

Issue 268

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Austin Maestro - Targa Red

New 1:76 scale tooling brings the Austin Maestro into the Oxford range, a car which in real life superseded the Austin Maxi and Austin Allegro, both of which also star as Oxford miniatures.

Introduced in 1983, the Maestro comprised a small family 5-door hatchback vehicle manufactured by British Leyland at their Morris Cowley works. It had a 5-speed manual gearbox and a basic 1.3L engine rising to 1.6L on later models. It incorporated many innovative features for its time. It had a bonded laminated windscreen, homofocal headlights, body-coloured plastic bumpers, an electronic engine management system, adjustable front seat belt anchorage positions, an asymmetrically split rear seat and a 12.000 mile service interval. When it was launched in 1983, the critics hailed it as roomy, comfortable and good to drive. Just over 600,000 cars were sold and it was

sixth in the best selling category in 1983 and 1984. Our Oxford model is registered A673 ING from 1983, the first year of production. Its authentic colour scheme of bright red is offset with black exterior trim, silver headlights and silver/black radiator grille. Note particularly the body-coloured bumpers. The interior features ivory seating and a black steering wheel. The Austin badge with blue flash is embedded into the radiator grille whilst to the rear, the Austin badge appears with green and blue graphics with the Maestro name printed in silver on the offside.

The basic version of the Maestro was not long-lived with the MG and Vanden Plas upgrades proving more popular in both performance and appeal. However, the Maestro paved the way and as well as morphing into the MG Maestro, it was also available as a 2-door van.









We're delighted to welcome the brand new single deck coach in the shape of the newly tooled 1:76 scale Alexander M-Type. The M-Type was a motorway coach built for the Scottish Bus Group Anglo-Scottish services and here at Oxford we launch the fleet with an example of the coach travelling from Scotland to London as the No. 5. Registered MSP 750P from 1975/76, it is decorated in the bright blue and silver Scottish livery incorporating a stylised Saltire flag printed along the sides, white wheels with blue centres, clear roof skylights set into the bright blue roof and masses of silver trim. The coach interior is also very colourful. Whilst the dashboard, steering wheel and driver's seat are black,

further back the passenger seating is red. Note too, another tooling detail on our Alexander M-Type. These coaches were on different chassis - this one is a Seddon Pennine 7 with Alexander M Type C42 Ft coachwork. Other coaches appeared on either Volvo or Leyland chassis.

The Alexander history goes right back to 1913 when Walter Alexander founded Alexander's Motor Services. Walter Alexander remained a private family run firm until 1987 when it became a public listed company. Following years saw the business change hands several times but the name is still at the forefront of the industry today under the auspices of Alexander Dennis.



Another iconic VW classic car from the 1960s joins the 1:76 series of Oxford Automobiles in the shape of the very pretty Karmann Ghia with its elegant sloping styling. In real life, the car made its debut in 1953 with a launch in both Frankfurt and Paris. The Karmann Ghia was in production from 1955 until 1974 when over 445,000 were built. During all that time, it remained virtually unchanged in design. The Karmann Ghia was available as either a 2-door 2+2 convertible or 2-door coupé.

For its first Oxford outing, we welcome it as a 2-door coupé from 1964, registered DJH 333B. The colour scheme comprises a bright red body with pearl white masked roof and interior oyster white seating and cream steering wheel. The Volkswagen name and Karmann Ghia 'signature' feature in silver across the rear of the car and the silver finish is carried through to the wheels and all other external trim. Engine size ranged from a 1200 cc to top of the rage 1600 cc flat-4.



Our Oxford model is a nostalgic tribute to Edward Beck Ltd, decorated in the company's familiar primrose yellow bodywork. Contrasting trim includes black mudguards, chassis, white bumpers and black interior. The Diamond T is registered PML 804. A roof board over the cab carries the name in red of Edward Beck & Son Ltd. Additional lettering along the sides of the trailer and on the cab

operating on rugged terrain and carrying heavy loads.

civilian life where it was most suitable for

doors highlights all the contact details in Greg Street, Reddish and their London Terminus. A spare wheel sits in the front of the trailer decorated with the same red centre as those on the vehicle.

