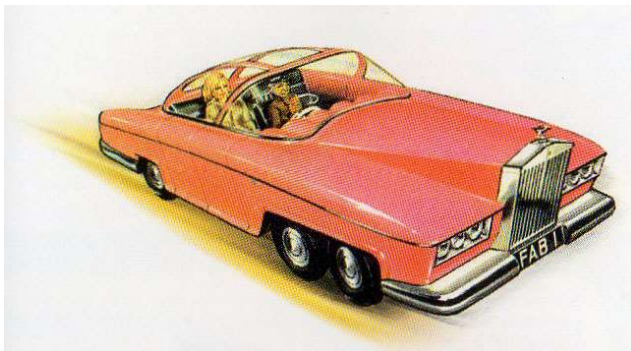
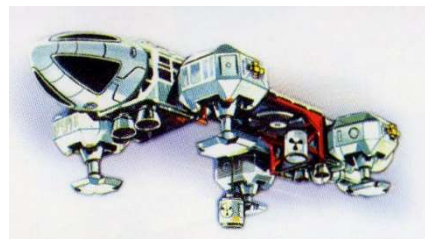


THE EXCLUSIVELY GERRY ANDERSON COLLECTION

The Desire To Collect Television Dinky Toys

The beginning of any diecast model begins with love and adoration of a particular design, shape and feel of an item. However, the appeal of owning a model becomes far greater when that particular model is from your favourite television show! Indeed, this is how I fell in love with Dinky's 'Gerry Anderson' range of toys.

Indeed, seventeen models, from the world of Gerry Anderson, were produced at Binns Road around the mid-sixties to late seventies. (Sixteen models if one considers 'Stripey The Magic Mini,' from the magazine *'Candy'*, as not a televised Anderson production. Additionally, one could also argue only fifteen models were produced, if counting Dinky 101 and 106 as the same Thunderbird 2 model.) Thus, many collectors around the age of forty to sixty have fond memories of these toys and how detailed and fun they were to play with in the school yard! Sadly, at the time, no one really predicted the demise of Dinky, especially since they were so popular. As a child around the age of five to ten years, I knew nothing about the difficult economics in producing a toy, or competing markets such as American



produced Hot Wheels, that ultimately brought the company to its closure in November 1979.

The pleasurable desire to own a long-lost collectable toy from the past is akin to a day-dream desire. This deception is in reality an attempt to recapture a person's youth. Hillis, Petit & Epley (2006. P. 40) state pleasure comes from the possibility 'that both memories and objects are enduring.' Furthermore, Brown (Hills, 2002, p. 39) considers longevity:

to be all-important.....long established brands are extremely precious commodities. It would appear that in an increasingly uncertain.....fast-changing world, they provide consumers with a point, an oasis of marketing stability. They are embedded with an evocative patina of the past.....and many products, whose life cycles have long since run their course, have been successfully raised from the dead.....not least, the tie-in products from re-runs of old television series such as Thunderbirds, Stingray, Batman, Captain Scarlet and Joe 90.

How My Collection Began

Gerry Anderson related Dinky Toys were incredibly vital to Dinky's survival in the company's final years. Five models were still in production in the company's final year, including every boy's favourite, Dinky # 106 Thunderbird 2.



My Dinky journey began in 1975 in a school play yard! I remember vividly seeing boys, (of course they were boys), playing with an Eagle Transporter, Dinky # 359. I



had no idea what this toy was called, nor was I aware it was related to any television show. Indeed, this was because my favourite television show at the time was *Thunderbirds*. However, this toy was fantastic because.....just because it looked great! Brian Johnson, the designer of the vehicle, obviously caught the

imagination of both adults and children in the hit series *Space: 1999*. I just thought at the time it looked wonderful! Even today, the design is incredibly popular on various websites, model builders and collectors.

The shape and look of the Eagle remained in my mind that year. However, it was not until my late father took the family on a road trip to Canberra that I saw an Eagle Transporter on display for the first time in a department store. David Jones had the item on display in a long, rectangular glass cabinet, as these were expensive toys at the time! . John, my brother, told me it was just called a 'Dinky Toy'. So, I made it my mission



to ask Father Christmas that year for a Dinky Toy. As a child of just five years, I was thinking there was only one Dinky Toy- the Eagle. I was oblivious to the vast catalogue of Gerry Anderson shows, besides *Thunderbirds*, or other Dinky Anderson related models. Furthermore, I was obsessed by *Thunderbirds* in 1975 and asked for both a Thunderbird 2 and Lady Penelope's FAB 1 (Dinky # 100) for Christmas. I just called it a 'Lady Penelope's Car', because the detail of 'FAB 1' was unimportant at five years of age!



