

Issue 278

UK & EIRE 2 Guineas (2.0) USA \$5.00



#### Alexander M Type Coach - Eastern Scottish

Oxford launched this new model with the bright blue and white Scottish Bus Group livery followed by the dark green and white colour scheme of Western SMT. For the third release of the 1:76 scale model, we move eastwards to bring you the brightly coloured yellow and black coach as run by Eastern Scottish. A subsidiary of the Scottish Bus Group, formerly SMT, Eastern Scottish was formed in 1985 from the main part of Scottish Omnibuses Ltd., which had itself traded as Eastern Scottish from the 1960s. The bus and coach company was based in New Street in Edinburgh and operated an area throughout Edinburgh and the Lothians. On the coach side of the business, it operated tours and private hire as well as a coach service to other major towns and cities in Scotland and England, including London.

Here we see Coach No. 5 heading back to Edinburgh from London, registered HSG 564N from 1974.

The Eastern Scottish name features on the front of the coach and is also printed on to the black and silver waistline behind the driver and the passenger doors. The address of the Scottish Omnibus Company, New Street, Edinburgh is printed on the near side behind the front wheel. The light and airy feel of the coach comes from the large number of windows and there are also three skylights along the centre of the roof. A rear offside window is painted in white - from the inside - offering privacy to passengers using the onboard facilities. Inside the coach, the floor and seating are both bright red, while the driver's seat is pale green. Luggage racks, interior panelling and the panelling surround the driver are all finished in beige.

The model is yet another bright addition to the Scottish Motor Group series, whose history sees it still running today, having morphed into an employee owned business from 1990 to 1994; then into First Group until 2022 when it became part of McGills and still running today.









#### VW T5 Van - Silver

The VW T5 superseded the T4, already part of the Oxford Commercial Van series, with a production life from 2003 to 2015. It proved a versatile body shape appearing as a cargo/passenger van, pick-up, minibus, crew van and camper van. For its latest appearance, it comes as a straightforward van with two cabin windows and a

rear window, registered NA59 YWG from the second half of 2009. It is simply decorated all over silver with black and silver exterior trim and dark grey bumpers. The interior is also dark grey with a black dashboard. Do you leave it pristine or add some graphics of your own? In 1:76 scale, there are endless places for this modern and very useful van.





#### Land Rover Discovery 2 - Alveston Red

This superb 1:76 scale model is a replica of the Discovery Series II which spanned the marque's manufacture at the Solihull plant between 1998 and 2004. It had been enhanced to look less utilitarian than its predecessor, both inside and out. The extended rear provided more cargo space and the interior seating was now all forward facing. The Discovery Series II was the last Land Rover product to use an evolution of the original 1970 Range Rover underpinnings with its extended 185" long body sitting on a short 100" wheelbase. Engine size options comprised the 4.0L Rover V8 (petrol), 4.6L Rover V8

(petrol or the 2.5L Td5 15 (diesel) which is the subject of our model. The Td5 in-line direct-injected straight-five engine was an electronically managed engine proving smoother at lower revs than its predecessors.

Our Land Rover Discovery 2 makes its third outing after its dark green and white gold predecessors, in a rich dark red with black trim and black interior, registered SH04 TVN from 2004, its last year of production. As such it features some of the facelift changes which Land Rover introduced in 2002. Finishing touches also include authentic silver 'alloy' wheels, the Land Rover badge on the rear door with the Land Rover Discovery Td5 designation printed in silver and black, not forgetting the spare wheel placed off centre on the rear door.

#### Morris Minor 'Lowlight' MM Saloon - Black

The Morris Minor, designed by Alec Issigonis, was launched in 1948. Manufactured at the Morris Cowley Works in Oxford, the Morris Minor would go on to become one of the most iconic vehicles in the history of British motoring, selling over 1.5 million in a 23 year production run. The earliest Morris Minors featured the headlights mounted in the grille,

giving it the lowlight nickname.

