam Engine In Box.
Condition: Fair condition. Areas of rust on the toy.
Sold for: £302.92 (25 bids).



Item: Lego Wooden Duck Green Circa 1940.
Condition: Very rare, partially restored, in fair condition.
Sold for: £1,715.33 (1 bid).



Item: LEGO Star Wars UCS 75192 Millennium Falcon.
Condition: Great condition, complete set.
Sold for: £451.99 (28 bids).



Item: Lesney Matchbox Toys MB5d Routemaster Bus "The Baron of Beef" RARE Interior.
Condition: Original & mint.
Sold for: £206.55 (20 bids).

Oxford Diecast has become one of Britain's best-known names in scale modelling, building a reputation across both road vehicles and the railway modelling sector.

Oxford Diecast covers both road and rail — how do you balance development priorities between the two, and does one side influence the other creatively or technically?

Road and rail complement each other more than people might think. Railway modellers need credible road scenes, and road collectors often appreciate context and display potential. Our main focus has always been road vehicles under the Oxford Diecast brand, with Oxford Rail acting as a natural extension of that. The two ranges definitely inspire each other. For example, we recently adapted our long-standing Fordson Tractor tooling by creating a new component to produce the Fordson Tractor Shunter, making it suitable for railway layouts. Opportunities like that allow us to maximise existing tooling investments while also offering collectors something new and relevant to their chosen hobby.

Your catalogue spans everything from everyday road vehicles to detailed railway accessories — how do you decide which prototypes deserve to be modelled next?

We have an extensive catalogue of research, and we're constantly balancing what the market is asking for against gaps we can identify ourselves. We look for key vehicles that stand out visually, historically, or culturally, but also models that customers have a personal attachment to. Often it's those everyday vehicles people recognise from their own lives that resonate the most.

We also consider how a new model will fit within the wider Oxford range. A vehicle might be significant in its own right, but if it complements existing releases and helps collectors create a more complete collection or display, that can make it particularly attractive. Ultimately, we try to strike a balance between enthusiast favourites, commercially viable subjects and vehicles that tell an interesting story.

Railway modellers are famously detail-focused. How do their expectations shape tooling, liveries, and production standards compared with road vehicle collectors?

Railway modellers are incredibly precise and often have an exceptional knowledge of their chosen subjects. That level of scrutiny has definitely strengthened our overall production standards. It means more research, additional sign-off stages, and tighter quality control throughout the development process. Small



1 Oxford Diecast

Keith D'Souza speaks to Oxford Diecast Managing Director Eloise Davies about the company's approach to research, model development and balancing the demands of both road vehicle and railway enthusiasts.

details that might otherwise be overlooked are often picked up and refined before production. It does lengthen the process, but it ultimately results in better models across both ranges and helps ensure we maintain the high standards collectors expect from the brand.

Many collectors appreciate Oxford's mix of classic British road vehicles and modern releases. What guides your historical versus contemporary balance?

Classic British vehicles really form the backbone of the Oxford Diecast brand. They're part of our identity and remain hugely popular with collectors who remember seeing them on the roads during their formative years. Many of these vehicles evoke strong memories and have a nostalgia factor that continues to drive demand.

However, modern releases help keep the range relevant and accessible to newer collectors, while also reflecting the changing face of Britain's roads and transport industry. We tend to lean towards heritage pieces that evoke nostalgia and 'The Way We Were', but interest in present-day commercial vehicles is definitely growing. The Dennis Eagle refuse truck, for example, has become one of our biggest sellers, demonstrating that contemporary vehicles can be just as appealing when they represent familiar sights from everyday life.

From a tooling perspective, what are the biggest differences between developing a road vehicle and a railway piece — and which presents the greater challenge?

Finding a current road vehicle to scan for initial tooling reference is usually fairly straightforward, particularly when manufacturers, operators or private owners are able to assist with access. Railway items can be more challenging, especially when access to preserved examples is limited or when suitable reference material is scarce.

Rail projects often demand tighter tolerances and greater technical precision because they must function reliably alongside existing layouts and equipment. Small dimensional variations can have a significant impact on how a model performs. As a result, railway projects can present the greater engineering challenge overall. However, modern road vehicles are becoming increasingly complex in their own right due to their intricate body shapes and detailing requirements.

