

ENGLISH EDITION 

DIECAST CAR MAGAZINE

MINIVERSE

SPECIAL COLLABORATION WITH "PAROLA GROUP"

ISSUE 1 NOV 2025

THE POWER OF
ORANGE



ORANGE, THE BOLDEST
EXPRESSION OF SPEED

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW



COVER IMAGE: LAMBORGHINI HURACAN EVO ARANCIO BOREALIS 114



MODEL OF THE MONTH

MINIVERSE
MAGAZINE



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EDITOR NOTES

WELCOME MINIVERSE MAGAZINE

Welcome to the very first issue of Miniverse!

We're beyond excited to launch this inaugural edition and take you on a journey through the intricate and captivating world of diecast and model car collecting. Whether you're a seasoned collector, a passionate beginner, or someone who simply marvels at the artistry of miniature cars, this issue is crafted for you. From high-performance builds and innovative detailing techniques to exclusive interviews with top collectors, our goal is to show how passion, precision, and creativity come together to fuel this incredible community.

In this first issue, you'll find a treasure trove of tips and tricks from experienced modelers who have spent countless hours perfecting their craft. We're also highlighting upcoming collector events from around the globe, giving you a sneak peek into gatherings where enthusiasts share ideas, stories, and inspiration. And, of course, we're exploring the latest trends shaping the hobby — from unique paint techniques to rare, highly coveted models that spark the imagination of collectors everywhere.

But Miniverse is about more than just models — it's about the people behind them. Every scratch, every brushstroke, every tiny piece tells a story. It's the process, the learning, and the connection with fellow collectors that make this hobby so magical. We hope that as you flip through these pages, you'll feel the excitement, curiosity, and joy that we experience every day in this miniature world.

Whether you're meticulously detailing your next masterpiece or simply admiring the artistry of others, remember that every model tells a story and every detail matters. And just as importantly, enjoy the journey — celebrate the triumphs, embrace the challenges, and connect with the vibrant community of like-minded enthusiasts who share your passion.

Thank you for joining us on this exciting adventure. We're thrilled to support a growing community that celebrates craftsmanship, creativity, and the sheer joy of collecting. Explore, experiment, and most importantly, have fun — because every collector's journey is unique, and every model is a little piece of magic waiting to be discovered.

Here's to the first of many issues — happy collecting, and enjoy the very first Miniverse!

This launch wouldn't have been possible without the incredible support and dedication of our friends and contributors **Serkan Baş**,

Volkan Özvatan, Mert Özdal, Gürül Cengizoğlu, and Furkan Örücü — whose passion and insight helped bring this first issue to life.

On behalf of the Miniverse Team,

thank you for being part of this journey and for sharing in the passion that drives our miniature world forward.



Editor-in-Chief



FEATURE STORY: LAMBORGHINI THROUGH THE AGES

INNOVATIONS IN SPORTS CAR TECHNOLOGY AND TRAINING ARE TRANSFORMING PERFORMANCE AND ENGAGEMENT, JUST AS LAMBORGHINI HAS CONSISTENTLY REVOLUTIONIZED SPEED, DESIGN, AND DRIVING EXPERIENCE THROUGH ITS LEGENDARY MODELS.



Lamborghini's legacy in automotive excellence is built on bold innovation, visionary design, and an unwavering commitment to pushing the limits of performance. Beginning with the groundbreaking Miura in the 1960s, Lamborghini redefined what a sports car could be, setting new benchmarks in both speed and style. The Miura's revolutionary mid-engine layout and sleek lines captivated the automotive world, establishing a standard for supercars that still resonates today. In the 1970s and 1980s, the Countach emerged as an icon of daring design. Its sharp angles, scissor doors, and aggressive presence transformed automotive aesthetics, inspiring generations of car enthusiasts and setting a precedent for boldness in both engineering and design. The Diablo followed in the 1990s, combining raw power with a new level of sophistication, demonstrating Lamborghini's ability to evolve while retaining its unmistakable character.



Today, Lamborghini continues to embody this spirit of innovation with models like the Aventador, Huracán, and Revuelto — blending cutting-edge hybrid technology, aerodynamic mastery, and unmistakable Italian artistry. Each new generation not only honors the brand's legendary heritage but also redefines the future of high-performance engineering.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BULUT GEZER

FEATURE STORY: LAMBORGHINI THROUGH THE AGES



As the brand entered the 21st century, models such as the Murciélagos, Gallardo, and later the Aventador continued this tradition of excellence. Lamborghini began integrating advanced aerodynamics, lightweight materials like carbon fiber, and state-of-the-art hybrid-electric systems to enhance both performance and efficiency. The Sián, Lamborghini's first hybrid supercar, exemplifies how cutting-edge technology can coexist with the brand's signature design philosophy, pushing the boundaries of innovation while delivering a visceral driving experience.