This feature would remain until the Series 2 variants which had the headlights moved upwards to satisfy overseas markets. The car also had a split windscreen with one wiper blade and two very small split rear windows. The MM series was produced until February 1953 when it was superseded by the Series II.

Our model of the Morris Minor lowlight, registered OJO 206, is decorated in black with chrome finish to window



surrounds, wipers, the twin flash along the ridge of the bonnet, as well as wheel hubs and the distinctive radiator grille. The Morris badge sits proudly on the front of the bonnet. The interior is moulded in warm beige.

76MMS007 1:76

£7.95

It's always great to see the Morris Minor back on the Oxford Diecast production line!



#### VW Karmann Ghia - Lavender/Pearl White

What a delicate pastel colour scheme has been chosen for the third release of Oxford's 1:76 scale VW Karmann Ghia. The lavender blue bodywork, pale creamy white masked roof and silver trim look great together. Our two-seater features a silver strip along the skirt between the front and back wheels. The front and back bumpers are also chrome finished while the ZV 6182 number plate is silver on black. Turning to the interior, the dashboard is moulded to match the bodywork while the steering wheel and the seating are moulded in an off white shade. Manufactured by VW in Germany and launched at both

the Frankfurt and Paris Motor Shows in 1953, the Karmann Ghia was in production from 1955 until 1974. Over 445,000 were built first at the Ghia Works and then at the VW Osnabrück plant in West Germany. During all that time, it remained virtually unchanged in design. The Karmann Ghia was marketed as a practical and stylish 2+2 rather than a true sports car. The detail that went into its production included butt-ended body panels, hand-shaped and smoothed with English pewter, a labour intensive process which - like other high end manufactured cars - was reflected in the price - around \$2250 US dollars.





#### Living Wagon - Brown

Oxford's latest living wagon in 1:76 scale comes in a utilitarian brown with white roof, complete with black chimneys, an entrance door on the side and a ladder to access it strapped to the back. The chassis and wheels are bright red and a black towing hook is poised ready to be attached to whichever heavy mechanical vehicle it is assigned to. Wherever it is going, it is certainly ready for action and will be a welcome and warm space for its workforce to have a brew and open their bait box during their break time.



**Burrell 8nhp DCC Showmans** Locomotive - 'Masterpiece' 76GDSF001 1:76





#### Volvo FH4 Cylindrical Tanker - John Mitchell

John Mitchell went into business as a haulier in 1956 with one second hand lorry. He based his company in Grangemouth, where - still as a family business, it is run by John's son lain, who continues to develop the legacy of his late parents. lain channelled the company into three divisions - haulage, containers and bulk powders. It is perhaps the last of these being carried in our latest Oxford cylindrical tanker release.

The model, registered SJ69 CWM from the second half of 2019 is decorated in the company's modern colour scheme of white with maroon graphics, quite different from the colour scheme in lain's father's day of battleship grey and red, which at that time reflected the bulk of the work which came from the Grangemouth Docks.

The tanker has a white walkway and a vertical silver ladder and other equipment positioned on the rear,

all sitting on a black chassis with black mudguards. The white Volvo FH4 cab is printed with a mass of forward sloping maroon graphics along the doors detailing the company, its location and contact information. The logo incorporates an osprey in full flight with legs and claws outstretched in pursuit of its prey, inspired by a sighting during a charity walk lain took in Scotland when he witnessed the wonderful bird in action and decided to immortalise the experience on his truck fleet. The cab interior is black while the exterior sees white bumpers and aerofoil with otherwise silver and black trim.

The modern 1:76 scale model replicates the equally modern and forward thinking ethos of a very established haulier, much loved by diecast collectors - especially those north of the Border!



### **OXFORD 1:43 SCALE**



This new release will be déjà vu for our 1:76 scale enthusiasts who have already been able to add this to their line-up in the smaller scale. Our short wheelbase Land Rover Series II is now back for our 1:43 scale collectors in exactly the same format. Decorated in the dark green military colour scheme, the sand coloured canvas back features a rear window. It is registered 19 CL 49, as deployed by the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. The authentic military insignia are printed round the front mudguards and across the back of the

green of the body with grey seating.