While Edward Beck & Son Ltd has disappeared into the annals of heavy haulage history, the name lives on in this authentic Oxford replica.



width cab resiliently mounted with easy access steps on both sides. It had a lined interior and flat two-piece reverse sloping windscreen, counter-balanced drop door windows, rear view quarter and central windows and adjustable driver's seat. Cab equipment included twin windscreen wipers, two large rear view mirrors, an efficient heater/demister unit and a tool box.

Our AEC 690 ticks all the boxes when it comes to miniature 1:76 scale physical features. Registered TSN 522M from 1973, the cab is painted yellow with black roof, black interior, white bumpers and yellow nudge bar, wheels and mudguards. The tipper section is also yellow, including the wheels, with black masking to the mixer.

Austin Healey Frogeye Sprite -Iris Blue/Old English White

The second release on this classic sports car roars into the 1:76 scale series in one of the most recognisable colour schemes of the era pale blue and white, registered 2416 VF.

The interior under the masked white roof is moulded in steel blue whilst the exterior trim is finished in silver, apart from the red Sprite logo printed diagonally across the boot.

The Frogeye Sprite was introduced in May 1958 and got its name because of the position of its fixed upward looking headlights. It was designed by Donald Healey as a low-cost compact sports car and classed as a 2-door roadster. Production took place in the Abingdon MG factory near Oxford.

Our Oxford model is based on the Mark I version of the



Sprite, which sported a 43 bhp, 948cc overhead valve engine. The Frogeye Sprite had a top speed of just over 82 mph with fuel consumption around 43 mpg. You could buy a Frogeye Sprite for £669 and just under 49,000 were manufactured before the Mark II emerged in 1961.

Audi TT Coupé - Floret Silver

Oxford's third release of the 1:76 scale Audi TT Coupé appears in another 'signature' colour scheme - silver, following the white and then black versions of this highly popular marque. Registered RG66 EWX from the second half of 2016, our model features a black interior.

Launched in 1998, our version is based on the third generation 2-door TT Coupé TFSI model which Audi introduced in 2014. The TT also featured front wheel drive and front engine, dual clutch and a 6-speed direct shift gearbox and an option of a TDI engine. In miniature, we have captured the TT's sleek lines, its distinctive sloping back, wide front grille finished in black which housed the registration plate and authentic finely detailed wheels. Additional external silver trim includes

76TT003 1:76 £7.95 the Audi lettering and rings logo, as well as the TFSI engine designation across the boot.

Audi TT Coupé - Floret Silver

So appealing is the Audi TT Coupé that it is still in production, a great compliment to its original designer Dany Garand!

New Defender 110X - Fuji White

Only the third release on Oxford's New Defender 110X, the sparkling white colour scheme follows on from the metallic stone colour of the launch model and the steely grey of the second in the series. In real life the new Defenders were unveiled at the Frankfurt Motor Show in 2019.

The 5-door Defender II0 features a long wheelbase and the suffix denotes the level of trim with S as standard and X as top of the range, where you'd find leather heated front seats, rough cut walnut veneered dashboard, heated rear seats, a sound system with I4 speakers and 4-way manual headrests.

Registered OY20 YGH, the Defender has a masked black roof, predominantly black exterior trim with dark grey



wheels. The front grille and the lower rear panel are painted silver Capable of 0-60 in 6.0 seconds and a top speed of 129 mph, with a price tag of £45,000 upwards for our 2020 registration, this car certainly has attitude!

76ND110X003

1:76



The Riley Elf Mk I was launched in 1961 as an alternative to the Mini, which had been on the British motoring scene since 1959. Classed as a small car, it came with front wheel drive and a 4-cylinder in-line, 850 cc engine and a top speed of 70 mph. It was upgraded in 1963 to the Mk.II, when the engine size was increased to 988 cc and a top speed of 75 mph. Our Oxford model, a replica of the Mk.III Elf, was the same mechanically as the Mk I and II but came with some refinements with inside door hinges (as did the Mk II) and an improved suspension.

Persian Blue/Snowberry White

Renault 4 - Red
76RN002 1:76 £7.45

Renault 4 - Red
76RN002 1:76 £7.45

Renault 4 - Red

The 1:76 scale Oxford Automobiles range continues the French connection with the second outing of the 1960s Renault 4. After the beige launch model, this iconic little motor appears in bright red with lots of silver trim, black and silver bumpers and a dark grey interior. It has a British registration plate XBF 433J from 1970. Looks are deceptive and the Renault 4 was quite versatile; as well as the four door small and economical family saloon

modelled here, it came in various formats including a 2-door pickup, 2-dor van or a 5-door estate car with opening hatchback feature. There was an option of either a 3-speed or 4-speed gearbox with a top speed of 65 mph. Adding to its cult status, it had an incredible lifespan, being manufactured well into the 1990s with an equally impressive 8 million rolling off the production line. What's more, they seem to go on forever. Even today, you can pick one up for as little as £5500. We love it!

