

Models

FORD COMÈTE BY IMIT' TOYS

New models in period Dinky style

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Whenever model car collectors get together to discuss their hobby, it's only a matter of time before one of them makes a remark along the lines of 'Wouldn't it be nice if Dinky Toys had made a model of a such-and-such?'

This has led some enterprising model makers to attempt to fill gaps in the Dinky line-up by producing new models in the simple style of the 1950s and 1960s originals. Jean-François Consille, who lives in Andorra, is not the first to do this but his range is certainly one of the most appealing on the market today.

At first the models were simply for his own amusement, but when he started to sell

them at the end of 2001 under the trademark Imit' Toys he soon found willing buyers. Although they're cast in metal (for the technically minded, the raw material is called Vaculoy 63/37, often used in the aviation industry), Imit' Toys aren't trying to compete with modern diecasts. They're lovingly constructed in small batches and each casting requires hours of patient finishing. As Jean-François says, 'I'm limited by my two hands!'

Designed primarily with French collectors in mind, the first issue was a Renault 4CV, followed by a Citroën 11BL cabriolet – complete with a female driver accompanied by her pet dog! The range now contains 12 models, among them

a Chapron-bodied Citroën DS, a Mercedes 300SL and a couple of interesting British subjects: an MGA Coupé and an AC Bristol.

The elegant Ford Comète coupé, which combined coachwork by Facel with the Ford Vedette chassis, very nearly made it into the French Dinky Toy range in the 1950s. A factory prototype is still in existence but for some reason it never reached the production stage. Over half a century later, the Imit' Toys' interpretation, at €58, is the closest you'll get to this Dinky that never was.

Details of the full range can be found on www.imit-toys.com. It's a very basic site, made more entertaining by the slightly 'saucy' illustration on its home page.