The Land Rover Series II was launched in 1958, being superseded by the Series IIA in 1961. The off road Land Rover came with a number of variants, including 2-door or 4-door option; petrol or diesel; long or short wheel base; and selectable two or four wheel drive feature. The Series II was the first vehicle to use the well-known 2.25 litre petrol engine, which produced 72 hp and was closely related to the 2.0 litre diesel unit still in use today. The Series II also lent itself to a variety of uses in both rural and urban life.



### OXFORD AMERICAN 1:87 SCALE



Cinnamon/White

The sleek lines of this 1961 classic Chrysler 300 Convertible look even more elegant in this spicy rust and white colour scheme, marking the fourth release in the series. Appearing with hood up for this release, the 2-door coupé is enhanced with the usual extravagant

amount of chrome and whitewall tyres. The interior sees black floor and dashboard with contrasting oyster white seating. It is registered 7X 4898 in New York State.

Chrysler produced the high performance 300 series for 10 years between 1955 and 1965, aimed at the luxury market. Quite an eye-catcher, even now.



### 1957 Oldsmobile 88 Convertible (Roof Up) - Banff Blue/Alcan White

The Oxford Oldsmobile 88 tooling includes the option of open top or closed top. It was launched with the hood down in an appealing yellow and white, so our second release in pale blue and white with hood up is in sharp but equally appealing contrast.

Registered in Texas as KR 7195, the white masking to the roof extends along the extensive fins and the whole of the boot. The interior, including the steering wheel is also white. The chrome finish to the exterior bodywork includes the bumpers, wheels and trim.

The Oldsmobile 88 was marketed by the company from

1949 to 1999 and was one of its best selling marques throughout that period. Oldsmobile, part of General Motors, had introduced the 88 badge in 1949. It complemented the existing 76 and 98 but replaced the straight 8 engined 78 in the model line-up in 1957 only. For perhaps obvious reasons, the car was officially known as the Golden Rocket 88. That year the 'J2' option was offered with three two-barrel carburettors similar to the Pontiac Tri-Power. The Super 88 continued as the upmarket in-line series. The power was under the bonnet where the Rocket V8 increased in displacement to 371 cu. In and 277 hp.

Quite some motor!

### OXFORD AMERICAN 1:87 SCALE



Oxford launched this newly tooled model in a metallic coral with contrasting snowcrest white masking to the roof. Our second release is painted with a delicate pale yellow body and once again adopts the snowcrest white masking to the roof resulting in a lovely springlike colour mix. The interior is a dusky rose colour. The impressive Chevy badge features on both the bonnet and the boot and our model is registered in Aloha Hawaii as 5A 4934. General Motors introduced the Impala in 1958. It was available as either a 2-door hard top or a convertible. It featured quad headlights at the front and the back sported three tail-lights which were flatter than the Bel Air, its immediate predecessor. Another refinement included a shortened roofline and wrap around rear

windows. It had a standard I6 engine which had the option to upgrade. The top version was fitted with the newly introduced 5.7 litre V8 fed by three two barrel carburettors that offered 280hp.

Interior features included as standard front and rear armrests, a radio and an electric clock, dual sliding sun visors and crank operated front vent windows. The dashboard had deep set instrument gauges and the car came with cruise control classed in those days as 'Speedminder'. The front bench seat had individual adjustments for the seatbacks

Oxford's attention to detail has gone the extra mile to recreate the physical features of the original mirrored in this 1:87 scale replica.



## OXFORD AVIATION 1:72 SCALE



Oxford's 1:72 scale model of the Herschel Hs 126 is a replica of the Luftwaffe tactical reconnaissance and observation plane as flown by Pilot Hannes Gaub and Obs. Gerd Schroder over Poland, where the Second World War started on 1st September 1939.