Innovations in Lamborghini's engineering mirror developments in elite sports training, where precision, efficiency, and cutting-edge technology allow athletes to reach unprecedented levels of performance. Advanced simulation tools, aerodynamic testing, and material science are all employed to ensure every Lamborghini achieves the perfect balance of speed, handling, and driver engagement. For collectors and enthusiasts, tracing Lamborghini's evolution is both an educational and inspirational journey.

Each model, from the Miura to the Sián, tells a story of audacity, artistry, and engineering brilliance. The brand's unwavering pursuit of perfection has created not just cars, but cultural icons that continue to inspire passion, admiration, and the thrill of driving. Lamborghini's legacy is a testament to the power of vision, dedication, and innovation—a story that continues to unfold with each new generation of supercars.

INTERVIEW: INSIDE THE WORLD OF A MODEL CAR PRO

**INTERVIEW
SERKAN BAŞ**
PHOTOGRAPHY BY SERKAN BAŞ



"Dear friends,

First of all, I would like to thank you for giving me a place in the publication of our new magazine project. I live in Istanbul and have been a professional model car collector for nearly 20 years. In this interview, I would like to share some of the experiences I have gained throughout this journey with you."

"CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT YOUR JOURNEY INTO THE WORLD OF MODEL CARS?"

"Model car collecting is, in fact, a reflection of our childhood love for cars. The stickers from Turbo chewing gums, tin toy cars, and the vehicles our fathers drove were the first things that inspired us. However, my journey of taking this hobby seriously began with American cars. My very first model was a 1/24 scale Mustang Old Time Series by Maisto. Later, I added a red 1/18 scale Mustang, which marked the beginning of my collection with a Mustang theme."

“COULD YOU GIVE US A GLIMPSE INTO YOUR COLLECTION ROUTINE?”

“COULD YOU GIVE US A GLIMPSE INTO HOW YOU MANAGE AND EXPAND YOUR COLLECTION?”

Back then, 1/18 scale models were going through their golden age in Turkey. They were both accessible and much more affordable compared to today, which gave me the chance to grow my collection quickly. I often bought models from shops in Kadıköy and Sirkeci, especially from Adnan Abi and Cumhur Yücel. At that time, the forum culture was very strong; two major forums were highly active, long before social media became widespread. Collectors wrote detailed reviews of models, and I contributed as a writer as well.

The first resin models also appeared during this period, sparking many discussions and comparisons between diecast and resin. I was introduced to highly detailed brands such as CMC, Exoto, and TSM around then. Gradually, I added Formula 1 and Le Mans classics to my collection, and my interest in German and Italian cars grew. I included German brands like Schuco, and it was also during this time that I met my dear friend Ahmet Kadi.

At that time, Autoart models were at the forefront. I was fascinated by the professional details, such as carpeted floors in the interiors. There was also some access to CMC, GMP, Highway61, ERTL, and Exact Details, although in smaller quantities. On the other hand, Maisto, Yatming, and Welly were more entry-level and less satisfying for serious collectors. I initially had a strong interest in Hot-Rod cars. The Salt Lake racing scene felt very authentic to me. During those years, I would watch programs and follow publications to import models from abroad. Highway61 and GMP models became a big part of my collection.



As my focus shifted more towards European cars, I decided to part ways with most of my American models (except for Hot-Rods), replacing them with rarer and higher-quality pieces. Later, together with Ahmet Abi and close friends, we founded our own collector group. Through this group, I became very close with Mehmet Tirpan, and with the support of senior members like Erhan Abi, Tayfun Abi, and Kenan Abi, our bond grew stronger. Without a doubt, the most influential figure in my collecting journey has been Ahmet Abi. We've shared countless memories—from climbing the Kaçkar mountains with a Discovery, off-road adventures with a Defender, trips to Izmir, our journey to Germany, and visiting the museums of the “big three.”

“WHO HAS BEEN THE MOST INFLUENTIAL PERSON IN YOUR MODEL CAR COLLECTING JOURNEY?”

“WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS FOR YOUR COLLECTION IN THE COMING YEAR?”

In 1/64 scale, I especially enjoy models from Inno64, Ignition, TP, Titan64, HPI, and GCD. Recently, Micro Turbo has also caught my attention. In the coming year, I plan to focus more on JDM models. However, I try to limit very popular models such as the R34 and R35, instead aiming to diversify my collection with less common pieces.

Towards the end of my 1/18 era, I started focusing on Japanese and RWB Porsche models, so many friends see me as leaning toward Japanese themes. However, my foundation has always been European Le Mans classics and off-road vehicles. In real life, I also own an off-road vehicle, and I often go camping with my brother Ahmet. In that sense, I consider myself a strong off-road enthusiast.

