

# COLLECTING CANADIAN TIRE - PART 2 DIE CAST COLLECTIBLE VEHICLES

by John Merrick #905

Collecting die cast is a great way for automobile enthusiasts to collect and own versions of their favourite vehicles.

Canadian Tire die cast collections vary widely as to personal preference, including complete collections of every vehicle produced, racing cars, semis, particular manufacturers i.e. Chevrolet, or even vehicles that we may have owned in the past or have special connections to.

The term die cast refers to any vehicle or collectible toy model that has been produced by the die casting method. These collectibles are made of metal with glass, plastic and rubber details. The scale for these vehicles is 1:24 (the most popular in North America, similar to G scale), the exception being the semi tractor trailer die cast which is 1:64 scale.

There are "Retail" and "Employee" versions for many of these die cast vehicles and the following describes how to identify the differences between them.

## Retail Versions



Clear view front and top

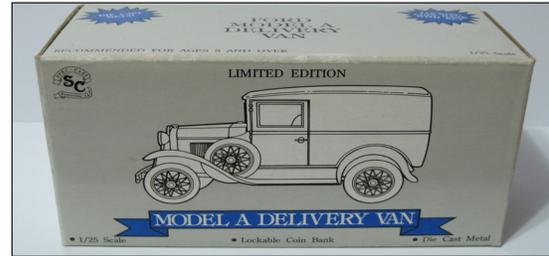


Colour view through box



License plate with vehicle type and year  
TR1-4R ('36 Dodge shown)

## Employee Versions



Plain solid or no view box - prior to 2002



Black view through box - starting in 2002



License plate with year of issue  
TR1-4R-emp (1995 shown)

Retail versions refer to die cast vehicles sold to retail customers in the Canadian Tire stores. Employee versions were offered to Canadian Tire employees only, usually as an incentive or gift and were not available to the general public.

The actual box that the vehicle was packaged in is an indicator as to which version the vehicle is. Prior to 2002 all employee version die cast vehicles from Canadian Tire had a plain box with no view of the vehicle inside. The box may have also had a line type drawing of the vehicle on the outside.

Starting in 2002 employee version vehicles were packaged in a generic black box with clear view through panels.

License plates can be another way to help distinguish between different versions. Retail versions have the vehicle year and model listed on the plate whereas employee versions have the year the die cast was issued on the plate.

Production quantities vary from year to year, however, retail versions have been as high as 20,000 units whereas employee versions have typically been near 7,500 units.

## TRACTOR TRAILER SERIES

There have been nine tractor trailer die cast issued to date including English and French versions and also special edition gold units.

Some units are individually numbered although most are not and the newest tractor trailer diecast is also Nascar related so it becomes a cross-over for collectors.



TRS-5R Scott Steckly #22 International 9900iX



TRS-3Ge Kenworth T2000 English

**TRUCK BANKS**

Many of these die cast vehicles are also banks. They have a coin slot opening located on the vehicle itself, typically near the rear of the vehicle. It may be visible or hidden behind the rear doors as pictured below and all bank vehicles will have a key located on the under carriage which opens a small door to remove your coins.

Not all Canadian Tire die cast are banks and this is particularly true of the race cars. If a vehicle is not a bank it certainly does not diminish it's value, however, if a vehicle is a bank then the key can be important when determining it's value.



TR1-4R with rear doors open showing coin slot located near top



Bank key located on the under carriage

**RETAIL SERIES**

Canadian Tire issues a new die cast vehicle in the stores each year as part of their continuing series. Each series typically consists of five die cast and there have been four series to date.

Retail die cast vehicles have a different license plate as described above and are packaged in a much more colourful view through box. This is the easiest way to get started collecting Canadian tire diecast and they are available in the stores usually in November each year.



TR3-5R 1979 Ford Pickup



TR2-1R 1922 Studebaker Pickup

**SPECIAL ISSUES**

There are vehicles that have been issued for special events or occasions including our own *Canadian Tire Coupon Collector's Club* 20th anniversary truck and a Mount Everest Base Camp truck. To coincide with the millenium in 2000, Canadian

Tire issued a 1949 pickup truck in both all silver or all gold. There are other special issue die cast vehicles planned for later this year and next year and these vehicles may replace the TRP series of trucks.