The Henschel was a two seater aircraft with the pilot seated in a protected cockpit with the gunner in an open rear cockpit directly behind him. First produced in 1937, the initial planes had a Junkers engine and it was put into service in 1938 serving with a number of reconnaissance groups including 1.(H)/14. Manufactured by Henschel AGO, the aircraft served until 1943 but in the lead up to its retirement, the HS 126 proved a reliable observation and liaison aircraft, taking part in the many attacks on Poland and also the invasion of the Soviet Union in 1941. It was also used by the 2./Ausklarungsgruppe (H)/14 in North Africa until the end of 1942.

Jablonka was the scene of an unsuccessful attempt on 26th August 1939 when a group of German agents infiltrated the Polish Slovak border and attacked a railway station with the aim of capturing the Jablonkiw Pass. However, unbeknown to them, Hitler had cancelled his orders to invade and the Polish forces succeeded in repelling the attackers. However, the incident has become known as the precursor to the beginning of World War II, which started less than a week later.

Henschel HS126 - H Gaub/G Schroder AFU Recon Group, 1.[H]/14, Jablonka, Poland 1939

AC120

SCALE PRICE \$20.95

NEV

With this history behind it, our 1:72 scale model appears with a dark green upper body with black and white Luftwaffe markings along the fuselage, as well as two diagonal but widening painted lines in yellow and red. The tail fin carries the German Swastika on both sides of the upright. The underside is a duck egg blue and also carries the Gruppe lettering and Luftwaffe insignia. The overhead wings are strengthened with silvered struts attached to the fuselage The pilot's single seater covered cockpit is moulded in dark green and the unprotected gunner's seating area also features his armament facing backwards along the rear fuselage. Tyres, engine and machine gun are all black and the exhaust pipes are a rusty brown. Finally, a piece colourful artwork beside the tailfin shows a character dressed in yellow and white with a yellow hat and a first aid box at his feet and a yoke with two buckets across his shoulders. Intriguing!



### OXFORD1:120 SCALE Austin Low Loader Taxi - Oxford Blue 120AT002 1:120 £7.45 Scammell Mechanical Horse Van Trailer - LNER 120MH004 Land Rover Series 2 LWB Canvas **Bronze Green** Bedford OB Coach - Southdown 120LAN2011 1:120 £7.45 1:120



Morris 1000 - Royal Mail

PRICE £7.45

Dennis F12 Pump Escape -

PRICE

1:120 £8.95

**London Fire Brigade** 

### **AUTO REVIEW BOOKS £5.95**

AR197 Oldsmobile Album: Ransom E Olds set up the Olds Motor Vehicle Co in 1897. Olds didn't stay with his creation for long, however, leaving in 1905 to set up a company in competition, Reo, which is also described here. Oldsmobile had a tradition of promoting its chief engineer to be general manager of the company, which meant that the brand was often at the forefront with new ideas and promising technologies. Its reputation for offering more luxury for its price level in the mid-market, sometimes with more performance as well, gave Oldsmobile a

loyal following. As these regular buyers aged, however, younger buyers were less interested, preferring to buy imported luxury cars. An entirely new GM brand, Saturn, created to compete with the imports, is also noted in this publication; it only lasted two decades. General Motors finally closed Oldsmobile down in 2004.

**AR198** Armour on Wheels. The story of wheeled armoured fighting vehicles: In this publication we tell the story of Armoured Fighting Vehicles (AFVs) on wheels, so tracked AFVs and half-tracks are not described here.

Early 'armed cars', without armour to protect the occupants, developed to become lightly-armoured reconnaissance cars and Scout Cars, capable of resisting small arms fire. Scout Cars usually had an open top, with vision slots in the armour-plated bodywork. Armoured Cars had all-enveloping armour and a gun, usually fitted into a revolving turret like a tank, but they were smaller and more manoeuvrable than tanks. All major powers developed many designs of armoured cars in the early years, though the USA preferred tracked vehicles. The armoured car all but disappeared in later years, as the IFV took over the role.

