



DINKY TOY TAXIS



546 – Opel Rekord

Like other Dinky taxis, the Opel Rekord taxi was based on an existing toy, the Opel Rekord sedan (no. 554).

The sedan was produced by the Dinky France from 1961 to 1966 while the taxi was made for Dinky in Hong Kong from 1963 to 1967. The same number (546) was assigned to an Austin-Healey sports car made by Dinky France.

The taxi and sedan both represent the Opel Rekord P2, which was manufactured from 1960 to 1963. Its predecessor, the P1, had a wraparound windshield and the P stood for Panorama. Opel abandoned the wraparound for the P2, giving it a more standard windshield along with wing windows.



The taxi's solid black color is authentic for real German taxis up to 1971, when the required color was changed to beige. The photo below (a 1961 Opel P2) is from a German documentary film about taxi drivers.



Dinky employed considerable artistic license with the taxi's gigantic "Rekord" nameplate.

The real Opel P2 also had a "Rekord" plate on its rear fenders, but this was only as tall as the adjacent chrome strip. It was also elongated and in a different font (below).

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Picture Sources (page 1)

Left top, lower middle and Right bottom – chrispit1955 photostream on Flickr ([Link](#)).

Left upper middle – laiguilleur66 via ebay ([Link](#)).

Left bottom – J K Diecast Models. ([Link](#))

Center top – (Left) Little Wheels via chezbois.com: Atlas Editions reproduction of Dinky no. 546 ([Link](#)). (Right) jmdinkys Vintage Dinky Toys Shop via ebay ([Link](#)).

Center bottom – EverythingbutTKS via ebay: Opel Rekord nameplate ([Link](#)).

Right top – Internet Movie Car Database: 1961 Opel Rekord taxi from the 2013 documentary “Als das Taxi noch als Käfer kam” (When the Taxi Came as a Beetle). The film contains historic footage of German taxis. The title alludes to a time when Volkswagen beetles (Käfer) were employed as taxis ([Link](#)).

Other Notes

“Opel Rekord P2,” Wikipedia ([Link](#)).

“Taxi Livery,” Wikipedia ([Link](#)).

