

THE EXCLUSIVE GERRY ANDERSON COLLECTION BLOG 2

REVISITING DINKY 100

Continuing the discussion regarding Gerry Anderson related Dinky Toys, I wish to discuss a particular first issue Dinky, number 100, Lady Penelope's FAB 1. Sure, the first issue has the distinctive pink stripes on the canopy. Additionally, first issues have concentric circle wheels with raised central point detailed hubs. The model is all housed in a beautiful rectangular box. Yet, around the same time of issue, perhaps a little later, the same model was released, with the only difference being the 'star shaped' wheel hubs. The version for auction at QDT,



and pictured left, is such an example, with rocket and four red harpoons still sealed in a bag, stapled to the colourful card plinth. Note too, this example has the rare French instructions leaflet, for models exported to nearby France. FAB 1 has always been a favourite piece with many Anderson collectors, since the actual shape of the car closely resembles the original used in the series. Time after time, other manufacturers such as Corgi, Vivid

Imaginations and even Product Enterprise, have tried to recapture the wonderful lines and shape designed by the late genius designer, Derek Meddings.

Chris Jelly, in his article '*The Fabulous One*,' from page 14 of *Meccano Magazine* February 1967, writes:

It is, in my opinion, by far the best and most amazing toy ever to have appeared in the Dinky range or, for that matter, in any comparable range. It is, however, primarily a toy.....but it is a toy only because its prototype does not exist in real life. In all other respects, it's a top-quality, solidly-built model and is certainly an exact replica of the T.V. original. In fact, its made by Dinky for Century 21 Toys Ltd, the 'owners' of the original.

The length of this heavy model is 14.7 centimetres. Spare rockets could also be purchased from dealers back in the day, (Dinky # 756), at a cost of just 6d. Bumpers were either a bland chrome metal or painted silver.



DINKY 106 THUNDERBIRD 2

Thunderbird 2 is also a must have Gerry Anderson model from the hit 1965 series *Thunderbirds*. Dinky 106 replaced the earlier Dinky 101 Thunderbird 2, for the aforementioned model had quite flimsy spring-loaded legs. The original 101 model is highly sought-after by die-hard fans of the cult show, issued first in light and dark green colours. As with many first issue Dinky models of Anderson's futuristic vehicles, Dinky 101 was sold in a rectangular box, complete with internal display plinth.

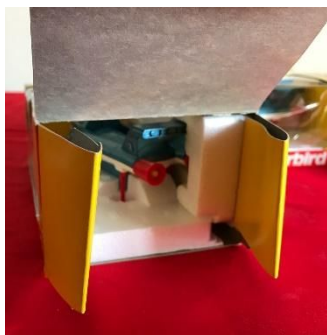
Chris Jelly, in July 1967's *Meccano Magazine*, writes on page 15:

Thunderbird 2 is little more than a giant motorised chassis like a space ship with an enormous hole punched in the middle. This 'hole' is designed to accommodate a huge, removable pod or container in which all necessary equipment is carried.....Dinky Toys Thunderbird 2, marketed under Sales No. 101, is made under licence for Century 21 Toys Ltd., who hold the rights on 'Thunderbirds', and it certainly captures all the 'action' of the original.

Although the original Dinky 101 was a huge success, its extended supportive legs were prone to breaking when a child pushed down on the pod. Thus, Dinky redesigned the model in 1974, with an increase in the model's length from 14.3 centimetres to 15.3 centimetres. However, this time Thunderbird 2 was issued in a pale blue colour, with either red or yellow legs. This later blue model is Dinky 106, having much thicker and sturdier spring-loaded legs. Packaged initially on a plinth, with clear plastic 'bubble' cover, Thunderbird 2 remained in production until the close of the Binns Road factory. As time passed, and competition from the overseas American market increased, Dinky looked for new non-expensive ways to manufacture their loved toys. Hence, around 1977, Dinky replaced the lower metal half of the fuselage with plastic, coloured either black or white. These final issues would be presented either on plinths, or mainly in window-style boxes.



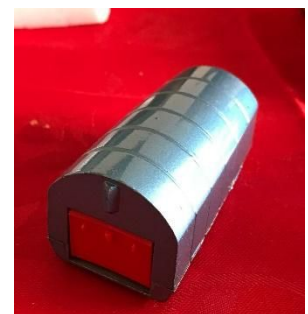
Interestingly, those Thunderbird 2 models with a white underside had slightly



packaging from the black



Take a closer look at the opened ends of these two examples on the left and note the



different internal underside models.

slight difference in internal packaging. These later, plastic component models, would also sometimes feature red coloured doors for the pod. Note also, later Thunderbird 2 models sometimes were sold without all of the '2', 'T2' or 'Thunderbird 2' insignia decals. Almost all Thunderbird 2 toys, with white undersides, were sold without labels on the underside of the craft.



