

Schuco models feed the nostalgia factor

By Dennis Andreas

For those of us born in the late 50s, metal cars and trucks were some of our favorite toys. Along with bags of Army men, Hot Wheels and later G.I. Joes, many childhood hours were spent in the dirt in deep imagination. Each Christmas or birthday brought another vehicle to my fleet, including Buddy-L, Tonka and many other metal cars. Sadly, they are all gone ... but I do have one piece left, a Schuco MD 1043 #1 Red Windup Racer with steering!

This brings us to some great items available from Märklin today: the Schuco line of metal model vehicles. They are perfect gifts for birthdays and holidays, to decorate a train layout or to just collect and display. Nothing beats the quality, finish and detail of cast models coupled with the emotional connection to years past. We received two groups of items from Märklin: holiday-themed and ordinary vehicles and aircraft. This month we'll look at the holiday and car selection that could round out your holiday offerings.

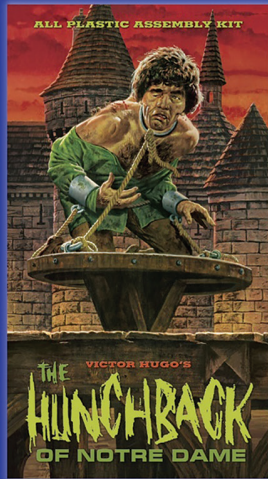
First, let's look at Schuco's 100-year-plus history. The Schuco story started in 1912 with salesman Heinrich Schreyer and toolmaker Heinrich Müller. They started the company "Schreyer und Co." in Nuremberg making figurative tin toys. They created a number of novel tin toys that were animated such as the "Automoto" marching robot and "Acrobato," a somersaulting artist. In the late 30s some of what we know as Schuco models started to emerge. After many years of success in diecast and plastics, the company hit hard times and filed bankruptcy in the 1970s. After a few changes in ownership and product development, The SIMBA DICKIE GROUP took over Schuco in 1999. This is when their name in diecast is solidified and the product line expands to what we have today. We're thankful for the resilience and vision of those involved with Schuco as the company has survived and is still setting the benchmark for diecast quality.

Let's look at some special edition models in 1/32 and 1/87 scale. The smaller one was the Christmas Special 2020 offering that's still available in limited quantities.

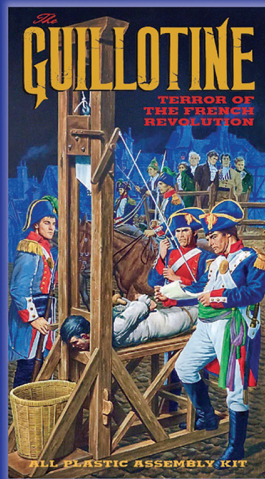




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The Christmas Special is a colorful pickup truck driven by Santa, hauling presents and Christmas Trees. It has bright paint, decals, rubber tires and steel axles. The trees and presents are removable, and the trailer can be decoupled from the pickup. This went straight to my mantle for Christmas!



The second holiday-themed model is the 1/32-scale Tractor and Wagon Christmas Edition. This edition features a Santa driver, freeloading reindeer and Christmas trees in the antique wagon.



The tractor is cast metal with rubber wheels and some plastic parts. The wheels steer from the steering wheel and the paint is great. Take notice, on the foam packaging there is a little wrapped hitch pin. It's easily missed if you're not looking for it.



The wagon is constructed from plastic in simulated wood grain with metal axles. It is done very well and will make you do a double-take to see if it's wood or not. Of course, the Christmas theme items can be removed for display or use during the other 11 months of the year.



Shown here is the My First Schuco Racer next to my No. 1 racer. The My First Racer is targeted at those 1-year-old and up. The parts are big and fully attached and easily grasped by the young racer. It has freewheeling rubber wheels without steering, making it the perfect first Schuco gift.



Finally, here are two 1/87-scale classics: a Porsche 911 Carrera 3.2 Coupe and a Jaguar XK 120. These models can be placed in miniature jewel boxes for display or on a rail layout. These finely detailed models feature cast metal bodies, rubber tires and plastic details. The Schuco line is broad and there are models for everyone's taste. Next time, we'll review some Schuco aircraft. Check availability with Märklin for these items as you consider your holiday planning. **HM**



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