



Natal Diecast Model Collectors

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Newsletter March 2014

Hi Folks,

Our January meeting was well attended, and there were several lots of models for sale - with some model lots sold by closed auction. These closed auction models will be ready for collection at our March meeting, and those members who were successful would have heard by now - however, if you cannot attend this meeting, please make arrangements upfront for another member to collect and pay for these models on your behalf. (or pay by EFT)

Richard Hebborn is planning to hold another Annual Hobbies Fair - possibly during July 2014. His contact Nos are at the end of this newsletter, and once arrangements are confirmed and finalised, he will try and keep the costs the same as previously - i.e. tables are free if you display, and R100.00 for sellers.

We hope to hear from Toyota soon, regarding our planned tour of their factory and premises. Members will be kept informed once we confirm and finalise the dates etc.

There's an article "Cedric's Cars" in this newsletter, written by our member Cedric Getkate, who together with his wife Alie, have produced a series of the most surprising pics of many of his model cars. They used natural and picturesque backgrounds - showing diorama scenes, which I thought has worked very well, and are really effective and amazing. This article and all Cedric's pics will also be put onto our website under "Collections": see www.ndmc.co.za

See you at the next meeting,
Keep collecting

Philip

Cedric's Cars

by Cedric and Alie Getkate

I've been a member of NDMC for some time now, and I finally decided to retire some months ago. I had always worried that I would be bored at home, but hey...with a hobby like mine, it's been most enjoyable.

I started collecting model cars, buses and pickups in 2009, when my youngest daughter gave me one as a birthday gift and, boy oh boy, did that bug bite. I now have just over 300 cars, 12 buses and 6 motor cycles ranging in scale from 1/76 to 1/18. I prefer models prior to 1975, with my favourites being between the 1930's and 1960's.

At some stage I decided to photograph my cars for insurance purposes, as I slowly started to realise that I had quite some money invested in these little beauties. And so my photo album started taking shape.

It was trial and error. At first I photographed a few of my cars with just a plain background, but found this to be rather dull and uninteresting. To bring some colour and character to the pics, I decided to use some scenes from nature. These I cut from old calendars that we had lying around or that I received from friends and family. BINGO! The scene was set and the photographs looked amazing. (Even if I say so myself)

I did not use any hi-tech cameras or lighting, but just made do with what we had around the house. Our trusty Sony Cyber-shot digital camera was quite adequate. The backdrop was stuck to the back of an old cardboard box with large paper clips and a sheet of black or sandy coloured paper served as the "road". Even an old green carpet tile came in handy at times when I needed some grass.

I had various sizes of backdrop and which one I used depended on the size of the car. I used no special lighting and often had to move my props around to try and catch the light in just the right position. I often relied on an ordinary ceiling light or an old reading lamp. Sometimes I used the flash on the camera, but not too often, as it caused a reflection on the cars most of the time.

With the help of my wife Alie, the photos were all downloaded to our computer. Here they were edited by cropping them to size and sometimes a few cosmetic changes were made to get rid of some ugly marks on a wall or a prop, but the cars were generally not re-touched (on the odd occasion we did try to remove some reflection).

To get the best results, all printing was done on photo paper using an ordinary HP Desk Jet printer. This album is obviously a work in progress and probably always will be.