In recent years, I entered the world of 1/64 scale. I first met Barkın Kenal, and later became close with my brother Volkan Özvatan. I also joined Parola, where I am still an active member and administrator today. While the 1/64 community differs from the 1/18 scene and can sometimes be more dynamic (with occasional disagreements among groups), friendships have always endured. Thanks to over 20 years of collecting experience, the transition to 1/64 was smooth for me. I started with RWB models from PGM and FuelMe. Later, I continued with the Japanese theme inspired by our late friend Özgür Memo, while also adding off-road vehicles in 1/64 scale.



Life is full of surprises, but one thing is certain—this collecting journey has given me unforgettable memories and precious friendships.

With love and respect.



@miniminiwheels

COLLECTOR SPOTLIGHT OF THE MONTH
PHOTOGRAPHY BY SERKAN BAŞ

OT064: THE JOURNEY FROM COLLECTOR TO BRAND

BY EMRAH BOSTAN

PHOTOGRAPHY BY
TOLGA HAN



Emrah Bostan – The Oto64 Story

Hello, I'm Emrah Bostan, one of the founders of Oto64 model cars.

I was born on October 26, 1987, in Ankara. I'm married and have an 11-year-old son.

For many years, I worked as a restaurant manager in Ankara, and for the last 7 years, I've been a model car collector.

What started with regular Hot Wheels models soon grew into a vast collection with my coach — and later business partner — İnan Aslan.

The First Steps

At first, I joined the project purely as a collector — I had no experience in customizing or painting.

But I always thought, "If they can do it, so can we."

We started by scanning the car and turning it into a 3D model, testing each part — windows, base, headlights, and taillights.

As the model took shape, our confidence grew. Around this time, Tolgahan Demir joined the team, and the project truly gained momentum.



@oto64modelcars

INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION AND CELEBRATING PASSION IN DIECAST COLLECTING

BY EMRAH BOSTAN
PHOTOGRAPHY BY TOLGA HAN

The First Prototype and Reactions

After about six months, we completed our first white prototype and showcased it at a collector event.

Seeing a 1/64 scale Tofaş Şahin for the first time, people were genuinely excited.

This moment pushed us to establish Oto64 officially and secure the patent.

Our first model – a black version limited to 299 pieces – received highly positive feedback from collectors who wanted to support local production.



EVERY DIECAST MODEL TELLS A STORY

INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION AND CELEBRATING PASSION IN DIECAST COLLECTING



Development and the V2 Şahin

After the black model, we redesigned the V2 Şahin from scratch.

Every part was reprinted, and we started mounting the windows externally for a cleaner finish.

I left my restaurant career, sold 90% of my collection, and fully devoted myself to Oto64.

We released the Pomegranate Red and White versions, each limited to 299 pieces.

BY EMRAH BOSTAN
PHOTOGRAPHY BY TOLGA HAN

New Strategy and Major Breakthrough

We decided to lower the production limit to offer more variety. Our first Şahin Taxi model, limited to 99 pieces, sold out in just six hours! With this success, we moved production in-house for better control. Next came the Şahin Police version — 155 units — which sold out in under a week.



DEVELOPING PASSION AND ADVANCING INCLUSIVITY IN DIECAST CULTURE

WHERE CREATIVITY CONNECTS COLLECTORS AND INSPIRES FUTURE GENERATIONS.



WHERE CREATIVITY, CRAFTSMANSHIP, AND EMOTION UNITE.



The Kartal Project and the Pink Şahin

After a year, we began the Kartal Project.

Meanwhile, I created a custom pink Şahin with my wife's name as a birthday gift.

The model received incredible attention and was later produced in a limited run of 129 units — sold out in just one hour.

Our most recent release, the Kartal, sold all 129 units in only 15 minutes.

The Future and Gratitude

Oto64 continues to grow with dedication, patience, and passion.

We know global competitors are ahead in technology, but our motto remains — “If they can do it, we can too.”

Our goal is to become a globally recognized Turkish brand.

Endless thanks to everyone who made this journey possible:

Tolgahan Demir, İnan Aslan, Tunahan Kara, Halil Ün, Emir Gökçe, and Boran Sarı.



FOLLOW FOR MUCH MORE!



@oto64modelcars



“EVERY DIORAMA TELLS A STORY” - AN INTERVIEW WITH DIORAMAHANE



INTERVIEW NURETTİN HASALTUN

BULUT GEZER: A world where reality shrinks but imagination expands — welcome to Dioramahane.

Each meticulously crafted miniature scene represents more than a hobby; it's a blend of patience, artistry, and boundless creativity.

In this interview, we dive into the story behind Dioramahane — exploring how it began, what inspires its creator, and the craftsmanship that turns ideas into breathtaking miniature worlds.

As you read, you'll rediscover the true power of detail.

BULUT GEZER: How did the idea of founding Dioramahane come about, and when did this journey begin for you?

NURETTİN HASALTUN: My biggest motivation for starting to build scale models actually comes from my fascination with architectural structures. I've always wondered if I could recreate real-life locations — especially those involving cars (such as showrooms, parking lots, repair shops, or vintage-style spaces) — and display them alongside my model cars.