Christmas day came and I was so excited to receive a blue Thunderbird 2! I could not care less if it was not green as it appeared in the show. It was shiny blue with fold out spring-loaded yellow legs and removable 'pod,' containing a small Thunderbird 4. However, it was at that moment I also discovered Thunderbird 2 was in fact a Dinky Toy and that there must be more such Dinky Toys in existence besides the Eagle. Yet, it was not until the following year I saw my first episode of *Space: 1999* on television and discovered the Dinky I originally wanted was called an



Eagle Transporter. I remember clearly how I felt seeing one of my favourite toys on television for the first time. Of course, my father bought me one now I knew what it was called. However, once again I was surprised to discover there were in fact two variants of the Eagle model. Dad brought me home

a blue Eagle Freighter, Dinky # 360 (as pictured). The Eagle Freighter confused me somewhat at the time, because it mainly appeared only in the first episode, *Breakaway*. This pilot episode was never shown on ADS 7 in Australia to my knowledge, but if it was it must only have been televised once



for some reason. Dad finally bought me a Transporter, Dinky # 359, the following year, identical to the one pictured above.

As for Dinky # 100 FAB 1, I never acquired one as a child and it was not until the advent



of the internet I acquired one. Dinky # 100 is a beautiful model, being issued in various colours, mainly 'Penelope Pink.' Fluorescent versions were also available in limited numbers, as well as a very rare white version and even more scarce red and grey versions. As with all Gerry Anderson Dinkys, there are numerous versions of each model, having different colours and made with different materials. Packaging went from display boxes with internal plinths, to bubble - top plinths, to window boxed models. However, they are all well made and packed with exciting 'play-value' features. The collection of Dinkys took me many years



to accumulate and I have met some very interesting and friendly people sharing the same love of anything related to Gerry Anderson productions.



STAR TREK

Dinky also produced two models from *Star Trek*, the USS Enterprise, (Dinky # 358), and Klingon Battle Cruiser (Dinky # 357). These two models have significance for

me, albeit I am mainly a Gerry Anderson collector. Again, my late father bought me a boxed USS Enterprise around 1978. Indeed, it was a first issue, release in an all-card box. This stunning model, for once, was accurate to the Starship appearing in classic *Star Trek* and fired a round yellow, circular, 'photon' torpedo. The USS Enterprise also came with a small removable shuttlecraft, which could be stowed



away in the Engineering Hull. The doors of the shuttle hangar doubled as a landing support. I also had the blue Klingon Battle Cruiser, also firing a white photon, but seemed to be one of those toys that had little play value. Later editions of both the USS Enterprise and Klingon Cruiser were issued in a window-

style display box. Later editions of the Enterprise had white torpedoes. Both sets came with transfers applied with water. A gift set was issued, (Dinky # 309), containing both vehicles. These toys will soon be listed at Quality Diecast Toys!



THE DINKY GERRY ANDERSON RANGE

DINKY 100

Lady Penelope's FAB 1

Mentioned above, this was the first Anderson related Dinky with a firing rocket, stowed behind the radiator. The front suspension, when pressed, released the spring-loaded firing mechanism, propelling the projectile. Rear 'harpoons' were released and fired by depressing the rear suspension. The clear canopy could be slid back, revealing figures of Parker and



Penelope. FAB 1 was first sold in an all-card box with plinth. Later, it was issued in a bubble-top with plinth and some sold in a flimsy 'high-top' bubble pack. Pictured



opposite is an early first issue. Note the pink stripes on the canopy. Models shipped to France were issued with French instruction sheets. Rockets and harpoons were stapled to the plinth in a clear plastic bag. FAB 1 was released

with four different wheel types! Additionally, some models had black interiors. Bumpers were either chrome plated or silver painted. FAB 1 pictured below is in a bubble-top style plinth with no pink canopy lines. What makes this version interesting is the writing: "The original FAB 1 can be seen at Heathfield Wildlife Park East Sussex" on the plinth. Note also this FAB 1 is missing the 'FAB 1' sticker below



the grill. Sometimes, this would either deliberately be left off the front or rear bumper. Harpoons and rockets are fastened to the plinth in a clear bag attached by clear tape. Issued 1966.

DINKY 101 THUNDERBIRD 2



See future blogs for more details.

DINKY 106 THUNDERBIRD 2



See future
blogs for
more details.

DINKY 102 JOE'S CAR



See future blog for more
details.

