



Matt White

# Diecast Report

## Hail to the Chief

### Re-creating the Presidents' Wheels

For those who remember November 22, 1963, it was the day the world was shocked by the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. It didn't matter what your political position was, it was simply chilling to hear that the President had been murdered. Since then, there have been many conspiracy theories. You can believe what you want, but the fact is that nothing will bring President Kennedy back.

That day is well documented, so everyone knows Kennedy was riding in a convertible. Considering the interest, intrigue and questions raised by conspiracy theorists, it is no wonder diecast model manufacturers have replicated the famous Lincoln Continental Limousine so many times. Minichamps has recently released a replica, not only a 1/43



The 1963 John F. Kennedy Presidential convertible replicates that famous day in complete detail, including six properly attired figurines in their correct seating positions.

scale car but also with figurines of the six occupants on that terrible day.

This recent release from Minichamps celebrates the first model of its new Presidential Vehicle Series, and it looks really good. The model comes mounted on a plinth containing specifications about the car. The outer sleeve packaging provides a wealth of information, answering most questions

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that your customers might have.

The model sits low and long, just as it was then. The midnight blue paint is flawless, and the body trimmings have been well executed and tastefully applied. Other external features, such as the US and presidential seals at the front and the Secret Service hand bars at the rear, immediately identify this vehicle as a very special limousine. Minichamps has also included the correct license plate details - GG 300 - which is bordered by smaller legible detail.

The wheels feature mirror-finished hubcaps and a subtle set of whitewall tires. Since the model is a convertible, inspection of the interior couldn't be easier. The six famous occupants also perfectly authenticate this model.



*President Obama's 2009 Cadillac DTS features high-gloss black paint, mirror finish hubcaps, correct size tires and presidential seals on the rear doors.*

There is a lot to like about Minichamps' John F. Kennedy Midnight Blue Lincoln Continental (#430 086100). It's a part of American history that

no one can forget, making it all the more appealing for collectors, no matter what his preference is for scale.

### The Beast

That was 1963. But what about 2010? Industry newcomer Luxury Diecast has answered the call with a replica of President Obama's 2009 Cadillac DTS Presidential Limousine, otherwise known as "The Beast" (#LDPL600-BK).

There's something to admire about a manufacturer that goes to the effort of producing a 1/43 model in

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Opening doors are a rarity in a 1/43 diecast replica and shows Luxury Diecast's commitment to accuracy. Chrome around the grill is crisp but roughly applied. The interior is starkly black, broken only by a bit of wood trim around the doors and dash, a reminder that this is a vehicle built for chief executive transport.

diecast metal with opening doors. While the Minichamps model has a lot to offer with its historical significance and inclusion of figures, the opening front and rear doors is a rarity in 1/43 scale and it shows a commitment by Luxury Diecast in including this feature.

Forming part of Luxury Diecast's Presidential Edition, the Beast's high-gloss exterior features presidential seals on the rear doors, a USA-1 license plate up front and "44" mounted on the rear. These contrast nicely with the US and presidential seals mounted at the front. The chrome wheels are surrounded with big rubber, as you would expect of such a beastly vehicle. The chrome work is crisp but roughly applied around the grille. That said, a customer will still need to get really close to notice it.

Inside, presidential seals have been applied to the wood-look door paneling, which provides welcome relief from the otherwise black interior. The only disappointment is that the dashboard would have benefited from a speedometer decal, but considering the cost of this model, maybe that's expecting a bit too much.

Overall Luxury Diecast's replica of "The Beast" is likeable. Luxury Diecast has also produced a 1/43 scale Chevy Suburban Secret Service vehicle (#LDSN675-AARM), which would perfectly complement the limo on display.

Each of these 1/43 scale presidential limousines marks a historic point in time, both past and present, and make a wonderful pair to display as part of any collection. **HM**

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