There isn't really a specific “starting point,” but I can say that I began to focus on it seriously during my university years. Around that time, 3D printers were just starting to become available in Turkey, so I bought one and began creating various objects that I could use in my dioramas. That's how the process began to take shape. I can say I've been doing this since around 2009.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY NURETTİN HASALTUN

BG: Could you walk us through your diorama design process step by step?

NH: In my current structured workflow, the design process mainly revolves around the collector's theme and the visual concept they wish to see. The part I enjoy most is pushing myself to ask, "What can I do differently this time?"

Usually, I receive feedback like, "I'll leave the design up to you." Of course, that comes with responsibility — there's always the risk that they might not like it. But at the same time, it's a great opportunity for personal growth. Thankfully, no one has ever been disappointed so far. In fact, the most common reaction I get is, "This turned out even better than I expected!"

BG: Where do you usually draw inspiration when designing your dioramas?

NH: As I mentioned before, my inspiration mainly comes from real-life environments, my visual memory, and the materials I come across — often thinking, "How can I use this differently in a diorama?" This kind of mindset makes my work more diverse and creative. For richer visuals, Pinterest is an endless ocean of ideas — it's truly an invaluable resource for me.



BG: What materials and techniques do you prefer when building your dioramas?

NH: The materials I use are mostly determined by accessibility. Since I've been trying to establish a more standardized system, my outer cases are usually made of furniture-grade materials, inner sections from laser-cut MDF, lighting elements from plexiglass, and I use remote-controlled LED systems for illumination.

This approach combines modern aesthetics with efficiency — it both shortens production time and benefits from technological support wherever possible.



@dioramahane

**"EVERY DIORAMA TELLS A STORY"
AN INTERVIEW WITH DIORAMAHANE**

PHOTOGRAPHY BY NURETTİN HASALTUN

“EVERY DIORAMA TELLS A STORY” - AN INTERVIEW WITH DIORAMAHANE

**INTERVIEW
NURETTİN HASALTUN**



BG: How challenging or exciting is it to meet your clients' special requests?

NH: I actually don't see the people who commission projects from me as "clients." Everyone has their own busy life and challenges; I simply help those who don't have the time or skill to create these things themselves.

In that sense, the process usually starts with them describing how many models they want to feature and what kind of scene they'd like to see. From there, we either adapt an existing concept or design something completely unique for them.

I always prepare every project as if I were making it for myself — constantly asking, "If this were mine, what would I want to see? How deep should this detail go?" That mindset is what keeps the excitement alive for me.

FROM MODEL CAR PASSION TO DIORAMA ART: THE JOURNEY OF DIORAMAHANE

BG: What have been the biggest challenges you've faced in this field?

NH: A few years ago, we worked on a very special themed project — it was 3 meters wide and 3 stories tall, reaching a total height of 3 meters. The concept design and the models to be displayed inside were extremely carefully selected and detailed.

To give you an idea, every model and figure's position was predetermined in architectural drawing form. The project was almost entirely handmade, featuring moving car elevators, opening shutters, TV screens, fight cages, auction rooms, and VIP lounges, among many other intricate elements.

Until the day before delivery, I honestly thought, "This project will never end, it's going to stay in my workshop forever." But thankfully, we managed to finish it on time and install it properly — and the final scene was truly spectacular, something you could watch for hours without getting bored.

BG: How has Dioramahane impacted collectors and the diecast community?

NH: Based on the feedback I've received, people often say things like:

"Many people do this kind of work, but no one matches the harmony you achieve between your builds and the models themselves."

They also highlight my attention to detail, discipline, and reliability — that they can trust me completely without hesitation, and that the results are always worth the wait.

Hearing such things means a lot to me.



BY BULUT GEZER

PHOTOGRAPHY BY
NURETTİN HASALTUN



@dioramahane

BY BULUT GEZER
PHOTOGRAPHY BY NURETTİN HASALTUN

THE POWER OF DETAIL: BRINGING REALITY TO SCALE WITH DIORAMAHANE

BG: Do you have any upcoming innovations or projects planned?

NH: Absolutely — I have countless draft projects and ideas, some only existing in my head or on scattered notes and sketches.

Time, however, is my biggest challenge. Because of my day job's busy schedule, I can only dedicate my evenings to ongoing projects. Very rarely do I have time to make something just for myself — and even when I do, my followers often see it and say, "Please sell that one to me!" So, even those personal projects eventually find new homes.



BG: What advice would you give to those who want to start building dioramas or pursue this hobby professionally?

NH: This hobby is entirely about imagination. Some people may have better access to materials or more manual skill than I do, but what truly matters is passion and curiosity.

Over the years, I've seen many people start and later abandon this hobby — and new ones will surely come and go. I genuinely hope everyone who pursues it receives the reward for their dedication and effort.

If we consider this a "sector," then perhaps there's competition — but I don't feel it. That's just not how I operate. I focus on improving myself, and the resources I use are available to everyone. Finding the right path and growing in this field is entirely up to each individual.

