



Not Your Average Newsletter

Great Service, Integrity and Information

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Christmas is only a few weeks away!

It's that dreaded time of year again. The time when you have to think about Christmas gifts for friends and family.

Just how many sweaters does he need? Why are we giving a box of chocolates to someone who's dieting? The truth was that many things were purchased in desperation when time ran out, wrapped up and put under the tree.

Finally, when the effort, the cost and the waste had become overwhelming (you know – when you survive Christmas and celebrate the peace of Boxing Day), we decided to try to reduce the volume of gifts we gave at Christmas – go for quality not quantity. By challenging ourselves to come up with special gifts for people, we were forced to think more and shop less. (Not a bad trade-off in our world!)

For example, instead of giving our friends a tin of cookies and a bottle of wine that they had probably already bought for themselves, we remembered how they had once 'helped' us to put our new jigsaw puzzle together. It's funny how solitaire and puzzles seem to attract helpers.

They were delighted when they opened our gift to them on Christmas morning to find a jigsaw puzzle and a note saying it was our turn to 'help' them and we'd bring the popcorn. Old memories revisited and new ones created – all with an inexpensive but well thought out gift. Yes, we have a nice selection of jigsaw puzzles in the store, too.

Also on our list were people who didn't need or want any more shirt and tie combinations – especially the



Holiday Hours:

Tues Wed 10-7
Thurs Fri 10-9
Sat: 10-5
Sun 12-5
Mon closed

Xmas Sale Ends - Dec 11, 2005

15% off

All in-store Carrera slot car kits and wooden dollhouse kits

ones that fell within our gift budget. They were the hardest to buy for under our new regime.

We eventually came up with a great gift idea – collectibles. Not all of them are expensive or space consuming. You can buy what you want in the price range you can afford. See our article on page 2 for some of the great collectibles we carry.

Don't forget that if you know what you want and it's out there, we'll find it for you. Of course, this takes time so it's a good idea to start early.

Just a thought:

Never be afraid to try something new. Remember that a lone amateur built the Ark. A large group of professionals built the Titanic. – Dave Berry

It doesn't take long to become addicted

A customer brought his very cute three-year old daughter into the store to check out our selection of slot cars and racetracks the other day.

Nic brought out a small stool for the little girl to stand on so she could see the track while her father tested it out.

After much discussion about the different cars, a
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decision was made and the customer made his way to the front of the store to pay for his choices.

The two cars and remote controls were left right in front of the little red-haired girl. It was just too tempting to ignore. One after the other the little girl picked up each remote control and between quiet giggles pushed the button down full throttle making the cars fly off the track.

Suddenly, it became very quiet at the back of the store. Turning around, the father spotted his little girl, still standing on the stool but now with her hands firmly on her hips.

"Excuse me!" she exclaimed, "I think somebody needs a little help here."



Everything Old is New Again

In the world of collectibles, Hot Wheels are indeed hot! These toys of old have become investments now. Of course, for some they're clearly an obsession.

We have an extensive offering of collectibles right now including Hot Wheels, Corgi and Dinky vehicles. Their starting price is \$.99, but, from there they can go way up depending on many factors.

Some of these factors are fairly obvious. How rare are they? What condition are they in? Are they in their original packages? And yes, some people still have vehicles in pristine packages from the 60's, 70's and even earlier. Obviously, these weren't used in the demolition derbies we remember having as kids.

So, aside from just old and in good condition, what's hot in Hot Wheels? Of the wide variety of vintage (Pre-1980), modern (1980-1989), and contemporary (1990-Now) 1:64 scale die-cast Hot Wheels cars, vintage Redlines seem to be leading the pack right now. They're quite rare but we have several available.

"Redline" Hot Wheels cars were originally made between 1968 and 1977. They're called Redlines because of the red "stripe" on the tire walls. Mattel re-issued several of the original Redlines in 1994. Even the copyright date is the same on the re-issues. However, re-issues can be identified and will obviously never be as valuable as the originals.

The originals have "USA" or "Hong Kong" stamped on the base, shiny metallic paint, red striped mag wheels, and the car sits higher in the rear than in the front.

Corgi is one of Britain's best known brands of die-cast scale models and has been producing models for over 40 years. Their offerings have included the Batmobile, the James Bond Aston Martin DB5 from Goldfinger, Green Hornet car, Thrushbuster car from Man from Uncle TV series, the Monkey Mobile, Popeye's FloatBoat and The Noddy Mobile from Enid Blyton's stories.

Dinky includes the 3 car set from Captain Scarlet and the Mysterions series. These cars are from days when toys were fun. They shoot missiles and ejector seats fly out.

All of the above listed cars are available at our store.

Not all old vehicles are in pristine condition. If the customer wishes it, we can use professional restorers and authentic replacement parts to help an ailing vehicle. We can also get reproduction boxes for Corgi, Dinky and Matchbox vehicles. This adds a nice touch to a display.

We have far too many items to list here. Come into the store and take a look. If you don't see what you want, ask. Although the world of collectibles thrives on scarce items, we're experts at finding items anywhere in the world.



Tips and Tricks

Content from: eBay - Hot Wheels Buying Guide

Below are some highlights from the history of Hot Wheels:

- 1968: Mattel releases the first line of 16 Hot Wheels cars. Including a sneak preview of the 1969 Corvette.
- 1969: 24 new Hot Wheels cars are released including the VW Beach Bomb.
- 1970: The famous Snake and Mongoose are produced, along with 31 other Hot Wheels cars.
- 1974: Hot Wheels use printed graphics instead of decals.
- 1975: The first Hot Wheels motorcycles are made.
- 1980: Hi-Rakers are introduced.
- 1988: Hot Wheels 20th anniversary. Mattel produces gold and silver chrome cars to celebrate.
- 1990: The first Hot Wheels aircraft are made.
- 1995: Treasure Hunt cars are introduced. These cars are instant collectibles since only 10,000 of each are made.