

## THE '40s

Although Auto Buff produced models of the 1940 Ford car in many different body styles, the finest replicas of that year's popular Standard and DeLuxe Ford are from Motor City USA, which offered a full assortment of body styles. In my opinion, they are under-priced with most selling at between \$100 and \$150.

Only Durham Classics offers a 1941 Ford. While not as detailed as its Motor City USA counterparts, these models are accurate in shape and size, sturdily constructed, and have clean castings with no burrs of metal or surface irregularities. If you care about authenticity, applying a little bare metal foil to these little white metal replicas brings them up to a very high standard of accuracy. There are no handbuilt 1942 Ford models.

Post-WWII, many makers chose to model 1946-48 Fords. All of the examples from this era are worth collecting. For affordability, you may want to find a resin Provence Moulage (France) or ECMA/Jedo 43 (France). Both are usually priced at under \$100. Western's 1946 sedan is a good, mid-priced white metal model at \$150. If money is no object, one of the few hundred woody Sportsman convertibles or wagons that Motor City USA issued are terrific finds at around \$250-\$300.

Light trucks from 1948-52 are available from US Model Mint (a Brooklin Models line), and Brooklin Models. Trucks from the 1953-55 period are available in several body variations and liveries from Durham Classics. Once again, it's possible to find an Auto Buff truck model for a song, at around \$50.

The watershed year of 1949 saw only Kager (Germany) produce handbuilt resin convertibles, 4 door sedans, and station wagons in kit form and the odd built-up. Long out of production, these have clean castings, good proportions, and rarely change hands for more than \$100.



1940 FORD DELUX 5 WINDOW COUPÉ AND 1940 FORD STANDARD 2 DOOR SEDAN BY MOTOR CITY USA. (AUTHOR COLLECTION)

## THE '50s



1950 CUSTOM 4 DOOR SEDAN AND 1950 CUSTOM 2 DOOR SEDAN WITH FENDER SKIRTS FROM MOTOR CITY USA. (AUTHOR COLLECTION)

For the 1950-51 model year, Motor City USA issued all body styles produced by Ford. Some of the first models that the company built with full detailing, they typically trade in the \$150-\$300 price range, although I snapped one up at auction for less than \$100.

Handbuilt 1952-54 Ford models are scarce, with a few resin and white metal examples from the defunct Oakland company (US) surfacing every so often on the aftermarket. For \$50 or less it is possible to acquire one of the several thousand die-cast, hand-assembled models from the Argentinian company, Collectors' Classics. While not perfectly proportioned, these 1953 hardtop coupé and convertible models have nice brightwork, and come in a terrific assortment of authentic colors.

1955 and 1956 Ford models are plentiful in handbuilt form. Motor City USA's '55 Sunliner convertible, Crown Victoria, and Skyliner are superbly accurate, and Brooklin makes a nice affordable '56 2 door sedan at under \$100. CCC (France) released a few hundred very delicate and extremely detailed resin and white metal convertible and Crown Victoria replicas.

For 1957, Mini Marque '43' issued a convertible and hardtop coupé of the top-of-the-line Fairlane. The company also produced a Ranchero pickup and Del Rio station wagon, all in white metal. The convertibles are quite common with up to 2000 produced and seldom cost more than \$100. The hardtop, Ranchero and station wagon are less abundant with production of all three styles combined roughly equivalent to that of the convertible alone. For this reason, they tend to be more expensive and may still be available in hobby stores and stockists at close to their original \$175-\$225 retail price. In 2005, Brooklin issued a red 1957 Ranchero. At less than \$100, this is a very nicely proportioned and finished handbuilt white metal model.



1948 F1 PICKUP. THE ICONIC LITTLE RED TRUCK WAS SELECTED BY FORD, IN CONCERT WITH THE MANUFACTURER MINICHAMPS, TO BE ONE OF THIRTEEN MODELS SOLD IN THE 'HEART AND SOUL' SET TO COMMEMORATE FORD MOTOR COMPANY'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY. (AUTHOR COLLECTION)



1948 F1 PICKUP, ISSUED BY BROOKLIN MODELS IN 2005, MODEL NUMBER CSV-01 IS IN THE LIVERY OF THE GROTTOES, VIRGINIA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT. (COURTESY D MATHYSSEN)



1948 F1 PICKUP AS A LIGHT FIRE TRUCK FROM FORD'S RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA PLANT. BROOKLIN MODELS. (COURTESY D MATHYSSEN)



LEFT: THIS WHITE 1960 EDSSEL RANGER OPEN CONVERTIBLE AND A BLACK RANGER, BOTH WITH RED INTERIOR, WERE SOLD AS PART OF A LIMITED EDITION SET BY BROOKLIN MODELS IN 1998. (COURTESY D MATHYSSEN)

MAIN PIC: 75 OF THESE 1960 SUNLINERS BY DMP STUDIOS WERE ALSO MADE IN BLUE. THIS MODEL HAS BLACKWALL TIRES AND NON-STANDARD WHEEL COVERS. DETAILS LIKE THESE MAKE IT A VERY UNIQUE AND REALISTIC MODEL. DMP STUDIOS ISSUED A SMALL NUMBER OF 1955 T-BIRDS IN BLACK AND A 1950 MERCURY CONVERTIBLE IN RED. (COURTESY DEAN PAOLUCCI)



RIGHT: 1960 RANGER OPEN CONVERTIBLE BY BROOKLIN. MODEL NUMBER BRK-75. THIS IS THE ONLY 1960 1:43 SCALE MODEL OF THIS AUTOMOBILE. (COURTESY D MATHYSSEN)