MINIATURE REALITY: INSIDE THE CREATIVE WORLD OF DIORAMAHANE

BY BULUT GEZER
PHOTOGRAPHY BY NURETTİN HASALTUN

BG: What do you think sets you and Dioramahane apart from other diorama makers?

NH: That's actually a question best answered by the collectors who currently display their models within my dioramas. Otherwise, it might sound like I'm praising myself — and I'd rather avoid that fine line.

But to put it briefly, everyone has their own lifestyle and perspective. What I've often heard, even from people outside this hobby, is something like:

"There's something distinctive about your work — the posture, the color balance, the interior layout. We can immediately recognize your style. Other dioramas don't quite have that same look or presence."

That kind of feedback truly makes all the effort worthwhile.





FOLLOW FOR MUCH MORE!



@dioramahane

“DRIVEN BY PASSION”: CHARLY ALONSO’S MINI GT JOURNEY

BY BULUT GEZER
PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHARLY ALONSO

Bulut Gezer: The collecting journey: "How did you first learn about the Mini GT and what specifically attracted you to this brand?"

Charly Alonso: It was very nice in July 2021, during the pandemic. My 9-year-old nephew Giancarlo asked me to find him a Mini GT #9 car. He saw in a video that there was a store here in Querétaro, Mexico, specializing in cars. When I went, I saw the wide variety of makes and models. I NEVER COLLECTED 1/64 CARS, but that day I bought my first Mini GT #26, an Acura NSX GT3, and some from other brands. But I started visiting more stores and buying more Mini GTs. I loved the detail and the little boxes. So, I started buying and collecting back issues since the brand had been on sale for several years.



EVERY DIECAST MODEL TELLS A STORY: CHARLY ALONSO – INSPIRING PASSION AND COMMUNITY IN MINI GT COLLECTING



BG: Favorite pieces and souvenirs: "Which Mini GT model in your collection is the most special or rarest to you, and what memory makes it so unique?"

CA: Look, the most special piece is the Mini GT #84, a gift from the director, as it was my first gift from the brand that shaped how I collect today!

BG: Collecting strategy: "When collecting Mini GT models, what aspects do you prioritize: color, series, rarity, or attention to detail?"

CA: My goal is to have the complete numbering and to own the rarest pieces from the brand.

BY BULUT GEZER
PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHARLY ALONSO

BG: Community and interaction: "What does it mean to you to be part of the diecast and Mini GT collector community? How do you experience sharing your passion with other collectors?"

CA: In my community, I share live streams on social media and occasionally go to Meet in my country. It's a joy to see what my peers share and their passion for what unites us. I live out my passion by sharing rare pieces. When I get something, like a display case to show off, I try to share everything from the brands.



WHERE PASSION, PRECISION, AND FRIENDSHIP UNITE



DEVELOPING PASSION AND ADVANCING INCLUSIVITY IN DIECAST CULTURE

NURTURING PASSION AND STRENGTHENING
COMMUNITY IN MINI GT COLLECTING



BG: Advice and future plans: "What key advice would you give to someone starting to collect Mini GTs, and what are your plans for the future of your own collection?"

CA: I would advise them to take their time to grow their collection to their full potential, as collecting isn't a race against time. They should enjoy watching their collection grow step by step.

My future plans are to meet more people in my country and around the world who share the same passion and to continue motivating those who are just starting to collect this beautiful hobby.