How much original research goes into replicating authentic rail liveries and road vehicle finishes, and what sources do you rely on to ensure accuracy?

Research is fundamental to everything we do. We use manufacturer data where possible,

1. The British School of Motoring Mini Metro has proved to be Oxford Diecast's most popular new release of 2026, faithfully recreating one of Britain's most recognisable learner cars.
2. One of Oxford Diecast's newest tooling projects, the Bedford CF Hanlon Ambulance captures a familiar emergency vehicle from the Merseyside Ambulance Service and is scheduled for release during 2026.
3. A period view of the original Oxford Diecast factory, highlighting the production processes that underpinned the company's early success.
4. Oxford Diecast's UK factory over 30 years ago, where models were assembled during the company's early years.

photographic archives, enthusiast references, licensing partners, and in many cases direct measurement or scanning of preserved or operational vehicles. The more information we can gather at the start of a project, the better the finished model is likely to be.

Accuracy in colour matching, registrations, printed graphics and fine detailing is crucial because small details often determine whether a model truly feels authentic. Collectors are extremely knowledgeable, so we place a great deal of emphasis on ensuring that liveries, markings and finishes are as accurate as possible before a model reaches production.

Oxford Diecast has become a staple brand for layout builders and display collectors alike. Do you approach those audiences differently when designing new releases?

Not significantly in terms of the models themselves, but packaging has evolved to accommodate both audiences. Many years ago, we introduced packaging with more visible display angles so collectors who prefer to keep models boxed could still appreciate the detail without removing them from the packaging.

Ultimately, we aim to produce models that work equally well on layouts or in display cabinets. The core objective is always to create an accurate and attractive miniature, regardless of how the customer chooses to enjoy it. In many cases, collectors actually move between both camps, displaying some models while actively using others within layouts or dioramas.

Limited editions and special liveries are popular across both road and rail lines — what makes a model a good candidate for a commemorative or niche release?

We actually try not to overdo limited editions. Our preference is to produce what the market genuinely demands rather than create artificial scarcity. Collectors generally respond best when a model has a clear reason for existing and a story worth telling.

Commemorative models can work very well when there's a strong brand,



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historical significance, notable anniversary or a particularly compelling subject behind them. The challenge is always judging demand accurately. Otherwise, there's the risk of either not making enough to satisfy collectors or being left with stock once the moment has passed. Striking the right balance is an important part of the decision-making process.

Have there been any particularly complex or memorable projects — road or rail — that pushed your design or production capabilities?

Licensed projects often present the biggest challenges because of multi-stage approvals and strict brand standards that must be met before a model can proceed to production. These projects frequently involve close collaboration with manufacturers and rights holders throughout the development process.

Some railway projects have required extremely tight tooling tolerances, while certain road vehicles have involved intricate multi-panel tampon printing and highly detailed decoration. Those are the projects that really test the team, but they're also the most satisfying when everything comes

together successfully. Seeing a particularly challenging project reach the shelves is always rewarding because it reflects the combined effort of research, design and production teams.

Looking ahead, what can collectors expect from Oxford Diecast over the next few years in both road and railway ranges?

Collectors can expect continued investment in new tooling, carefully chosen prototypes, and expansion into areas that complement existing layouts and collections. We are always looking for opportunities to introduce new subjects while continuing to support established ranges that have proven popular over many years.

Our focus remains on accuracy, quality, and keeping both road and rail ranges relevant to collectors in the UK and internationally. We recognise that the hobby continues to evolve, and we want to ensure our products evolve with it. While we can't reveal specific future releases, collectors can expect a steady flow of new projects that reflect both customer demand and the rich variety of transport subjects available to model. ■



1

When *Ghostbusters* hit the big screen in 1984, it caused a bit of a sensation. Whilst its premise, that of a team of university drop-outs saving a city from malignant spirits, might not have appealed terribly to the more cerebral out there, this knockabout comedy, enlivened by an array of special effects, certainly hooked the youngsters (and those to whom fact and fiction blurring exerted a quirky appeal).

WHO YA GONNA CALL?