FORD'S COMPACT FALCON MODEL, INTRODUCED FOR THE 1960 MODEL YEAR, HAS BEEN MODELED IN 1:43 SCALE BY SEVERAL BUILDERS. THIS CANARY YELLOW AND WHITE 4 DOOR SEDAN IS THE NICEST AND RAREST OF THE LOT. HANDMADE IN WHITE METAL BY MILESTONE MINIATURES, IT IS MODEL NUMBER 2. 2006 VALUE WOULD BE AROUND \$200. (COURTESY J RETTIG)



FALCON SPRINT 2 DOOR HARD TOP BY BROOKLIN, INTRODUCED DURING THE MID-1990S. MODEL NUMBER BRK-58. (COURTESY D MATHYSSEN)



# LINCOLN 3



SEVEN MODEL YEARS OF LINCOLN MOTORCARS FROM 1951-1957. FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: 1957 PREMIERE FROM MADISON, NUMBER MAD-8; 1956 PREMIERE ALSO MADISON, NUMBER MAD-2; 1955 CAPRI FROM MOTOR CITY USA, NUMBER MC-65; 1952 CAPRI FROM MOTOR CITY USA, NUMBER MC-74, AND 1951 COSMOPOLITAN, AGAIN FROM MOTOR CITY USA, NUMBER MC-34. (AUTHOR COLLECTION)



THREE 1:43 SCALE HANDBUILT WHITE METAL MODELS FROM MOTOR CITY USA. LEFT TO RIGHT: 1951 COSMOPOLITAN TOP UP CONVERTIBLE, NUMBER MC-34; 1952 CAPRI 2 DOOR HARD TOP COUPÉ, NUMBER MC-74, AND 1955 CAPRI 2 DOOR HARD TOP COUPÉ, NUMBER MC-65. (AUTHOR COLLECTION)

HANDBUILT LINCOLNS COVER MOSTLY THE 1938-1964 TIME PERIOD.

## Summary of major models

THE '30s

Aside from a few pewter and die-cast 1920s and 1930s Lincolns, Durham Classics (Canada) crafted the first significant handbuilts, beautiful coupé and convertible 1938 Zephyrs. Recently, Brooklin (UK) issued a '38 Zephyr sedan.

THE '40s

The Continental of the 1940s caught the fancy of many more than just *The Godfather's* Sonny Corleone. Several builders spawned 1940s Continentals, including a 1946 pace car and convertible from Collectors' Classics (Argentina) and 1940-41 convertibles and coupés from Rio (Italy), Enchantment Land Coachbuilders (USA), and Collectors' Classics. The regular old Lincoln was largely ignored until 2003, when Western (UK) released a nice '48 4 door sedan which was followed by a 2 door sedan in 2005.

THE '50s

'Bathtub Lincolns' were Brooklin's '49 Cosmopolitan top down and Fa. Daimler House's (Holland) 1950 sedan, and Motor City USA's 1951 Cosmopolitan convertible.

The Mexican road racecars are well represented with hardtop and convertible models for 1952-53, and 1955 from Precision Miniatures (USA), Motor City USA, BBR (Italy), and Western.

Even the Batmobile 1956-57s are replicated by Fa. Daimler House and Brooklin (in 2003).

There are a couple of sedate, tasteful 'Connies' from 1956, and even more of the humungous 1958-60 boats made by Brooklin, Legendary (USA), and Mini Marque '43' (UK).

## FORD IN MINIATURE

### 1957 TURNPIKE CRUISER

TOP UP  
CONVERTIBLE  
PACE CAR.  
MINI MARQUE  
'43' MODEL  
NUMBER 21C.  
(AUTHOR COLLECTION)



THE BUILDER SUCCESSFULLY CAPTURED THE DISTINCTIVE FUTURISTIC DASHBOARD AND INSTRUMENT PANEL DESIGN OF THE TURNPIKE CRUISER. (AUTHOR COLLECTION)



BROOKLIN ALSO ISSUED A METALLIC COPPER VERSION OF THE 1957 TURNPIKE CRUISER, NUMBERED BRK-28, IN 1988. IT IS A LIGHTLY DETAILED MODEL. (COURTESY D MATHYSSEN)



BELOW:  
A FURTHER  
200 LIGHT GREEN AND  
WHITE 1959 MERCURY  
COMMUTER STATION  
WAGON MODELS WERE  
RELEASED BY BROOKLIN  
FOR THE 1999 MODELEX  
SHOW. (COURTESY  
D MATHYSSEN)

A SURPRISING  
1959 MERCURY COMMUTER  
STATION WAGON IN CANTON  
RED AND WHITE FROM BROOKLIN.  
THIS MODEL, NUMBER BRK-77, IS ONE OF  
THE FEW LATE '50S WAGONS MODELED BY ANY  
BUILDER. IT HAS A BUBBLE-TYPE WINDSHIELD  
AND 'QUADRA-BEAM' HEADLIGHTS.  
(COURTESY D MATHYSSEN)



1957 TURNPIKE  
CRUISER CONVERTIBLE  
PACE CAR ATOP AN  
EARLY MINI MARQUE  
'43' BOX. DESPITE ITS  
HIGH BUILD QUALITY  
AND LEVEL OF DETAIL,  
THIS REPLICA HAS NOT  
TENDED TO MAINTAIN  
VALUE, AT LEAST  
AS AT THE TIME OF  
PUBLICATION. THIS IS  
QUITE UNUSUAL AND  
MAY BE DUE TO THE  
GREATER THAN USUAL  
NUMBER ISSUED BY  
THE BUILDER. (AUTHOR  
COLLECTION)

