



DINKY TOY TAXIS



067 – Austin FX3

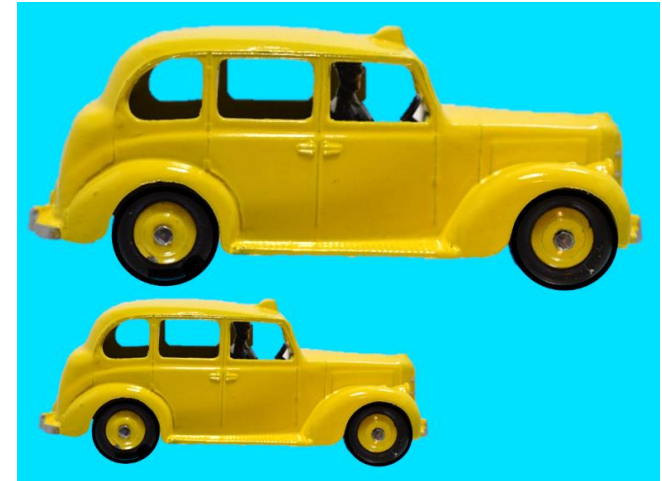
Frank Hornby's Meccano company had produced O-gauge Hornby train sets since 1920. The Dinky toy vehicles that were introduced in the early 1930s were mostly made in 1/43 scale to complement the Hornby trains. Large trucks were made in the slightly smaller 1/48 scale so that they would not appear overly big in comparison to the cars.

In 1938 Meccano introduced its smaller OO gauge trains but it was not until 1957 that the company began producing its "Dublo" (for double-O) series of 1/76 scale vehicles. By then rival Matchbox had been producing similar scale toys for three years, since 1954.

Dinky's Dublo series did not catch on. It ceased after launching only 14 vehicles, leaving the field to Matchbox.



The Dublo FX3 taxi (number 067) was produced from 1959 to 1967. There was only one color scheme, cream over blue (although in web pictures the cream often shows up as white).



The picture above shows the relative sizes of the 1/43 and 1/76 scale taxis. The overall lengths were 94 mm (3.7 inches) and 59 mm (2.3 inches).

Next page: A Dublo Austin FX3 makes its way through an elaborate train layout that features all 14 of the Dublo series of vehicles.

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Picture Sources

Page 1 Left top – David Busfield’s Flickr photostream ([Link](#)).

Page 1 Left middle and bottom – trains kits and bitz via ebay ([Link](#)).

Page 1 Center -- AdamsAutos via ebay ([Link](#)).

Page 1 Right – Source picture for the yellow FX3s is Childhoodiecast (UK) via Etsy ([Link](#)).

This Page – Toy and Train Spotter via Weebly.com ([Link](#)).

Other Notes

“OO gauge,” Wikipedia ([Link](#)).

“Dinky Toys,” Wikipedia ([Link](#)).

Dr. Edward Force, *Dinky Toys* (Schiffer Publishing, 1996), p. 7 (Dublo series), p. 166 (description of Dublo Austin taxi).