Charly Alonso

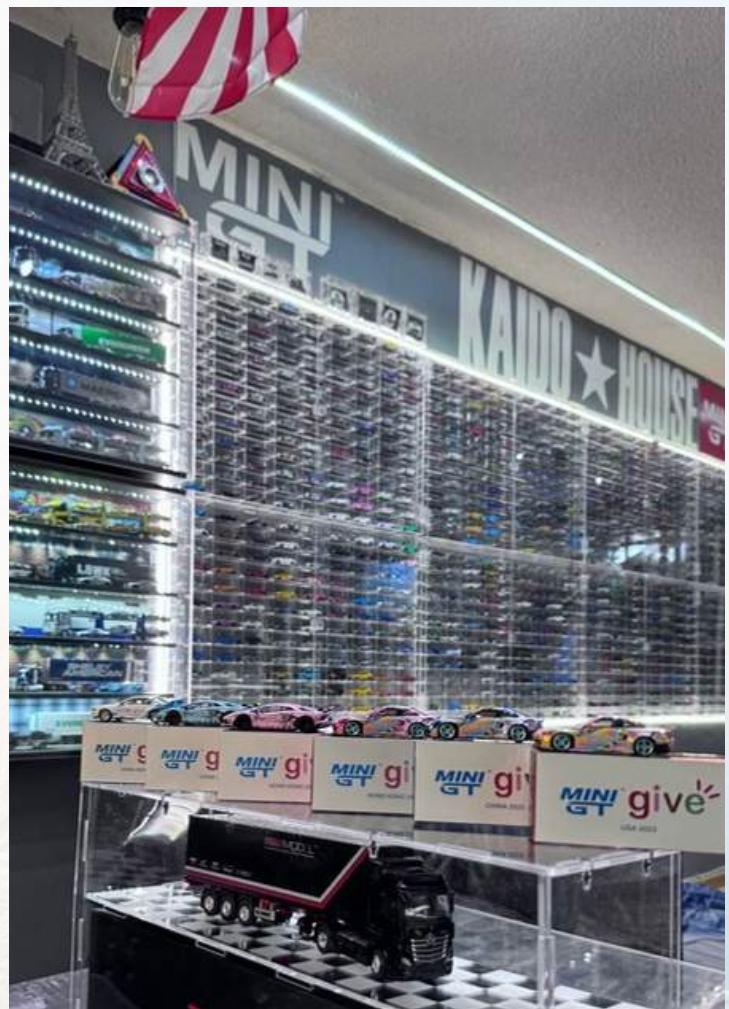


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TURNING A DREAM INTO REALITY: AN INTERVIEW WITH TÜRKER KUSAV OF LIDER MODEL

FROM A TEENAGER'S DISTANT DREAM TO A BRAND SHAPING TURKEY'S DIECAST CULTURE – THE INSPIRING STORY BEHIND LIDER MODEL.



BULUT GEZER: The story of Lider Model is the result of over 20 years of passion. How did this journey begin? What is the story behind your first encounter with a model car?

TÜRKER KUSAV: Toward the end of the 1990s, I saw one for the first time in the window of a store in Ankara. I was 17 at the time, and for a worker's son, it felt like a distant dream. But from that day on, I couldn't get it out of my mind. Back then, people didn't have internet at home — we accessed it from internet cafés. After a long period of research, saving, and decision-making, one day I came across a set of four American models for sale on a secondhand site — in my own city. I ran to get them, and that's how it all started.



BG: Over the years, the model car industry has gone through significant changes both in Turkey and around the world. How do you evaluate this transformation?

TK: Especially after the pandemic, the industry has grown tremendously. Unfortunately, due to economic reasons, Turkey has lagged far behind this global progress. New brands, manufacturers, and product diversity have brought major growth worldwide. In Turkey, the market has expanded but developed its own unique dynamics, creating an enthusiastic yet distinct ecosystem.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY TÜRKER KUSAV



BG: Collecting is not just a hobby, but also a culture. How does Lider Model contribute to the development of this culture?

TK: At its core, collecting means accumulating — not only the objects you're passionate about, but also the knowledge and context that come with them. Our focus is to help this culture evolve by providing rich variety, diverse themes, and accessibility across every subcategory. Sharing our accumulated knowledge while continuing to learn ourselves is, we believe, an essential part of this culture.



A 20-YEAR JOURNEY OF PASSION: THE STORY OF LIDER MODEL

BG: Since 2017, what vision have you aimed to present to model enthusiasts with your brand?

TK: Our vision is to remind collectors that while desires remain constant, expectations can change. We emphasize the importance of owning meaningful and valuable pieces rather than constantly buying new ones — to cherish them for a lifetime. We believe a well-defined collection can become one of the defining traits that tells the story of a person's life.



BG: What advice would you give to someone who wants to start a model car collection today?

TK: My only advice to beginners is to follow their emotions. Ignore other variables and choose the model that best resonates with their own taste, memories, or passions. They should begin with a model that brings them pure joy.

BG: In your opinion, what direction is model car collecting in Turkey heading? What are our strengths and weaknesses in terms of growth?

TK: Unfortunately, not only in Turkey but globally, the hobby is shifting from an emotional pursuit to a commercial industry. Manufacturers now use more aggressive marketing to steer demand and interest. In Turkey, roles change very quickly — creating a market with short-lived players, instability, and a lack of trust.

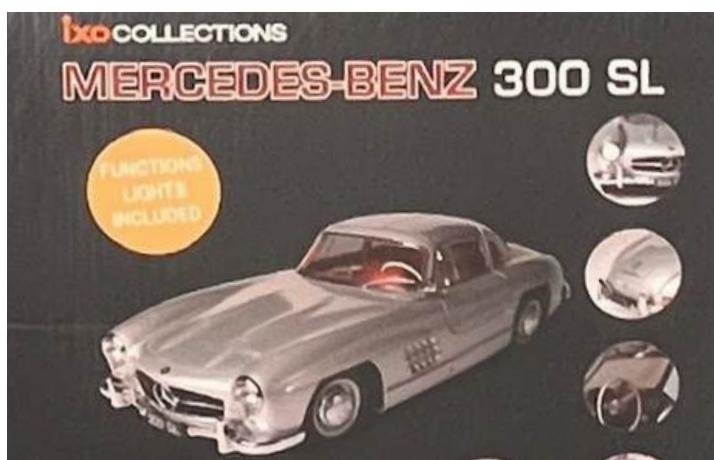
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FROM HOBBY TO CULTURE: THE MEANING OF COLLECTING WITH LIDER MODEL

BG: What are your future goals for Lider Model? Are there any upcoming projects or collaborations?

