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Front cover photomontage: developed with kind permission of RC2 from Britains' 1991 catalogue cover.

Rear cover photomontage: Britains' John Deere 590 round baler in real field setting.

Introduction

William Britain Senior began making high quality mechanical toys in London in the 1850s and released his first toy soldiers in 1893. Initially, these were available in two heights: 52mm and 60mm. However, the former, equivalent to 1:32nd scale, known as the 'standard size', quickly became the main scale.

The success of these toy soldiers was in part due to the use of the hollow cast manufacturing process which was cheaper than techniques used by other companies. The company continued to develop the toy soldier range over the following years, becoming market leader.

By the 1920s, a wave of anti-war feeling was affecting soldier sales, and Britains diversified by launching the

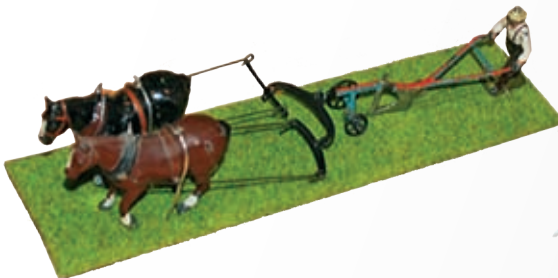
Home Farm series in 1921. Thirty new individual items including figures, animals and a tumbrel cart appeared in the first year.

1948 saw the first tractor, a Fordson Major available on either spade lugs or rubber tyres, added to the Home Farm series. The Major was made using the hollow cast process and released in Fordson blue. To increase the tractor's play value, Britains

Farm Waggon with Carter (5F) with the later metal waggon floor produced after 1937.



Late version of the Tumbrel Cart produced in the 1970s.



General purpose Plough with Ploughman (6F) first released in 1922.

Baler developments

Britains produced its first small rectangular bales in 1964. These were available with the Tipping Transporter or in an accessory pack containing six bales. The following year saw the battery-operated Lister elevator produced for conveying the bales. However, it was another two years before a baler to produce the bales appeared in the catalogue.

The first baler, a Bamfords BL58 released in 1967, was a realistic-looking working model – perhaps the best farm



Electrically- powered Lister elevator, code 9565, released in 1965. The battery was hidden in the bale stack.



Transport box and loads released in 1964.

Model baler range.

Manufacturer	Baler models	Issue
Bamfords	BL58	1967 to 1979
Britains	Action Drive, Little Farmer	1989 to 2007
Case IH	8465, LBX432	1998 on
Farmhand	800 HD	1981 to 2001
John Deere	100, 338, 348, 590	1998 on
Krone	80-80	1998 to 2005
New Holland	376, 377, 940, BB960A	1978 on
Vermeer	605F	1981
Vicon	RF 130	1999 to 2004



New Holland TR85 combine. Models sold in North America were supplied in a plain red box.



Massey Ferguson 760. It had different end plates, reel ends and feed elevator.

The Corn King 4891, from the 1984 release date in reverse, was Britain's third combine. It was green and yellow, a possible attempt to create the impression it was a John Deere combine. Britain did not have the necessary licence from John Deere to brand the combine.

Based on the New Holland TR85 casting, the model had a slightly different grain tank incorporating engine details and access steps instead of the rotary cleaner. A new maize header and straw chopper were also



The Corn King 4891 produced in 1984.



Differences between New Holland TR85 and Corn King 4891 models.

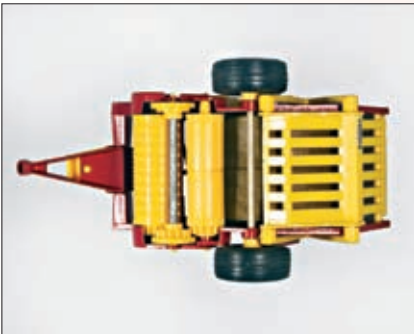


Farmhand 800HD round baler



The first round baler Britains added to its Farm range. Vermeer made the real baler in North America and Farmhand sold it in the UK under its own name and colours.

The model had an opening rear gate and a pick-up driven from two pick-up wheels. It had both Farmhand and Vermeer decals.



Specification

Dimensions

Track 60.0

Body

Farmhand 800HD casting – 1981.

Paper decals.

38.0 wide pick-up – driven by pick-up wheels.

Britains - style drawbar.

Wheels & tyres

Left-hand

Type: Long ribbed.

Size: 10.5/60-12.0

Rim: Solid plain plastic on steel axle.

Right-hand

Type: Long ribbed.

Size: 10.5/60-12.0

Rim: Solid plain plastic on steel axle.

Bale

Size: 52.0 dia x 36.0 wide.

Material: Hollow rigid plastic – dark yellow.

Units: mm

Nominal dimensions

Production

Scale: 1:32

Country of manufacture: UK

Code: 9532

Issue packaging: Box – Rainbow - Early

1981 – 1986