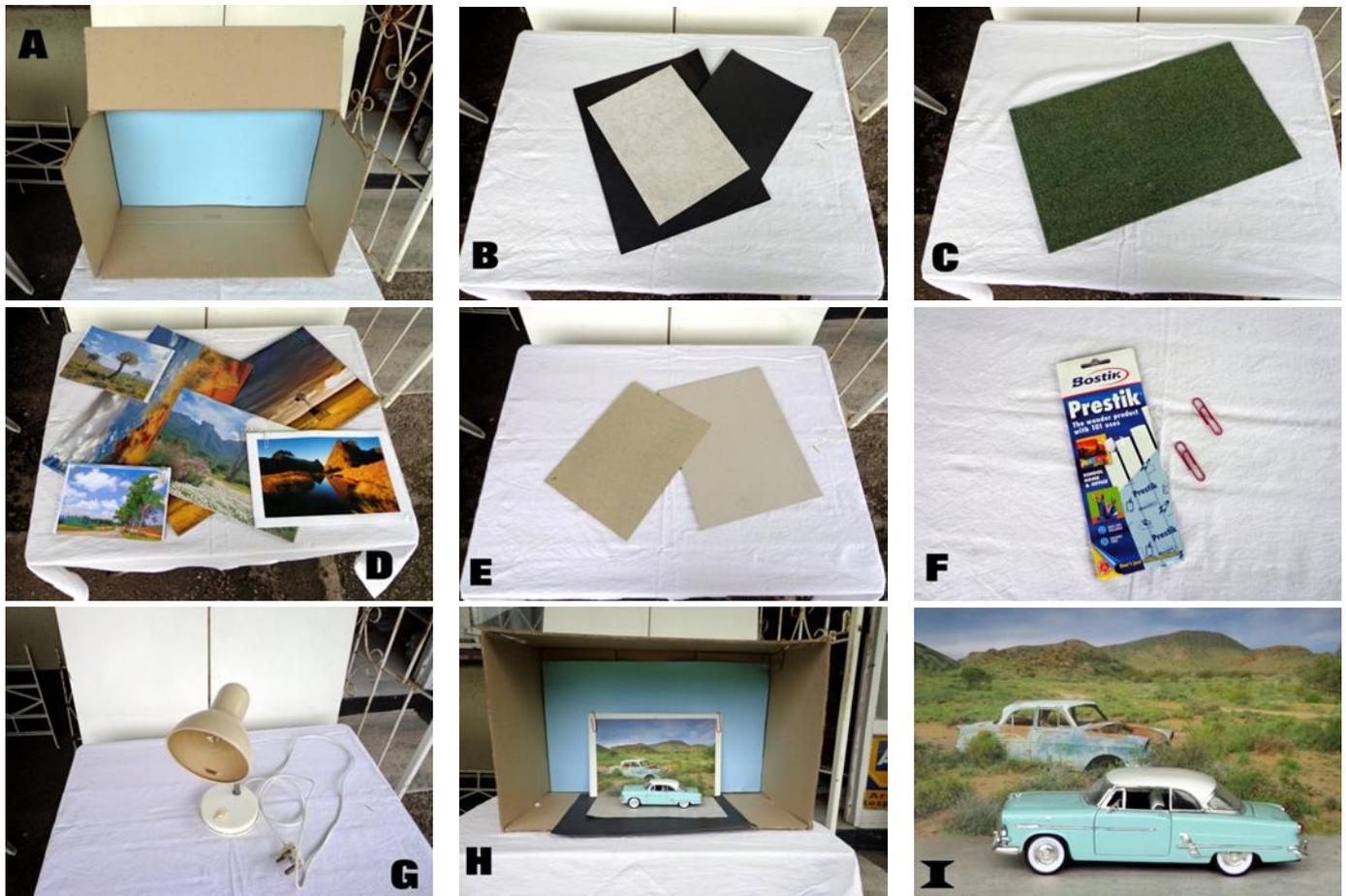
There are many photos of my model cars, as well as of my Den. Due to the fact that my collection was starting to take over the house, I converted our outbuilding into a personal space just for me. Some of my friends call this my car museum and I was even given a visitors book so people could leave their comments. It's a lot of fun and if you're in the area at some time, give me a call and come see my collection and have a cup of tea.

See below for the key and pics to the various steps:

- A - An ordinary cardboard box as "the stage".
- B - Black or sandy coloured paper (A4 or A3) to simulate tar roads or dirt roads, whatever is needed.
- C - A green carpet tile, to simulate grass.
- D - Assorted coloured pictures of different sizes - all those shown are nature scenes.
- E - Various sizes of rigid cardboard to serve as a backboard for the pictures.
- F - Paper clips and / or Prestik to secure the pictures to the backing board.
- G - An ordinary desk lamp for additional lighting when necessary.
- H - Now it's all put together for the capturing the scene.

Then the pics are downloaded to the computer and saved in the "To Do" folder. Finally the pics are cropped and minor adjustments are made. The cars are not enhanced in any way, and are a true reflection of the original. We do however clean up the background a little if necessary.

I - Here is the final result.....



Cedric's Cars



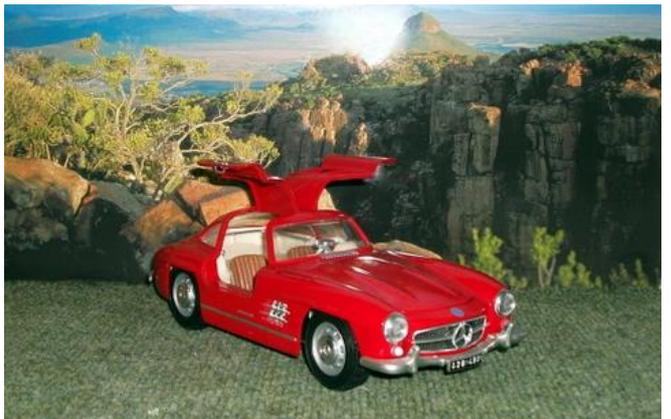
Mercedes Benz Type 260D



1957 Mercedes Benz Touring



1934 Mercedes Benz 130 (Engine Rear Mounted)



1954 Mercedes Benz 300SL Gullwing



1956 BMW 501



1959 to 1961 Jaguar Mk IX



1938 Jaguar SS 2.5 Saloon



1957 to 1961 Jaguar XK 150

Upcoming events

Date	Event/Function	Venue	Comments
31 st March 2014	NDMC Meeting	VCC - Kloof	Time: 17:30 for 18:00 'till we end. Cost: R20.00 for non-members Subs due: R100.00 / year. R60.00 Country Members
31 st March 2014	Theme		British Sports Cars
2014	Annual Hobbies Fair		Date still to be confirmed / advised - possibly July 2014
2014	Visit to Toyota		Date still to be confirmed / advised

Committee 2014

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On the lighter side