Big stars, in the shape of Dan Ackroyd, Sigourney Weaver and Bill Murray, were called upon, and they certainly helped this novel idea progress. (Incidentally, both Eddie Murphy and John Candy were slated for the film; in the event, neither took part). Ackroyd is generally held to be the motive force behind the Ghostbusters idea, this stemming from his reading of a parapsychology book. It's doubtful, though, that he could have envisaged the special transport that the team used, the suitably-named Ecto-1, actually a 1959 Cadillac conversion; nor yet again the Stay Puff Marshmallow Man, an oddity with a capital O. By the way, *Ghostbusters* filming took place in both New York and in Los Angeles, and at New York's Tribeca fire station, apparently there's a commemorative plaque to celebrate its part in the film.

Controversy did overshadow the proceedings, though. The catchy theme music, performed by Ray Parker Junior, was considered too similar to "I want a new drug", as performed by Huey Lewis and The News; the latter sued accordingly. The accusation actually contained more than a grain of credence, since Lewis' track had been used as temporary background music in some of the scenes.

Never taking itself too seriously, *Ghostbusters* in its initial format

Spirit of the age

Ever wondered about things that go bump in the night? asks **Alwyn Brice**.

nonetheless firmly rested on the monetary laurels, and has accrued over US\$685m over its lifetime, easily outstripping revenues from the three (main) follow-up films.

MERCHANDISE MAYHEM

If the first film did well, although subsequent follow-ups less so, nonetheless the subject matter was a godsend to those in charge of marketing. Kits, puzzles, soft toys, clothing, Lego, video games, collectors' cards, action figures... the list is endless. That iconic image of the no entry sign curtailing a white ghost has gone down in history: it must be one of the most instantly recognisable labels or logos around. But it's the transport that concerns us here: essentially the striking Cadillac Miller Meteor Sentinel ambulance conversion.

Apparently, the Ghostbusters' car was mooted by one Steven Dane; credited in the film, he also had a hand in designing the proton packs and the ghost traps. I've been unable to discover the rationale behind his choice of transport for the spirit-searching team; after all, with a clean design sheet, anything could have been dreamed up. But the capacious Cadillac ambulance served as an equipment carrier, the car's design reaching its apogee in 1959.

After all, the 1950s was an era of excess insofar as American automobiles were concerned, and plumping for that period was an ingenious choice

of decade. A Cadillac in any shape or form has enormous presence and when it was kitted out with ghost-hunting equipment (the way you do), it took on a new persona. Whilst the paraphernalia it carried is mostly not explained, that didn't stop the diecast brigade from setting to work.

HOT STUFF

Ghostbusters' diecast models have been offered on a regular basis down the years, such has been the unwavering popularity of the film series. Akin, I suppose, to the souped-up DeLorean of "Back to the Future", the Cadillac was certainly championed by several makers, some of which feature here. In 2010, Hot Wheels introduced the Ecto-1 in its Premiere series in 1/64 scale, a good little model that captured the essence of the big screen Caddy. Other outlandish models also appeared in this particular range, all tagged with the Ghostbusters logo, although they seem to have had little to do with the film franchise. There's a neat double pack in 1/64, featuring Ecto-1 and Ecto-1A, that could be worth salting away.

Hot Wheels wasn't the first to explore Cadillac creations, though; AMT/Ertl offered a large scale (1/25) Ecto 1A in 1989, albeit as a plastic kit. But the large scale possibilities brought Hot Wheels back into the fray, though, and its 1/18 models of Ecto-1 and Ecto-1A (as seen in *Ghostbusters II*) came out in 2013.

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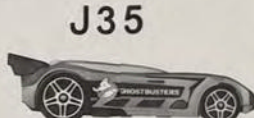
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GHOSTBUSTERS.

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DWD97

Asst. DWD94



These are both excellent representations, as would be expected from Mattel. Opening doors and carefully moulded roof equipment, which doesn't look like a homogenous mass, single out these particular models. Hasbro also offered the Cadillac in 1/18.

More recent fare has included a 1/32 version from Chinese company Jada; this model, replete with the roof load, benefits from opening front doors. It's a cheap acquisition if you are a completist.

