



DINKY TOY TAXIS



40H / 254 – Austin FX3

This taxi was produced from 1951 to 1953 as number 40H in the old Dinky toy numbering system. It came in two colors: yellow body and hubs and dark blue body with light blue hubs.

In 1954 Dinky changed its numbering system and the FX3 was reissued from 1954 to 1962 as number 254. Three new body color combinations were added: black, light blue and two-tone yellow and green.

Dinky taxis rarely seem to reference actual taxi colors, but the FX3 colors are at least plausible since cab manufacturers were making more colors available (as in the picture at right) and some cab companies were custom painting their fleets.



The real-life FX3 was introduced in 1948 and was manufactured until 1958 when it was replaced by the [FX4](#). The FX3 continued in use in London until 1968 and even longer in cities outside London (see [Wikipedia](#)).

The [Internet Movie Car Database](#) lists 469 movies and TV shows in which an FX3 has appeared. Thanks to its popularity among car collectors, examples of the FX3 survive intact all over the world.

Marg Kentner purchased this 1957 FX3 and imported to Winnipeg from London in the 1970s to use as a delivery car in her gift store business. She then ran a car museum that garaged classic cars for local collectors and the FX3 gave rides to visitors around the museum grounds. It now (2024) lives in Boissevain MB and participates in parades.

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Picture Sources (page 1)

Left top – jayfraydyn via ebay ([Link](#)).

Left middle – Flickr photostream: guequette80 ... Définitivement non voyant ([Link](#)),

Left bottom – jayfraydyn via ebay ([Link](#)).

Center – J and A Toys via ebay ([Link](#)).

Right – Norman Beattie. The story of Marg Kentner's FX3 is told in "The Strange Life of a 1957 Austin FX3," *Call Sign Magazine*, September, 2016, page 16 ([Link](#)). Ms Kentner passed away in 2019 ([Link](#)).

