

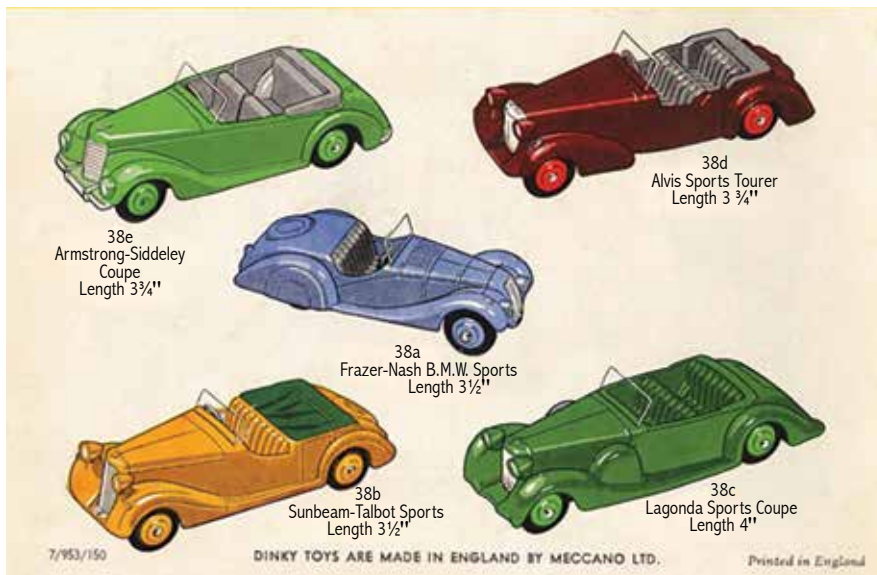
Klassic Korner for Kids

DINKY TOYS

Frank Hornby established Meccano Ltd. in 1908 to make metal construction sets. The company later moved into model railroading with their first O gauge clockwork trains appearing in 1920. By the early 1930s (when our featured Bugattis were made), Meccano had made many types of tin plate and other metal cars, mostly in kit form. Over the next two decades, Dinky Toys production included (but was certainly not limited to) a significant number of Full Classics®.

The Series 30, introduced in 1935, featured the first accurate likenesses of specific vehicles. These included a generic ambulance, a Daimler saloon, a Vauxhall saloon, a Chrysler Airflow saloon, and a Rolls-Royce saloon.

Production of the Series 36 began in 1938 before being halted during the war (the Binns Road Factory was used for war production.) Most of these models were also made after World War II up to 1948. Models in series 36 included a Rover Saloon, a Bentley 2 seat sports coupe, an Armstrong-Siddeley limousine, a British Salmson 4 seater convertible, a British Salmson 2 seat convertible, and a Humber Vogue coupe. Chassis were cast with open holes in them, saving expense and metal. Provisions were made in some models for attachment of metal drivers, but not many appeared before the war, making them more valuable.



The 38 Series was introduced in June 1940 with 3 models - 38a, the Frazer-Nash-BMW Sports Car; 38b, the Sunbeam Talbot Sports Car; and 38d, the Alvis Sports Tourer. The remaining 3 models were introduced right after the war, around 1946-1947, and were : 38c, the Lagonda Sports Coupe; 38e, the Armstrong-Siddeley Coupe; and 38f, the Jaguar Sports Car. This series introduced several important innovations, such as one-piece castings, separate headlamps, tinplate baseplates attached with rivets, plastic windscreens, and different colors for the seats and tonneau covers.

More Classics are found in Dinky's 39 Series of six upscale American Cars - Oldsmobile, Packard, Studebaker, Chrysler, and Lincoln Zepher. The series was introduced in 1939-41, before metal toy production ceased early in WWII, and production of all six models resumed in 1945 and continued until 1950.



Determining The Value Of Dinky Toys And Other Die-Cast Model Cars

Dinky Toys was the brand name for a range of die-cast Mazak zinc alloy miniature vehicles produced by Meccano Ltd. They were made in England from 1934 to 1979, at a factory in Liverpool. If any of these toy cars survived your childhood, you might wonder how much they are worth today. There are three main factors in play when determining value.

Manufacturer: It is true that some brands that are more sought-after than others. Dinky Toys were among the most popular diecast vehicles ever made - predating other popular diecast marques, including Mettoy Playcraft's Corgi Toys, Lesney's Matchbox and Mattel's Hot Wheels. Die-cast cars produced pre-war are, as a general rule, significantly more valuable than the more recently manufactured ones that are often lower-quality replicas.

Availability: The rarer the car, the higher its value. The internet provides a great resource for researching the rarity of a specific model. Price guides, catalogues and online auction results are additional resource to determine if your model is among the most sought after. If you can't find a reference to the specific toy you are searching for, then look for similar products from the same manufacturer, material and year.

Condition: Perhaps the most important factor influencing the value of a die-cast model car is condition. The better the condition, the higher the value, especially with rare and really old cars. If you've kept your Dinky Toys safely tucked inside their boxes and stored them in a dry, dark place, you've then maximized their value. Direct sunlight, temperature fluctuations and humidity can discolour the box, warp the body or damage the car's finish, all affecting condition and therefore value.

Conclusion: Dinky Toys remain the most popular brand among collectors, especially the vintage models. Some of the first Dinky Toys ever made were originally sold in the 1930s for about 30 cents. Depending on rarity and condition, a Dinky Toys model car can be worth anywhere between €5 and €23,000. Most boxed Dinky Toys are available on the market for less than €250, while unboxed Dinky Toys often sell for between €5 and €50 euros. In 2016, a Dinky Toy collection of 3,500 cars sold for €172,000 euros at auction. (At this writing, conversion of € to \$ is approximately \$1.15.)