



Meccano and Dinky Toy Timeline

This page is from the original DTCA Website created by Peter Golden.

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1863 Frank Hornby born (15th May)
1901 Hornby patents and produces 'Mechanics Made Easy' (later called Meccano)
1907 Meccano name registered (14th September)
1912 Meccano France founded.
1914 Binns Road factory, Liverpool, opened
1916 Meccano Magazine first issued
1920 Hornby 0 gauge trains introduced
1923 Railway Accessories introduced.
1931 Hornby Series Modelled Miniatures (MM) introduced
1934 Modelled Miniatures renamed Dinky Toys
1936 Frank Hornby died aged seventy-three (21st September)
1938 Hornby-Dublo Trains introduced
1941 Meccano production ceased owing to Second World War
1946 Production of Dinky Toys recommenced
1947 Dinky Supertoys introduced
1956 Corgi Toys introduced ('the ones with windows')
1958 The first Dinky Toy with windows introduced
1964 Meccano Ltd (GB) purchased by Lines Bros (Tri-ang)
1967 Issue of Mini Dinkys (1:65) made in Hong-Kong by Zilmex
1971 Lines Bros in liquidation Meccano Ltd becomes Maoford Ltd. Maoford Ltd bought by Airfix.
The brand name DINKY TOYS is not sold, the new brand used until now is DINKY®. Maoford Ltd.
Becomes Meccano (1971) Ltd.
French operation sold to General Mills Palitoys a decision is made, production is moved to Airfix n Calais where a few military Dinky toys were made for a short time
1973 January Meccano 1971 Ltd returns to Meccano Ltd.
1979 Binns Road factory closed and UK production ceased (30th November)
1980 The Miro company, Parker Bros. France, Meccano s.a. and several other companies merge together under the name of Miro Meccano.
The manufacturing of Dinky Toys is subcontracted to Auto-Pilen in Spain until 1982.
The last Dinky are Auto-Pilen models fitted with Dinky base plates (the 14xxx series).
AFTER THIS DATE NO REAL DINKY WILL BE MADE. THE BRAND HAS BEEN USED FOR PRODUCTION BY VARIOUS OWNERS OF THE DINKY BRAND NAME.
Issue of the "Small Dinky" (1 / 65) range made by Universal in Hong-Kong.
1981 Some Solido models sold with Dinky Toys base plates and window boxes.
1984 The Calais factory is closed.
1985 The Calais factory reopens under private ownership but the only product made is Meccano.
The contract with Exacto who made Meccano under licence in Buenos Aires is broken.
Exacto still makes Meccano today but under its own trademark.
1985 Kenner Parker Toys Inc became the new owner of the Dinky brand
1987 Dinky trade name sold to Universal International, Hong Kong. Six Matchbox cars made in Macau are sold under the Dinky brand name. The base plates are marked Matchbox
1988 The 'Dinky Collection' introduced

1989 Meccano s.n. (France) buys the rights to the erector marque.

1992 Tyco Toys Inc acquired Universal Matchbox including the Dinky brand name

1996 Mattel Inc. merged with TycoToys

2006 Mattel produces four Dinky models so that the brand does not become public.

Launch of the collection "Dinky Toys de mon enfance" made in China by Norev under licence from Mattel and sold by mail by Atlas.

Hornby group Plc. Buys Corgi Toys.

Calais is the main production site of Meccano, some of the production made in China will be brought back to Calais.