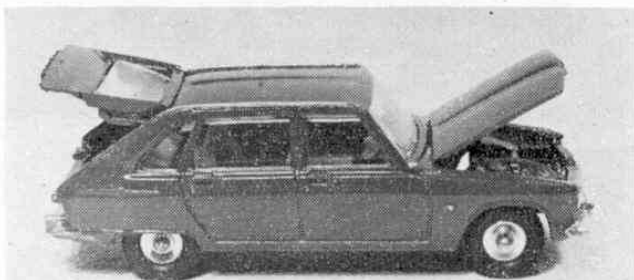


FLASHBACK!

*A glance at the new
DINKY TOYS released since the July issue of Meccano Magazine*



WHEN PUBLICATION of the old *Meccano Magazine* ended some six months ago, Meccano Limited did not stop making Dinky Toys in sympathy—most definitely not! In fact, since my last M.M. article and up to the time of writing this one (mid October), no less than 11 new Dinkies have appeared on the market, and that's 11 new models that a lot of my regular readers have not heard about. I therefore propose to devote my pages in our first new issue to a quick look at these models, space preventing me from going into greater detail.

First off the line was No. 107 "Stripey—the Magic Mini." Aimed at really young collectors, this model is based on the striped mini car owned by Mr. and Mrs. Bearanda, Candy and Andy in the popular children's comic, "Candy." It consists of the standard Dinky Mini Minor, finished in brilliant red, white, blue and yellow stripes, and comes complete with four little figures, unmistakably recognisable (to Candy readers) as Candy, Andy, Mrs. Bearanda and, of course, Mr. Bearanda. The Mini, itself, is fitted with opening bonnet and doors, tilting front seats, jewelled headlamps, windows, full interior fittings and correct "Candy 1" number plates.

I have no doubt that, when "Stripey" first appeared, it upset a few purist collectors, but Meccano's sales figures prove that it was welcomed by the age group it was meant for, which is the important thing.

Moving on to model number two, we have the Renault R16, Sales No. 166. In addition to the more usual Dinky characteristics of Prestomatic steering, suspension, opening bonnet and tailgate, windows, engine detail and full interior fittings, this model incorporates a feature that I have never before seen, in a small die-cast toy—a sliding rear seat, coupled to a folding parcels shelf. Depending on the position of the control button in the base, this feature can give more leg room or more parcel space or even more general boot space. Finish is in an attractive blue gloss, with red interior and silver stripes down the edge of the roof and back. All in all, a very nice model, is my verdict.

Next we have a Dinky Toy that, in my opinion, is absolutely packed with play value—No. 287 Police Accident Unit. Based on a modified Ford Transit Van, already in the range, it comes complete with four orange and white warning cones and two folding notice boards, "Police Slow" and "Police Accident." Under normal conditions these notice boards are carried in racks inside the van which is in itself finished in a glaring white and orange colour scheme. The words "Police Accident Unit" in large lettering, are

Left, top to bottom: The Renault R16 has a sliding rear seat coupled to a folding parcel shelf, as well as all the other Dinky features. The Ford Cortina has such a close-fitting bonnet that a release button is fitted to the base! The Police Accident Unit based on the Ford Transit, comes complete with warning signs that are removable; they even fold up! For those who ogle at the new Ford Zodiac Mk IV styling, the Zodiac Police Car with highly detailed engine and four opening doors is a must; note the wheel detail. With the Police Accident Unit and Police Mini Cooper, you, too, can have a Police Force.

by Chris Jelley

carried on the sides, while mounted on the roof is a radio aerial and "Police" sign, topped by a simulated blue light, plus an imitation spotlight on an extending mounting. The van proper is fitted with opening doors, seats, windscreen, suspension, jewelled headlamps, number plates and police driver.

Released more recently were No. 169 Ford Corsair 2000E and No. 250 Police Mini Cooper, both being modified versions of existing toys. The Mini is finished in white with "Police" signs and a radio aerial, while the Corsair has been given a black "dimpled" roof to represent the Vinyl roof of the real car. Both models make handsome additions to any collection, as also does the Dino Ferrari, No. 216. This model, besides superbly reproducing all the lines of the original, has full interior fittings plus opening doors and lifting engine cowl at the rear covering a detailed engine. The twin headlamps are encased in a full-width perspex cowl forming the entire nose of the car. Finish is in a vivid red with pale blue interior, white base, gold wheels and silver-edged engine cowl.