DINKY 103 SPECTRUM PATROL CAR

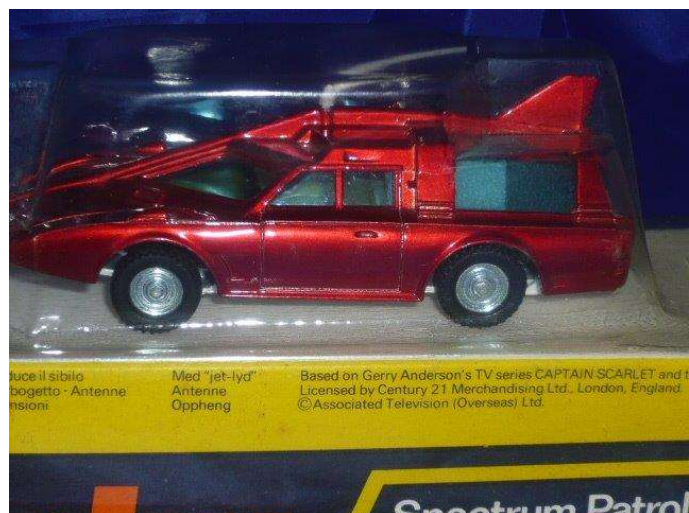


This colourful car was featured in *Captain Scarlet and the Mysterons*, (1967). This toy was released in a deep red, similar to the vehicle in the serial. Having limited play



value, it came with a device that made an 'engine noise' when pushed along a carpet. The aerial was removable. The first issue boxes had two packing pieces, one to protect the nose of the vehicle denting the outer box, and

the other, a card ring, to protect the aerial. Other variants included a bronze coloured car and even a rare blue colour was manufactured. The SPC, as it is sometimes called, was packaged later on bubble plinths and even in 'high-top' bubble packs.



First issue boxes also included a small instruction sheet.

The Dinky SPC will soon be on sale at Quality Diecast Toys!



DINKY 104 SPECTRUM PURSUIT VEHICLE



See future blogs for more details.

DINKY 105 MAXIMUM SECURITY VEHICLE See future blogs

DINKY 108 SAM's CAR

Sam's car is a sporty model, originally available in red. Other issues included a shiny chrome variant. A rare blue version and even a scarcer orange coloured version is known to exist. Featured in *Joe 90*, (1968), and celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year, this model is a fan favourite. Sam's Car originally came complete with an instruction sheet and a 'World Intelligence' badge, often missing nowadays. The toy has a 'keyless clockwork motor' drive mechanism, as with the latter Ed Straker's Car, (Dinky # 352). Issued in 1969 and withdrawn in 1974, the car is propelled by dragging it back along the carpet and then releasing. Sam's Car will soon be on sale at Quality Diecast Toys!



DINKY 109 GABRIEL MODEL T FORD

DINKY 351 UFO INTERCEPTOR

Straight from Gerry Anderson's first live action television series, *UFO*, this was just one of three models Dinky released from this show. Originally issued in an all-card box with display plinth, the Interceptor boasted a formidable cap-fired rocket! Earliest versions had either red or orange skis. Later, bubble-plinth style and finally window

boxed versions became available. Issued in 1971, cockpits had either clear or blue coloured windows. Final issues, in the window box, failed to have a gold painted rear thruster. Additionally, final versions lacked chrome plating on the forward guns and smaller rear thrusters. The Interceptor, coloured only green to my knowledge, was originally shipped with a white cap fired rocket with orange tip. Yellow and black-tipped and white and black-tipped missiles were later issued.

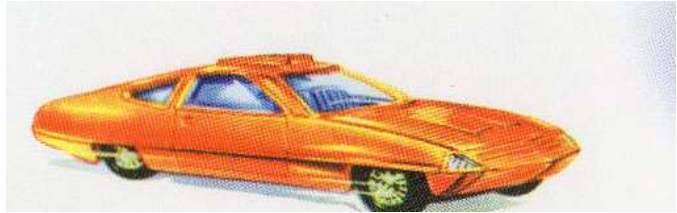


The Interceptor will soon be going on auction at QDT!



DINKY 352 ED STRAKER's CAR

Issued in 1971 and withdrawn 1975, this little car from *UFO* originally was released in an all-card box, complete with instruction sheet. Featuring a keyless clockwork motor and 124 millimetres in length, Ed's Car was released mainly in yellow or gold. However, other weird colours are rumoured to exist.



Final issues were sold on the bubble-style plinths. Both cars will be on sale/auction soon at Quality Diecast Toys.



DINKY 353 SHADO 2 MOBILE

The Mobile, the third and final *UFO* – related vehicle, is one of those models having

numerous variants and its just not possible to list all of the variants in this blog. However, it is well known it was mainly manufactured in green, with some scarce final versions available in blue. Issued in 1971, the first issue Mobile has a red interior with a 'smooth' flipping roof. The reverse side of the roof is flipped by rotating the chrome



radar dish on the top rear of the vehicle. A spring fired rocket is mounted on the reverse side of the roof. Later models would appear in bubble-plinth style packaging and was finally presented in window boxes. Dinky SHADO 2 Mobiles will soon be on auction/sale at QDT!



DINKY 359 EAGLE TRANSPORTER



Much more about this model in future blogs.

DINKY 360 EAGLE FREIGHTER



More about these in future blogs.



**DINKY 602 ARMoured
COMMAND CAR** More about
this model from 'The
Investigator' soon

DINKY 674 COASTGUARD AMPHIBIOUS MISSILE LAUNCH More about this second model from *'The Investigator'* soon.



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