TSP-1R CTCCC 20th Anniversary



TSP-3W Mount Everest



TRM-1S Silver Millenium



TRM-1G Gold Millenium

CANADIAN TIRE DIVISIONS / PROJECTS

Canadian Tire has issued die cast vehicles to commemorate or recognize achievement within divisions of the company or for special projects including Express Auto Parts, Customer

Link, Distribution and Automotive Marketing. There was also a vehicle issued to commemorate the 20th annual slo-pitch tournament for the Foundation For Families.



TRX-2B Express Auto Parts



TRD-1B Safety Excellence

JUMPSTART / GAS BAR

Gas Bar locations have retailed die cast vehicles separate from the stores. Many models were available in red or gold each year. A black tow truck was issued one year and the 1935

Ford Pickup was available in red or gold and also in English and French versions for both colours.



TRP-1R 1940 Ford Tanker



TRP-3R 1940 Ford Panel

RACE CAR SERIES

Race cars have been issued since 1998 and continue today. Die cast race cars in general have gained in popularity over the last couple of years and the worldwide number one selling die cast collectible is now Nascar.

Starting in 2006, Racing Collectables in the United States began making all of their die cast vehicles with a unique DIN - Die cast Identification Number. This number is easily located through the back window of the car. They also offer a free registration of the vehicle for collectors online and a certificate is also available, Visit [www.lionelnascarcollectables.com/](http://www.lionelnascarcollectables.com/)



RC-2R Peter Gibbons Red #1



RC-7B Ron Fellows #88 Chevy Impala SS



DIN number can be seen through back window



DIN Registration Certificate

## COLLECTING CANADIAN TIRE - DIE CAST - continued

### STORE GRAND OPENINGS

From time to time there have been die cast vehicles issued to commemorate grand openings or opening anniversaries of Canadian Tire stores. These vehicles are much easier to identify as they usually have a logo on the vehicle itself marked with the store name and in most cases indicating it is a grand opening along with the year the opening occurred.



GO-5W Kingston grand opening

There is no steadfast rule as to the license plate with grand opening vehicles. Variations include a date of issue only, the words "grand opening" or even the proprietor's name.

The boxes have the same variations as the employee versions. Grand opening vehicles are much more rare with production quantities ranging from 155 to 504 units.



GO-7R Bradford

### GETTING STARTED

The easiest way to get started or to add to your collection is to visit your local Canadian Tire store to pick up the latest retail series vehicle released each year.

Older issued vehicles can also be found regularly on websites such as eBay or Kijiji. Other great sources include flea markets, estate auctions and our own Club auctions and on Club member sites such as [www.ctccollector.ca](http://www.ctccollector.ca)

### RESOURCE INFORMATION

*The Canadian Tire Die Cast Guide* is an invaluable tool when collecting Canadian Tire die cast vehicles. It is a comprehensive guide including full colour pictures, up to date price lists

and a grading guide specific to die cast. Ordering information for this guide can be found on the Club website [www.ctccc.ca](http://www.ctccc.ca) or in the ad section of this newsletter.

### STORAGE

There are a number of ways to store your collection. The best way to retain the maximum value for your collection is to leave the vehicles in their original packaging.

Some collectors prefer to display their vehicles out of the box to better see details of the vehicles. If your collection is to

be displayed in this manner, it is recommended that they are at least fully enclosed in a display case to prevent dust and dirt accumulation. Also ensure that your diecast vehicles are not displayed in direct sunlight to avoid fading.



### WEBSITE SCHOOL HOUSE

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Our club website has undergone huge changes over the past year and is still growing. Our web master Doug Adams has done a great job making the site much more user friendly with better and easier site navigation. The overall look of the site has improved, however, what really counts is the content and that's improved dramatically.

There is another new feature on the club website in the members section. Under the heading of "Breaking News" you will now see a school house icon, clicking on it will take you to informative articles that you can reference at anytime.

There will be a variety of articles added to the school house in upcoming weeks discussing a variety of subject matter. All members are welcome to write an article, contribute or collaborate and submit it. As a club we have an enormous wealth of information and knowledge to share if we just take the time and be involved. What a great way to keep our members up to date, informed and to add to our knowledge base. Don't hesitate to check it out [www.ctccc.ca](http://www.ctccc.ca)