Released with the Ferrari was No. 615 U.S. Jeep with 105 mm. Howitzer. This set is unique to Dinky Toys, being produced to the extra large scale of 1/32nd—a scale that has enabled Meccano to make the gun a *working* model as well as giving the Jeep special features such as removable jerry-can, radio aerial, and driver as well as the driver's helmet. The gun is spring-loaded and fires a plastic shell, six of which are packed with the set.

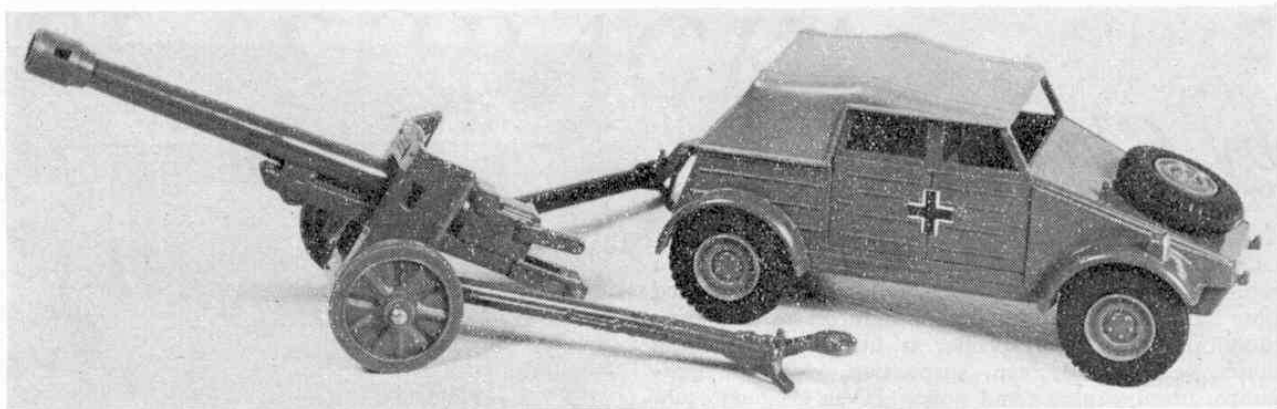
Another model to appear recently was No. 159 Ford Cortina De Luxe. Based on the latest version of Ford's highly successful family saloon, it is fitted with *all* Dinky action features including opening doors, bonnet and boot, tipping front seats, Prestomatic steering and 4-wheel suspension, plus windows and seats, etc. The bonnet fits so snugly that it is opened by pressing a small button in the base!

The car released with the Cortina—No. 160 Mercedes-Benz 250 SE—made die-cast modelling history by being the first model to be fitted with working stop-lights! Powered by a 1½ volt battery, the stop lights flash on when the rear of the model is pressed down. Other Dinky features, of course, are also present, while the casting itself is first class. Finish is in a metallic blue gloss with white interior and silver base.

(Continued on next page)

Right, top to bottom. Stripey the Magic Mini, really eye-catching with multi-coloured stripes, complete with Mr. and Mrs. Bearanda, Candy and Andy as in the "Candy" comic. The Corsair 2000E has all the usual Dinky working features and a black imitation Vinyl-finished roof, just like the real thing. A first for Dinky was the introduction of the Mercedes Benz 250 S.E. complete with "battery operated stop-lights," that come on when the rear of the car is depressed. One of the prettiest die-cast models for a long while is the Dino Ferrari, with super detailed engine and wheels, plus opening doors and engine cowl, in Ferrari red, of course!





For Wargamers, and those who like models that do something, the shell-firing Volkswagen KDF with a 50 mm. P.A.K. anti-tank gun is a must. This is to 1/32 scale to match the U.S. Jeep and Howitzer



Finally, we come to the two most recent new Dinky Toys, No. 255 Ford Zodiac Police Car and No. 617 Volkswagen KDF with 50 mm. P.A.K. Anti-tank Gun, the last a bit of a mouthful! The police car makes an excellent companion for the Accident Unit and Mini Cooper, mentioned above, being finished in white with the usual insignia and "Police" signs. Like the Cortina, it is packed with all Dinky action features and actually qualifies as the most complicated Dinky in existence—it's built up from as many as 50 individual components! The military set is produced to match the U.S. Jeep and Howitzer. Like the American weapon, the P.A.K. is produced to 1/32nd scale and fires little shells. If you own both sets, you can have some marvellous battles!

Yet another Police car, this time a white Mini Cooper complete with "Police" signs, radio aerial, opening doors, bonnet and detailed engine. Note the rear view mirror and windscreen wipers.

This U.S. Jeep, with a 105 mm. Howitzer that fires shells, has such extras as removable jerry-can, radio aerial, driver and even the driver's helmet; six shells are packed with the set.