Elf Mk III which was launched in 1966. Following on from the pale ivory launch model, this one gives a great colour

pop in mid blue with white masked roof. The interior and

the seating of our car are both grey with black interior

trim to dashboard and steering wheel and the vehicle is

registered FHC 572G from 1968. The exterior trim is

finished in silver - in an appealing contrast to the blue

Riley badge on the edge of the bonnet and the Elf

'signature' across the boot.

body colour. Finishing touches see the diamond shaped



Mini Van - West Mercia Police (Panda)

HWP 355K

The Mini Van was a really useful vehicle in its day and highly popular following its launch in the 1960s. With a 1/4 ton load capacity, it had been built on the longer Mini Traveller chassis and came without rear side windows. Providing a cheap alternative to a car, its load capacity made it a favourite for private owners in need of a 'bigger boot' and being classed as a small commercial vehicle, it carried no sales tax which was another attraction. Compromises to the van versus car also included a simplified steel grille which kept the costs down.

Our latest 1:76 scale Mini Van appears in the guise of a pale blue and white 'Panda' Police Car with the addition of a Police roof bar topped with a blue beacon. Our model features a white roof and white doors which have the black printed Police graphics on both sides. The rear double doors each have a small window too, while to the front, the Austin badge sits proudly on the edge of the bonnet. Registered HWP 355K, our model dates from 1971 and represents a marque that lasted many years after that with a couple of upgrades but with well over half a million coming off the production line.



OXFORD 1:43 SCALE

TX4 Taxi - Tunnocks

This is one colourful taxi. The TX4's bright yellow body colour features the graphics of the famous caramel wafer biscuit wrapper with blue waves right along one half of the vehicle advertising the dark chocolate wafer and the offside favouring the milk chocolate choice. The white side panel promotes this delicious treat in contrasting red or blue graphics.

Registered EU57 BUI, our 1:43

scale taxi has a dark grey interior

The TX4 Taxicab hackney carriage was introduced by London Taxis International (LTI) in a long line of purpose built vehicles. Its upgraded external features over its predecessor the TX2 included a new front radiator grille, updated front and rear bumpers and a revised different rear number plate surround. Modern safety regulations dictated some of the internal upgrades including passenger head rests fitted to the central partition for rear-facing passengers. The TX4 came with a 2.5VM diesel engine with automatic gearbox

TX4 Taxi - Tunnocks
uced
43TX4009

SCALE PRICE
143 218.95

but there was an option for a manual version too. Tunnock's is a family firm based in Uddingston, Glasgow. It was founded in 1890 when Thomas Tunnock purchased a bakery in Lorne Place. Now headed up by Sir Boyd Tunnock, grandson of the founder, the private limited company employs over 500 staff making their famous cakes and biscuits. In 2013, the company was listed as the 20th oldest family firm in Scotland.

OXFORD AVIATION 1:72 SCALE

P-47 Thunderbolt USAAF
333rd FS3 18FG 'Dan'I
Boone'- Capt. Daniel Boone
AC117 SCALE
PRICE
1:72 \$220.95

P-47 Thunderbolt USAAF 333rd FS3 18FG 'Dan'l Boone'- Capt. Daniel Boone

Nicknamed 'The Jug' by its pilots, the US Army Air Force P-47 Thunderbolt played a major role after the USA joined World War II, particularly in Europe where it was also flown by the RAF and the French Air Force. Manufactured by Republic Aviation, the P-47 took its first flight in May 1941 and continued in production for fighterbomber purposes until 1945. Over 15,600 were built and it remained in operation with particular overseas airlines right until the mid 1960s.