For oddities (and there's plenty odd about Ghostbusters), you could try the YS "dirty" version of the Cadillac: this model looks as if it's been on the Paris-Dakar Rally or is about to feature in

some war film, in its pseudo-camouflage. It's a strange creation, in 1/64 scale. YS is also responsible for the traditional white version in the same scale and, bizarrely, a so-called varnish model (which to me looks rather like silver). Your guess is as good as mine, dear reader.

And then there's the Blitzway, in colossal 1/6 scale. This has to be the ultimate and as such, count on spending well over £2,000 to acquire this supreme example of the model maker's art: boasting painstakingly distressed paintwork, it's equipped with movable wheels, opening features, lighting, engine noise, a detachable RTV and a pivoting gunner seat, just for starters. Detail is



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1. Jada's example fits the bill, though isn't quite as refined as some would expect. A surfeit of chrome is evident on the wheels. 2. Hot Wheels really jumped on to the Ghostbusters bandwagon, announcing some spurious additions to tempt one's pocket money. 3. Joyride's take on Ecto-1, in 1/21 scale, was complete with a free Slimer (in appropriately attractive slime green). 4. Interesting dual pack from Hot Wheels in the affordable smaller scale. 5. For those with the skills (and with time on their hands), building the Eaglemoss version in 1/8 scale was a possibility. 6. The ultimate? Blitzway also produces a Ghostbusters team of figurines, which are realistically modelled on the real characters.

tremendous and at 116 cm in length, it will dwarf anything else in your collection. A cheaper, plain painted version, was also manufactured.

Who ya gonna call?

Your bank manager? ■



1

Last month we started celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Fiesta with an in-depth look at models of the first generation of this iconic car. My personal interest in the Fiesta, however, extends beyond the Mk1. After my first car, a blue Mk1 Fiesta, gave up, I was lucky enough to acquire another Fiesta. This was a nine-year-old Rosso red 1986 Fiesta 1.1 Finesse (the 1.1 part was very important at the time as my best mate had a 950cc Fiesta Finesse!). This developed an interest in models of the Mk2 Fiesta and then the Mk3, which, when it was launched, was such a massive leap forward over the earlier cars I couldn't help but show a keen interest in it. We shall work through the remaining models in chronological order of Fiesta generations.

Despite the Mk2 Fiesta's obvious popularity, sales remained strong throughout its lifetime; no toys or models were made of it until many years after it was replaced by the Mk3. The first model to appear was from a 1:43 Spanish part-work and came in the form of a yellow car badged 1.4D Ghia. Whilst it has the correct design bumpers for a Ghia, as well as correct wheel trims and headrests, Ford never fitted the Mk2 with a 1.4 diesel engine (always a 1.6) and never fitted the diesel engine in the Ghia, not even in mainland Europe. This casting reappeared a couple of years later under the Whitebox branding, leading me to conclude it was produced by IXO. The Whitebox release is a white 'limited edition' Holiday from Europe, but the cast-in Ghia-style bumpers

Viva La Fiesta!

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

look wrong on this, as the real car had the standard looking painted metal with plastic end caps. Both of these are quite hard to come by these days. At the time of writing this, a red Ghia is planned for release later this year under IXO's own branding.

Perhaps more readily available in 1:43 are the recent Corgi Vanguards Mk2 Fiestas. This was a much-anticipated new casting in 2025, and we have already seen five releases. What is pleasing is the variety of different trim levels; we've seen a Popular Plus, L, Ghia as well as a pair of XR2s. Each has the correct style of bumpers and wheel design. The L, Ghia and XR2 also feature a sunroof.

The XR2s have the additional body kit consisting of front and rear spoilers, side sills and wheel arch extensions. Barring the extraordinarily thick number plates, these are all really good-looking models. Also in 1:43 are a trio of resin XR2s made by NEO. These are notably wider than Corgi's casting and, at a much higher price point, also include a wealth of finer detailing.

If we look at smaller examples, five 1:87 models were released under the PCX87 branding. These were a red and a grey base model, a metallic blue Ghia, a darker blue special edition and a white 'Holiday' of the same type as the 1:43



2



Whitebox. Each features correct wheel designs and bumpers for the specification represented. Slightly larger at around 1:64 is Matchbox's recent Mk2 Fiesta. Clearly representing an XR2, as it comes complete with body kit and tailgate framing spoiler, there have so far been three releases; first in bright red, then metallic green (a colour never offered by Ford on the XR2 but looking very much like the Willow Green on Corgi's recent Ghia release) and earlier this year it appeared in metallic black in the British Roadways five-pack. A good shape and overall representation of the Mk2 Fiesta, perhaps only really let down

by the slightly oversized wheels.

