



DINKY TOY TAXIS



24XT / 539 -- Ford Vedette

Dinky's 1953 Ford Vedette sedan (no. 24X) was manufactured from 1954 to 1956 in Dinky's Bobigny factory on the outskirts of Paris. Its taxi sibling (nos. 24XT and 539), with roof light and meter, was produced from 1956 to 1959.

The taxi livery is cream over black, but the shade of cream varied and appears in some web photos as pale yellow.

At right, a real 1953 Ford Vedette taxi makes an accidental appearance in the background of the 1958 French comedy *Taxi, Roulotte et Corrida* (Taxi, Trailer and Bullfight).

The shot is black and white, but the taxi's colors (light roof and dark body) suggest that the Dinky colors might represent an actual taxi livery.

The real Vedette ("Star") was introduced by Ford France in 1948 but disappointing sales



and disruptive strikes induced Ford sell the Vedette plant to Simca in 1954. The car became the Simca Vedette and spawned a

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Above: Maurice Berger as Louis de Funès "a hard working but crazy Paris taxi driver," takes a hapless passenger for a bumpy ride. Ironically, a 1953 Ford Vedette taxi was caught in the street footage that was combined with studio shots of this taxi mockup.

whole family of models, including the Versailles (initially called the Vedette Versailles) and the Ariane.

See 24ZT / 542 [Simca Ariane](#).

Picture Sources (page 1)

Left top and middle – Quality Diecast Toys (QDT) ([Link](#)).

Left bottom – GotModels-Shop via ebay ([Link](#)).

Center – Au Jouet Parisien ([Link](#)).

Right top – A still captured from a film clip of *Taxi, Roulotte et Corrida*. Melty Freres, Les Meilleurs Scenes de Film (Best Film Scenes) via Facebook ([Link](#)).

Right bottom – Internet Movie Car Database ([Link](#)). The 1953 Vedette taxi was also captured in the film clip above.

Other Notes

“Ford Vedette,” Wikipedia ([Link](#)).

“Taxi, Trailer and Corrida,” Internet Movie Database ([Link](#)). Everything you need to know about the movie.