Here we see it as flown by Capt Daniel Boone of 333rd FS3. 18FG, whose namesake was the legendary 18th Century pioneer and American folk hero Daniel Boone, born in 1734. The nose-art features the original Dan'l Boone

character, complete with 'Wild Frontier'
Davy Crockett racoon fur hat. The aircraft is predominantly silver with yellow nose cone, black underside with yellow banding round the

fuselage and black and yellow tail fin/rudder, which also features the serial number in a yellow band - 325857. The propellers are also black and yellow while the engine casing is particularly well detailed with silver crank case and satin black cylinders and intake. The blue on silver US Star on the fuselage rounds off the authentic detail. Captain Daniel Boone survived the War and rose to the rank of Colonel before retirement. Along with a fellow WWII veteran, he even had an audience with President

J F Kennedy in the Oval Office!

Classic/Cooper S/1275GT/New/Coupé 5-piece Mini Set

Celebrating the cream of the sporty top grade Mini/MINI, the 5-piece set is representative of this iconic marque across the years. Some of them you may have missed when they appeared as singles so scoop them up in one go now!

First up is

76MN003 Austin Mini Cooper - Almond Green/Old English White. Registered LSL 233, this Classic Mini is the senior in the set but the Cooper name is legend and it's emblazoned on the bonnet and the boot. Decorated in Almond Green with a pine green interior, the Mini sports a distinctive radiator grille which is sprayed black and silver with a silver front bumper. The window masking and wipers are also silver.

76MCS004 Mini Cooper S MkII brings a cool theme in Snowberry White with black roof and black interior, registered VUY 735G from 1968 a year after the car was first launched and the very age of COOL! The Cooper name features on the boot and the Austin Mini badge adorns the front of the bonnet.

78MINGT004 Mini 1275GT - Bronze Yellow. The Classic Mini is registered UOK 959L from 1972/73 and features a grey-blue interior, lots of exterior chrome and black stripes along the skirt denoting its MINI 1275 GT status.

On to the BMW MINI age and we've added

76NMN001 MINI Cooper S in Chilli Red. The fiery red colour scheme is complemented with a black roof, black wing mirrors, wheels, radiator, mudguards and completely black interior. The MINI dates from 2009 registered BG09 WDX.

76MC002 MINI Coupé in Midnight Black appears with red roof and bonnet decoration, registered GY61 EYW from

2011. Its dramatic effect is completed with black interior and black wheels.







OXFORD AMERICAN 1:87



1954 Buick Century Estate Wagon - Baffin Green/Carlsbad Black

Only the second release on our 1:87 scale mid 1950s Buick Century Estate Wagon, we follow up from the bright blue and white launch model with another two-tone vehicle decorated with a dark green and black body with a dark green roof. The interior is also dark green. Exterior trim is finished in either black or silver and the model comes once again with whitewall tyres. The Buick Century 'signature' badge is printed in silver and red underneath the rear-most side window with the Buick

name in silver on the front edge of the bonnet. It is registered in North Carolina 54 No. 356-910.

Buick, a subsidiary of General Motors, introduced their Century vehicle range in 1936 and it continued on and off, with a gap during WWII, right until the 1990s. The Century name covered six generations of cars of varying sizes, performance and trim levels. The Buick Century Estate Wagon represented one of the second generation of vehicles produced between 1954 and 1958. It was classed as a high end full-sized car first aimed at the wealthier country estate fraternity.



1948 Dodge B-1B Pick Up - Dark Green

The American Dodge B-1B pickup manufactured by Dodge (Chrysler) between 1948 and 1953, was a ½ ton truck standard with a 95hp flathead straight-six engine and 3-speed manual gearbox, classed as a full-size 2-door pick-up with an FR layout. Unique to the B Series was a 'pilot house' cab with optional rear quarter light windows designed to increase visibility for the driver. The engine was moved forward and the front axle moved back to improve weight distribution. Increased all-round space in the cab and improved rubberised mounts meant it could seat three people in comfort. The cargo area sides were also raised to improve load capacity. More improvements

followed in the early 1950s before the B-1B was superseded by the Dodge C Series.

After launching the 1:87 scale model in bright red, our second Oxford release comes in dark green with brown planking to the cargo area and - new to this release - the inclusion of side rails also depicted in brown. The Dodge name sits large in silver across the back and again in red and silver above the wide radiator grille. The interior is black, the wheels are also black with silver hub caps while remaining exterior trim is finished in silver. The registration plate fixed to the front and back bumpers shows the Dodge as coming from Ohio in 1948 numbered L8938.

