

Common Diecast Terms and Definitions

Adjustable Steering - A feature found in some diecast cars that allows the front wheels to be turned. Adjustable steering is different from "workable steering" (see below).

Action Performance - Action, under the leadership of Fred Wagenhals, grew to be the largest marketer and distributor of motorsports merchandise such as diecast replicas, reaching an estimated value of \$500 million US dollars in 2001. Action was sold in late 2005 to Motorsports Authentics for \$245 million US dollars.

AP - Abbreviation for Action Performance.

ARC - Abbreviation for Action Racing Collectibles.

Bank - A diecast that also has a slot for the insertion of coins. Banks typically have a key to access the coins.

Blister Pack - Packaging consisting of a protective plastic containing the diecast against a cardboard shell. A hole or J-hook allows the item to be hung.

Book Value - The price that one might expect to pay for a diecast when purchasing in a retail store.

BWB - Black window bank.

BWC - Black window car.

Case Lot - A quantity of several of an item packaged in one box directly from the manufacturer. A case may be a lot of 6, 12, or other quantity depending on the scale of the diecast. Items bought in case lot quantity are often discounted because they do not need to be unpacked and re-packed for shipment.



Chassis Number - For diecast that are sequentially numbered (such as RCCA Elites), the chassis number identifies the order in which each car was manufactured. For example, if Lionel made 2500 of a certain diecast, chassis number 919 means that the diecast in question was the 919th/2500 cars made. The chassis number can be found in the back window, on the underside of the chassis, or sometimes the number is listed only on the box or on a certificate that came in the box.

CMV - Current market value. See Market Value.

Common - Refers to a sequentially numbered diecast with a chassis/DIN number of 50 or higher.

CWB - Clear window bank.

CWC - Clear window car.

DIN - Diecast Identification Number. This term is used by Lionel, and is interchangeable with "chassis number."

DCR - Diecast Registry.

Diecast - The term Diecast refers to any toy or collectible model produced by using a casting method. Such toys are made of metal and plastic, the metal used commonly is Zamak (or Mazak), an alloy of zinc and aluminum. Zamak is also referred to as white metal or pot metal.

Driver – The name of the person who drove a diecast at the time it was produced (e.g. Jeff Gordon).

HO – Abbreviation for “hood open.” A diecast described as HO means that the hood opens.

HO/TO – Abbreviation for “Hood open / trunk open.” A diecast described as HO/TO means that both the hood and trunk open.

HO Scale - HO is the most popular scale for model railroad diecast in continental Europe and North America (the slightly larger OO scale is still dominant in Britain). The name is derived from the German Halb-null (“half-zero”), because its 1:87 scale is approximately half that of O scale. In HO scale, 3.5 millimeters represents 1 real foot; this awkward ratio works out to about 1:87.086.

Lionel Racing – Division of Lionel LLC dedicated to the manufacture and marketing of NASCAR diecast since 2010.

Make – The type of diecast made by a particular manufacturer (e.g. boat, airplane, stock car, etc.).

Manufacturer – The name of the company who made the diecast (e.g. Matchbox, Ertl, Lionel, etc.).

Matching Number Car - A sequentially-numbered diecast in which the paint scheme car number (on the roof and doors of the car) is the same as the sequential number. For example, 2002 RCCA Elite 1:24 Ricky Rudd Havoline chassis #0028 would be a "Matching Number Car."

Market Value – The value of a diecast based on the amount paid by buyers (not the asking price of sellers). See Book Value and Wholesale Value.

Motorsports Authentics – A partnership between International Speedway Corp. and Speedway Motorsports which purchased Action Performance in late 2005 for \$245 million. In 2010, Motorsports Authentics lost the licensing rights to NASCAR diecast when the NASCAR Teams Licensing Trust was formed and chose to partner with Lionel LLC to market and distribute NASCAR diecast.

NSN – Not sequentially numbered.

Paint Scheme – The color and specific decals that were on a race car at a given moment in time. For example, the Budweiser Born on Date paint scheme looks different than the regular Budweiser paint scheme.

Prototype – Before a paint scheme is approved for production, the manufacturer typically creates several pre-production examples and sends them to the sponsor and race car owners for approval. Such prototypes often have a “proto” tag or sticker on them to identify them as such. Due to their rarity, prototypes are highly valuable, and thus extremely desirable by diecast collectors. The stickers and colors used on prototypes are often slightly different than those seen on actual production diecast.

RCCA – Racing Collectibles Club of America.

RFO – Race fans only. These diecast were made by Action/MA and sold by QVC through its television shows.

Scale - Scale is an indication of relative size. A 1:64 scale diecast car is one 64th the size of the real automobile. In other words, the real automobile is 64 times larger. Likewise, a 1:24 scale diecast car means the real one is 24 times larger. 1:24 scale is perhaps the most popular size of diecast toy.

Solid Box - A type of packaging that does not feature a see-through window on one or more sides.



Sequential Number – See chassis number.

Wholesale Value – The price that one might expect to pay for a diecast when purchasing at auction or as part of a large collection.

Window Box - A type of packaging that features a see-through window on one or more sides.

Workable Steering - A feature found in some diecast cars that allows the front wheels to be turned using the steering wheel of the car.

Year Raced – The year in which the diecast was actually raced by the driver.

Year Released – The year in which the manufacturer released the diecast for sale.