TK: We are currently working directly with six manufacturers and indirectly with many more. We don't have a specific end goal — our focus is not on being impressive but on being sustainable. Our principles are to create value, to continuously improve, and to stay closely attuned to innovation. We're always ready to take action for meaningful and valuable collaborations.



BG: Do you have a model in your personal collection that holds a special meaning for you? Could you share its story with us?

TK: Like many collectors, it's hard to pick just one model. But for me, the most special piece would be the 1967 Alfa Romeo 33 Tipo — a symbol of beauty where passion, art, and design meet industrial form. Its story lies in the fact that it will forever remain a dream to behold.



BG: Lastly, is there a message you'd like to share with Miniverse readers and the model collecting community?

TK: I encourage everyone to support initiatives that aim not to benefit from the model world, but to benefit the model world itself. There are very few individuals and organizations that truly add value, create, and inspire. We are all pieces of this mosaic — and only by standing together in the right place and with purpose can we form a beautiful picture.

I believe Miniverse will fill a major gap in this mosaic and make it even more beautiful.

Thank you very much, and I wish you continued success.

DIECAST SECRETS: COLLECT LIKE A PRO



Model car collecting is not just a hobby; it is an art that grows with patience, aesthetic vision, and knowledge. Some secrets learned by professional collectors over the years can help everyone—from beginners to experienced enthusiasts—take their collection to the next level.

1. Start with the Right Choice

Building your collection in a planned way is very important. Choosing a brand, scale, and theme ensures consistency and makes your collection more valuable.

2. Focus on the Details

What separates an ordinary model from an exceptional one are the small yet impactful details. Paint quality, interior design, and wheel construction are the elements that elevate your collection.

3. Follow Special Editions and Rare Pieces

Limited releases and unique variations nourish the spirit of collecting. These pieces matter both aesthetically and as an investment.

4. The Art of Display

A collection is not only stored in boxes; it also tells a story. With lighted showcases, thematic arrangements, or photography, you can highlight your models in creative ways.

5. The Power of Knowledge and Community

Connecting with other collectors, sharing knowledge, and joining events make you a more informed collector. Collecting is also about a sense of community.

★ Remember, each model is not just a toy—it is a piece of automotive history, design aesthetics, and collector passion.

PHOTOGRAPH BY
BULUT GEZER

EXPERT TIPS FROM ELITE COLLECTORS ON BUILDING, SHOWCASING, AND PRESERVING YOUR MODELS

Beyond the Collection: Living the Passion

Model cars are more than scaled-down replicas—they carry stories, innovations, and dreams of the automotive world. For many collectors, each piece represents not just a vehicle, but a memory, an era, or a personal milestone.

Collecting as Storytelling

Every collection has its own narrative. Whether you focus on classic Lamborghinis, JDM legends, or limited-edition supercars, the models you choose reflect your personality and passion.

Photography & Creative Expression

Sharing your collection through photography or digital showcases brings models to life in new ways. Creative backdrops, lighting, and angles transform a diecast car into a work of art.

The Future of Collecting

With digital communities, international events, and evolving brands, the diecast world is constantly growing. Today's collectors are not just hobbyists—they are curators of design history.

👉 In the end, collecting is not about how many models you own, but how deeply each one connects with you.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY
BULUT GEZER

SHOWCASE DESIGNS & CARE STRATEGIES

Showcase Design

Organize your collection by brand, color, or era. Lighted shelves and themed backdrops add a professional look.

Lighting

Choose LED-based, heat-free lights. Avoid direct sunlight.

Protection

Closed glass displays are ideal against dust. Use microfiber cloths and soft brushes for cleaning.

Storage

Keep original boxes and store in a dry, stable-temperature environment.

Digital Showcasing

Share your collection through photos and online albums to create a visual archive.

👉 Showcasing highlights your collection, while preservation ensures it can be passed on to future generations.

1/64 PHOTOGRAPHY SCHOOL

PHOTOGRAPHY BY YUSUF SEFER



Diecast collecting is far more than gathering miniature cars. Each model is a scaled-down reflection of a real automobile—and capturing that reflection correctly through photography multiplies the collection's value.

1/64 scale models present fascinatingly detailed miniature worlds. However, to reveal those details to the viewer, one must use proper lighting, framing, and technique. That is why photography has become an inseparable part of collecting.

In this course, we focus not only on professional equipment but also on simple, accessible methods. Because what truly matters is not an expensive camera, but an observant eye guided by the right techniques.

On this journey, you will elevate your collection—not just by displaying it, but by transforming it into a visual work of art.