OXFORD AMERICAN 1:87 SCALE



1942 Chrysler T & C Woody Wagon - South Sea Blue

We also welcome the second of our 1:87 Chrysler Town & Country luxury station wagons which in real life was made between 1941 and 1942 and again after the war. Indeed it remained in production until well into the 1980s. Our model is based on the first generation vehicle from 1942 with its unique shape and unusual features. Registered 45 1766 from Indiana in 1942, the deep blue body is given a brown panel effect to the sides and the back set in a lighter 'wooden' frame. The chrome radiator bars extend round the sides to the front wings and a chrome finish has also been applied to the roof rack,

bumpers and wheels. Note the red and gold Chrysler badge on the bonnet and the Town & Country Fluid Drive slogan under the back window. A deep purple red interior, ivory steering wheel and the customary whitewall tyres complete the authentic detail.

In real life, this four-door saloon was styled either with a wood body or metal designed to look like wood. The car could take eight to nine passengers and rear loading could be accessed from double doors that opened out at the centre at the back of the vehicle. Coming with a straight six engine, the car was manufactured at the Chrysler works in Detroit. Because of the US entering the war, less than 1000 vehicles were produced.



The Imperial name was not new in the history of Chrysler but it was re-introduced in the 1950s to launch their new luxury vehicle range from 1955 to 1975 and a bit later from 1981 to 1983. The 1959 Imperial Crown belonged to a '2nd generation Forward Look' period when big wide cars, extravagant tail fins, lots of chrome and very bright colours were all the rage. Designed by Virgil Exner and Elwood Engel, the 2-door hardtop was one of several variants on the Imperial Crown. It came with a high power V8 engine and three speed gearbox.

The width of the 1959 model was 81 inches with a height of 56.9 inches. You could say it was big all round!

After launching the new 1:87 scale model in a delicate Persian Pink, second time out brings an equally delicate paint job in pale green with a slightly darker green roof. The wealth of silver trim is superb and the elegant effect is completed with a dark green dashboard and seating. The location of the boot badge is interesting - in the centre of the pale green spare wheel cover. Our Crown Imperial comes from Virginia 1959, number 780055.

OXFORD N SCALE



Living Wagon - Pickfords

Our 1:148 scale Pickford's living wagon is a reprise of Oxford's 1:76 scale version and is the same in every detail. Think removals and storage and the Pickfords name comes to the fore. The UK Company's history goes back as far as the 17th Century. The corporate dark blue and white colour scheme has proved a favourite for diecast collectors over the years and this living wagon,

only the second release on Oxford's 1:148 scale model, will provide an interesting addition to any Pickford's fleet. The bright red wheels and chassis are in sharp contrast to the rich midnight blue body with its white Pickfords lettering. Finishing touches include a black tow hook, a tan ladder across the back of the wagon and even the minute detail of a silver door handle is not overlooked.



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AR187 Berliet Album: Primarily a car manufacturer, Berliet also made lorries and buses; by the time of the Great War it was the biggest producer of commercial vehicles in France. By the late 1930s it had become a truck company which also made cars. After the Second World War no cars were produced at all. In the postwar years Berlietwas once again the biggest manufacturer of commercial vehicles in France. Berliet built the biggest truck in the world in 1957, the T100. In 1967 Berliet lost its independence when it found itself under the same ownership as Citroën, when the company was acquired by Michelin. In 1974, encouraged by the

French government, which was promoting auto industry consolidation, Renault acquired Berliet from Michelin. Renault then combined the firm with Saviem, and the Berliet name

disappeared after both were absorbed by the RVI group in 1978.

AR188 Mercury Album. Plus Edsel and Mercury Canada: Mercury was created as a car marque in 1938 by Edsel Ford, to fill the gap between Ford and Lincoln-Zephyr, competing against middle-priced models from General Motors, Chrysler and other manufacturers. After the Second World War Mercury was conjoined with Lincoln in Ford's new Lincoln-Mercury Division (see Auto Review 162 Lincoln and Continental). Mercury settled in the mid-market, which it shared for a short time in the 1950s with the doomed Edsel, which is also described in these pages. Sub-ranges in later years included Comet, Cougar and Merkur, but in a 21st century process of rationalisation, Ford axed the Mercury brand in 2010. It had been in existence for just over 70 years.



OXFORD 1:76 SCALE



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OXFORD