

To Scale

by Harry Midgley

I still remember that as a small boy in England I had many small cars. But the ones I still recall were an MG-TC and a "Bond" Aston Martin. Probably around the age of 7 we acquired a Scalectrix Slot Car Set and I believe one of the cars was an Mercedes Benz 300 SLR. My affinity for these now "Classic" cars has lasted all my life.



SLR. My these now "Classic" cars

When we arrived in Canada in 1969 "Hot Wheels" were the thing to have. But although interesting these did nothing to grab my imagination. Neither did dragsters or muscle cars.

In my 20's I started buying large scale models from companies like Tamiya. I built a model of the Ferrari 312B F1 car. A large plastic model of a Ferrari 275 GTB looked great in the box but less so when I had poorly assembled it. I also had a 1:18 diecast model of Niki Lauda's F1 car.

I liked 1:18 scale as the detail was good and size was easy to see and display.

HO Scale trains at 1:87 were also interesting to me and I still have some good quality pieces in my collection. All from B.C. Rail which is now owned by CN.

In the 1980's I started collecting some 1:18 diecast cars by Burago. Mostly they were Ferrari's like the 250 Testa Rossa or 250 GTO. But with the changes in life and family most of these have been lost.

While living in B.C. years ago, operating a tiny toy store, I was able to purchase some items that I

still have. Airfix, the UK model company produced a 1:32 plastic kit of the MGB. They also produced a "Gift Set" which included MGB/ MG TC/Rolls Royce plus



paint. I still have these and they will never be opened.

From Wilkinson's Automobilia in Vancouver I acquired a lovely, limited run, Red 1:18 MGB MK1 made by a Japanese company. Now worth a bit more than what I paid for it. If only my real cars did the same!

On our recent "Gear Head" trip to New Zealand I was able to collect many 1:72 diecast cars that you would never find here. Like Morris Minor, Land Rover, MGA, MGB GT and Rover.



Will Keith donated the Nash Healey he bought to my collection.

I even have the Austin 1300 made famous in "Faulty Towers" which to my great surprise I found at Ken Miles'.

As I have limited space, and resources, when it comes to cars, buying scale models helps keep the interest going through the Winter Months when you can't enjoy the real thing. They are easier to store, no repair bills or insurance, and your other half won't complain about oil on the carpet.

A recent visit to Diecast Depot on St. Albert Tr. (which is closing down at the end of the Month) produced a Ford GT 40 as in "Ford vs Ferrari" and a nice Jaguar MK2 for my Wife to enjoy as she had to sell her real Jag last year.

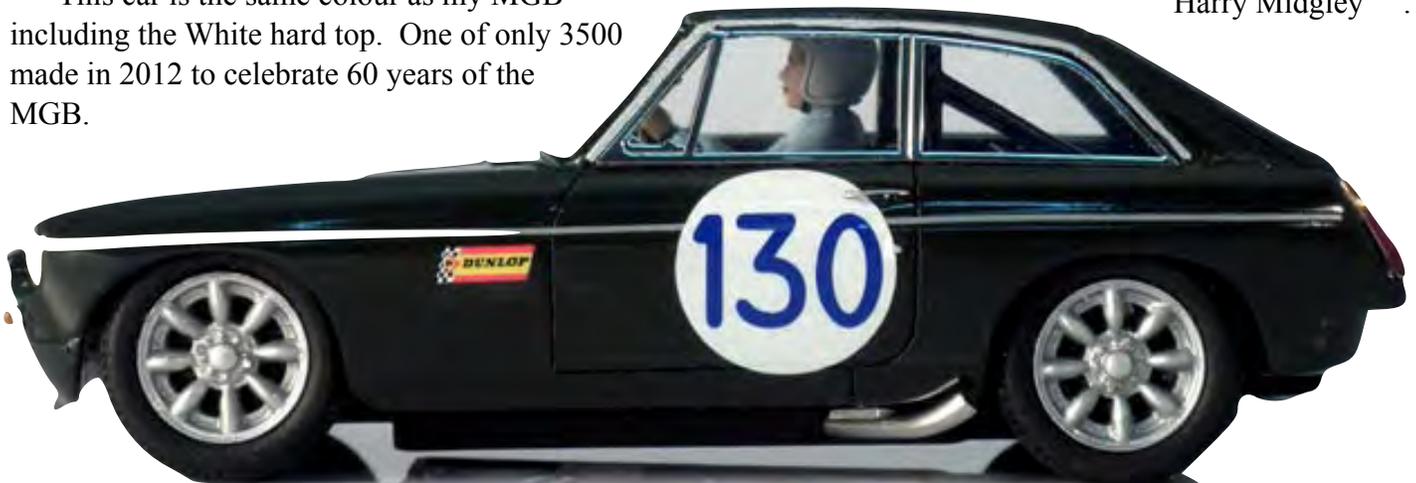
Probably the best find ever resulted from a chance conversation with a friend who had bought a Slot Car from Hobby Wholesale and mentioned they had a 'nice' MGB there. I found it on their website and dashed over the next morning to purchase the Scalelectrix, limited run, copy of the MGB "Old Reliable" that ran at the Nurburgring.

This car is the same colour as my MGB including the White hard top. One of only 3500 made in 2012 to celebrate 60 years of the MGB.



So if you can't afford the real, 1:1 version of your favourite car there is always an alternative. Now I'm on the lookout for the Green MGB GT Slot car produced a few years back.

Cheers:
Harry Midgley



<http://manicslots.blogspot.com/2013/07/news-slot-classic-mgb-gt.html>

G.K. Wincenslosh, Sport Car Enthusiast, Ret.

