



282 – Austin 1800

Dinky's Austin 1800 taxi was produced from 1966 to 1968. Like other Dinkies it used the dies from an existing car, the Austin 1800 sedan (no 171) which was introduced in 1965. Both cars were made for Dinky in Hong Kong.

The two cars appeared in one color (blue), but the taxi has a white bonnet (hood) and boot (trunk), both of which can be opened.

The real-life Austin 1800 was designed as a family sedan and was manufactured from 1964 to 1975 under different British Motor Corporation (BMC) brands – Austin 1800, Morris 1800 and Wolseley 18/85.

It is also affectionately known to owners and car enthusiasts as the “landcrab,” a nickname derived from *“The car’s successful use in endurance rallies [which] came about because, while the car was never particularly fast, its strong bodyshell and sophisticated suspension allowed it to reliably maintain competitive average speeds over long distances on poor roads. The car’s stance, strength and slow-but-sure nature over rough ground put the BMC rally crews in mind of a terrestrial crab.”* (Wikipedia)

These same qualities fitted the 1800 for taxi service in U.K. cities other than London,

where the Public Carriage Office decreed that taxis had to be purpose-built vehicles like the [Austin FX3](#) or [Austin FX4](#).

For links to pictures of 1800 taxis in Sale (south of Manchester), Bristol and Leeds, see Other Notes, next page.

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Picture Sources (page 1)

Left top – via ebay ([Link](#)).

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

Right -- johnworrall3 via ebay ([Link](#)).

Other Notes

“BMC ADO17,” Wikipedia ([Link](#)). ADO17 was the BMC code name for the 1800 under its various brands.

The Old Classic Car web site shows an advertising coaster from 1964 depicting a Radio Cabs 1800 taxi from Sale, south of Manchester, England ([Link](#)).

The West Yorkshire Archive Service Flickr photostream includes a photo of an 1800 taxi at Leeds railway station in 1977 ([Link1](#), [Link2](#)).

The Landcrab.net web site includes a picture of two 1800 taxis on display at the Bristol Classic Car Show, 2008 ([Link1](#), [Link2](#)).