DINKY 359 EAGLE TRANSPORTER

The Eagle Transporter was the futuristic spaceship showcased in practically every episode of the 1975-1977 television series, *Space: 1999*. This expensive production starred American actors Martin Landau and Barbara Bain and told the story of the 311 survivors stranded on Moon Base Alpha. Earth's waste management in the future, (1999), demanded constant dumping of nuclear waste on the far side of the moon. However, due to a chain reaction caused by a build-up of unprecedented heat from magnetic radiation, the moon was blasted out of Earth's orbit. The Eagles, once used to ferry passengers between Earth and the moon, would now be used as reconnaissance, transportation, defence and cargo vessels, as the Alphans discovered new worlds and adventures each week.

Dinky 359 was released in 1975, coinciding with the worldwide telecast of the futuristic new show. Dinky were always keen to be first off the mark to capitalise on Gerry Anderson's expensive shows. Companies like Airfix also released a plastic model kit at around the same

time. However, it is the green Eagle Dinky collectors worldwide most fondly remember. This model is an impressive 22.2 centimetres long and packaged on a plinth with removable clear plastic bubble. The first issues also had chrome plated rear exhaust nozzles and chrome underside nozzles. The transportation module can be removed by pushing a button within the white plastic framework. The red passenger door can be opened, revealing a staircase. The Eagle features suspension too, and I fondly remember this craft in the playgrounds at schools in the Seventies.



Later, Eagle Transporters were manufactured with plain plastic red exhausts, without chrome plating (pictured right). Sometimes, the transportation modules would feature clear side windows. Decals were provided, which could be applied to convert the model into a 'Rescue Eagle' or 'Medical Eagle'. Thus, the pod could be decorated with the distinctive red stripes,



representative of the version featured in the episode *Earthbound* or *Collision Course*. Next, the model would be sold packaged in a window-style box, with a 'moonscape' plinth made of polystyrene. (pictured left). The model was fastened to the base in transit with a

long rubber band. Collectors with these original rubber bands are advised not to attempt to use these again, as they have deteriorated considerably after 40 years! Finally, the Eagle was released in a window box with just a plain yellow card plinth. Note that these final version window boxes are not as wide as the 'moonscape' plinth style window boxes. The 'moonscape' plinth window boxes only had one punch hole,



whereas the final, narrower box, had two punch holes for hanging and displaying it in shops.

DINKY 360 EAGLE FREIGHTER

The Dinky Eagle Freighter was inspired by the episode *Breakaway*, in which Eagles would be converted to freighters by swapping the transportation module for a cargo module. These cargo modules could either carry winch mechanisms, for carrying nuclear waste canisters, or be used as a cargo tray for the transportation of nuclear waste. Dinky first released this impressive toy in white - for once resembling the original colour of the craft featured in the show! As with the Transporter, highly sought-after first issues have chrome-plated rear exhaust nozzles and red or yellow side thrusters on the shoulder legs. Later issues just had plain red plastic nozzles (pictured right). White Freighters were also packaged in window boxes with 'moonscape' plinths. Blue coloured Freighters were issued on plinths with clear bubble tops, window boxes with 'moonscape' plinths, and window boxes with yellow card plinths.





DINKY 102 JOE's CAR

Joe's Car featured in the 1968 Gerry Anderson production, *Joe 90*. This delightful toy was only issued between 1969 and 1976. Packaged in either a first issue box with plinth, or plinth with bubble top, the model featured retractable wings and suspension. However, it also could house a AAA size battery to power a flashing



light bulb.





The above stunning model is up for sale or auction soon at QDT!



DINKY 353 SHADO 2 MOBILE

See first blog, but up for sale, or auction very soon, is this stunning first issue Shado 2 Mobile. This model features the highly sought after 'smooth' roof with red interior. Instructions, internal packing and two rockets included! Check out also the other two Mobiles for sale soon, with yellow and white interiors, all pictured below:



**FOR
SALE**



The Dinky 351 UFO Interceptor. See first blog for more details



Stay tuned for more details from the Official Gerry Anderson Collection