



284 – Austin FX4

The Dinky FX4 was produced from 1972 to 1979. Competition from rival toy manufacturers like Corgi and Mattel caused Dinky to up their game. Unlike the early Dinky cars, which were essentially empty shells on slick tires, the FX4 offered a number of special features such as opening doors, glazed windows, a driver, plastic passenger seating, treaded tires and “Speedwheels,” Dinky’s answer to Mattel’s Hot Wheels.

Variants included 5 or 12 spoke wheels and grey or white interiors (white from 1977 to 1979).

Despite increased attention to authenticity the FX4 was designed (and treated) as a toy rather than as a collector’s item, as the picture at right attests.

The real-life FX4 was produced from 1958 to 1997, first by Austin (1958 to 1982), then by Carbodies (1982 to 1984) and finally by



London Taxis International or LTI (1984 to 1997). Meanwhile the FX4 went through multiple upgrades. In all 75,000 FX4’s were built, remarkable for a taxi that was originally intended to be replaced in 1969.

A 1972 LTI Fairway FX4 named Hannah holds two Guinness world records, for the longest taxi journey (69,716.12 km) and the highest altitude reached by a taxi (17,143 feet or 5225 meters, on the Tibetan Plateau in China’s Qinghai Province on August 29, 2011).

The Internet Movie Car Database lists 917 movies or TV series in which the FX4 appears.

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Above: *This battle-worn Dinky FX4 was offered for sale in 2024 for 12 euros. The seller frankly warned potential buyers about missing paint, missing doors and a driver who “wandered freely in the car.”*

Picture Sources (page 1)

Left and Center – Leahs Antiques via ebay ([Link](#)).

Right – 3MJA (France) ([Link](#)).

Other Notes

“Austin FX4,” Wikipedia ([Link](#)).

“It’s on the Meter,” Wikipedia (article about the “It’s on the Meter -- World Taxi Challenge” won by Hannah, the Fairway FX4) ([Link](#)).

“Austin FX4 in movies and TV series,” Internet Movie Car Database ([Link](#)).

See also Dinky no. 241, the special [Silver Jubilee edition](#) of the FX4.