At the other end of the size spectrum comes a pair of 1:18 XR2s from Ottomobile, one red and one white. These heavy resin models feature the correct dark grey 'Rainbow' pattern seat fabric and rounded headrests, meaning both models represent an XR2 made between 1985 and early 1987.

Ford spent £550 million and five years developing the Mk3 Fiesta. The wheelbase was increased, and it also used a new rear axle design, giving more interior space. These changes allowed Ford to address the main weakness of the previous

1. Corgi Vanguard's line-up of Mk2 Fiestas (from left to right) Popular Plus, L, Ghia and XR2

2. Matchbox's Mk2 Fiesta looks very much an XR2, especially in red and black. The metallic green was never offered on the XR2.

3. The Matchbox Courier van, based on the Mk3 Fiesta. Steve's standard release (left) has a faded plastic base whereas the white version has a metal base.

generations; the lack of a five-door version. At launch, there was a wide range of trim levels available, including the Ghia and a 1.6 engined '1.6S' model. This was effectively the old XR2 in the new body; a 'warm' hatch very much in the mould of the Mk1 1300S and Mk2 1.4S. The launch brochure, however, did provide details of the new range topper, the XR2i; a 105bhp fuel-injected hot hatch complete with quad driving lamps and striking blue inserts in the bumpers. As well as the new 5-door body, several 'big car' features also appeared on the Fiesta for the first time. Electric windows and central locking were both available on several models either as standard or as an option.

Models of the Mk3 Fiesta were, for a long time, a little thin on the ground. It was the German manufacturer Schabak that was the first to produce a scale Mk3. They produced both 1:43 and 1:25 XR2i models and sold them in Ford-branded boxes through dealerships. This happened with a number of Ford models during the late 1980s and early 1990s. They even



1

produced right-hand drive interiors to be sold here in the UK. I'm still on the hunt for a 1:43 in a promotional box, but the two I do have both have the RHD interior. Both sizes of XR2i offer opening doors, bonnet and boot to add some play value. Initially offered in red, white and black (like the real car), Schabak did become more creative with colours later on (hence my metallic blue example)

Matchbox also produced a version of the Mk3 Fiesta; in the shape of the high-cube Courier van. The regular release was a purple 'Milka Chocolate' livery, while several promotional liveries were also produced. Two of these were in Ford-branded boxes; a white 'Courier' liveried van and a red Courier Kombi, which was the Courier van but with a second row of seats and side windows. This is a delightful casting, with painted front indicators and rear lights. It was also cleverly constructed with the base forming the lower part of the body. Worth a note here is that the base of my white Courier-liveried van

is metal, whereas the Milka has a plastic base, which is why many of these Milka vans now have a grey lower body where the plastic has reacted to light and faded. There is also a black plastic insert which forms the front bumper and interior.

So far, then, the Mk3 Fiestas we have looked at have all been aimed at the toy market. Collector models have started to appear now, but again, these are few and far between. The smallest are again from PCX87 and have been produced in five different versions (two representing 1989 launch year examples with orange front indicators and three representing the 1993 facelift cars with clear indicators). Correct wheel designs are present again, and a couple represent special editions. There are also two 'Calypso' models that feature a full-opening fabric roof, with the 1989 version modelled with the roof open. It is also a refreshing change to see non-sporty Fiestas modelled. Sporty Fiestas have not been ignored, though; KESS produced two resin [RS] Turbo Fiestas in 1:43, while

1. The early Mk3 XR2i from Ottomobile (white 1:18), Schabak (red 1:25 and blue 1:43). All three have correct wheel designs, even if the Schabak 1:25 are oversized.

2. A simple change of front indicators from orange to white changes the PCX87 1989 Fiesta (red) to a facelifted 1993 example (blue).

Ottomobile have modelled the XR2i in white and the [RS] Turbo in red (RS in brackets, as it wasn't used outside the UK).

October 1995 saw the launch of the Mk4 Fiesta; essentially a new body and re-engineered chassis on the Mk3's basic structure. New engines and new features made this Fiesta an attractive proposition, hiding the by-now slightly cramped accommodation. It also gained the Ford family oval grille up front. Siku made the smallest model of this generation in their ever-popular 1:64 toy range. It represented a three-door, complete with a sunroof outline cast in and an opening tailgate for play value. The only notable detail was painted headlights. Whilst it was only offered in an orangey-red or rarer bright red, both are getting hard to come by now.

In the more familiar 1:43 scale, we have two offerings; one from Minichamps and one from the IXO stable. Minichamps modelled a three-door Fiesta with a sunroof. Some versions have black bumpers; others have body-colour bumpers. Some have a body-coloured grille surround, while others have the slightly odd-looking 'chrome' version from the Ghia. The wheel trims look like Ghia items. Although the Ghia was not available as



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a three-door in the UK, it was, however, available in Minichamps' home market of Germany. There are some nice details too; front fog lights and delightful badging make this a good-looking model. The other 1:43 Mk4 I own is a Whitebox-branded metallic blue five-door. This one does wear the Ghia's chrome grille, despite no trim designation badging. Perhaps not as crisp as the Minichamps, it is still a good model. Also available in various (usually South American) part-work colour schemes.

The 1999 Facelift gave the new Mk5 a sharp 'New Edge' front to bring it in line with the Ka and Focus, although awkwardly keeping the rounded, almost bulbous rear design. I am not aware of any models of this generation in any scale.

From this point, models of Fiesta start to dry up a little. Minichamps produced two versions of the Mk6: a three-door wearing sporty Zetec wheels and a five-door wearing Ghia-style wheels, as well as two colours of the K7 (usually found in Ford-branded packaging). In 1:18, Ottomobile has released three versions



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3. The flagship Mk 2. The XR2 in 1:18 (Ottomobile), 1:43 (Corgi) and 1:64 (Matchbox). Despite only being badged 'Fiesta', the Matchbox is clearly an XR2. **4.** Until the release of Corgi's Mk2 Ghia (right) in June 2026, the IXO tooled Altaya release was the only 1:43 model of a Ghia. **5.** Both these PCX87 1:87 have correct bumpers and wheels to represent base model and Ghia specs. **6.** Minichamps dealer edition of their Mk7 Fiesta came in silver or blue. Once again, they chose to model the three door version. **7.** Minichamps used Zetec alloy wheels on their three door model of the Mk6 Fiesta, giving it a more sporty appearance than the five door, which wore Ghia alloys.

of the 2016 Mk7 Fiesta ST, while DNA Collectables has released a 1:18 2020 Mk8 Fiesta ST in four different colours. Also available in 1:18 are the Mk7 and Mk8 models, produced exclusively for the Chinese market, but they are long out of production and very difficult to find now. I have also deliberately avoided the hundreds of different WRC Fiesta liveries of the last two generations available in various scales;

they could fill another feature all on their own!

The Fiesta ceased production in July 2023; however, that might not be the end of the story. Rumours of a collaboration with Renault, using the platform from the new Renault 5, could yet see the Fiesta return, albeit as a fully electric car. Who knows, maybe we'll see models of this, if it happens. ■

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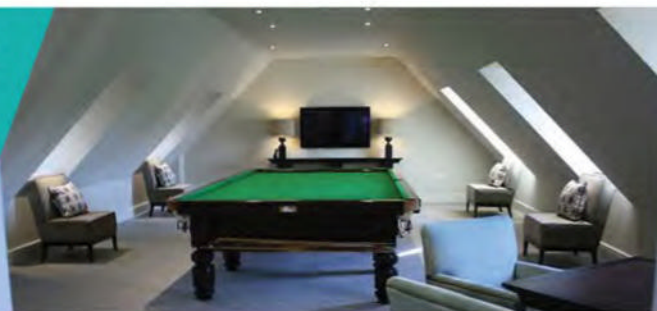
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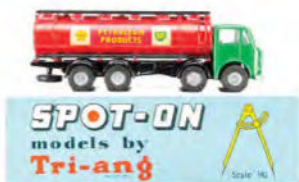
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