Lesson 1: The Basics of Shooting

The foundation of photography lies in understanding light and perspective. When shooting a 1/64 scale model car, its small size actually becomes an advantage—every tiny movement can completely change the scene.

1. A Phone Is Enough to Start

Most modern smartphones are more than capable of diecast photography. With the right technique, iPhone or similar devices can produce professional-looking results. What matters is not the device, but your perspective.

2. The Role of Light

Light is the heart of photography. It can either highlight your model or drown it in shadows. You don't need a strong light source—just a well-positioned one. Even a simple desk lamp, angled correctly, can create a professional look.

3. Angles and Perspective

For a realistic image, lower your camera to the car's level. Shooting at eye level with the model creates the illusion of a full-sized car—this is the strongest illusion of scale.

4. Sharpness and Stability

The most common issue in close-up shots is blurriness. Keep your phone steady or use a small tripod. Focus on the front of the car to ensure your sharpness is properly placed.



Lesson 2: Lighting and Background

Photography is the art of writing with light. Proper use of lighting is just as important as the model itself. A poorly placed light can hide every detail, while the right angle can bring your car to life.

1. Simple Yet Effective: Desk Lamp

You don't need studio lights. A regular desk lamp can deliver excellent results. Position it about 5 cm above the model, directly above. This enhances contours and reflections.

2. Light Angle and Softness

Direct light often creates harsh shadows. To soften them, tilt your light slightly or diffuse it with thin paper or parchment. This results in more natural shadows.

3. The Power of Background

The background is the silent hero of your shot. A plain black background works best—it isolates the car, reduces distractions, and adds a professional tone. A simple black cardboard or fabric will do.

4. Shadow Control

The shadow under the car adds realism, but if it's too dark, it can obscure the form. Adjust the light's angle slightly to manage the shadow's intensity.

5. Simplicity Wins

Avoid cluttered scenes. In the beginning, focus on your model and a plain background. A minimalist setup highlights every detail.

LESSON 3: FRAMING - VISUAL BALANCE IN 1/64 PHOTOGRAPHY

Framing is the essence of visual storytelling. In small-scale car photography, framing defines the character and detail of the model. Proper framing directs the viewer's attention and adds depth to the image.

1. The Importance of Framing

- Framing is the boundary of your visual story.
- Proper framing highlights detail and creates an aesthetic experience.
- Poor framing hides features or creates imbalance.

2. Centering and Proportion

- Enable your camera's grid lines and align the car's center axis.
- Place key elements (headlights, bumper, wheels) along the focal points.
- Balanced framing provides visual harmony.

3. Use of Negative Space

- Leave enough space around the model.
- This allows the image to "breathe" and naturally directs focus.
- Overly tight framing causes detail loss.

4. Choosing the Right Angle

- Eye-level or slightly above-eye-level angles feel realistic.
- Different angles reveal the model's character and beauty.

5. Points of Interest

- Headlights, rims, or unique body lines should be the focal points.
- A minimalist background ensures these details stand out.

6. Practical Tip

- Fix your camera and table height to achieve consistent framing across shots.
- Avoid digital zoom; instead, move physically to adjust your composition—this keeps clarity intact.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY **YUSUF SEFER**



@yrsdiecast

By the end of this series, what you have learned will go far beyond technical knowledge—it will redefine the way you see collecting itself. Every 1/64 scale model in your hands will no longer be just an object on display, but an emotion, a story, and a reflection of your artistic vision. The direction of light, the balance of shadows, the language of framing, and the soul of colors will merge to create a visual narrative that speaks both for the model's character and your identity as a collector. You will soon realize that a great photograph isn't just taken with the right settings—it's captured with passion. Because the 1/64 world, when seen through the right eyes, is not merely about miniature cars; it is a lifestyle, a form of expression, and an endless space for creativity. Through this course, you will become one of the artists who bring that miniature world to life—one frame, one story at a time.

BY BULUT GEZER
PHOTOGRAPHY BY OGULCAN SOYLU

Bulut Gezer: CREAMINI has made a significant impact in the diecast world in a short time. How did this journey begin, and where did the idea for your first figure come from?

Ogulcan Soylu: CreaMINI was actually born from a simple thought: how can I make my own collection more expressive and fun? While collecting, I always noticed something — the cars were incredibly detailed, but the life around them was missing. When I placed a figure next to a model car, the whole scene came alive; that's when I captured the soul of miniatures. With my background in industrial design and 3D modeling, I asked myself, "why not create my own characters?" My first figure was just an experiment for my personal collection, but it unexpectedly attracted attention and soon evolved into the CreaMINI brand. Even today, I strive to preserve that same spirit from my first attempt: telling big stories on a small scale.



SMALL FIGURES, BIG IMAGINATION – INSIDE THE WORLD OF CREAMINI



BG: Producing 1/64 scale figures requires both patience and an obsession with detail. What design philosophy sets CreaMINI apart?

OS: For me, even if the scale gets smaller, character and quality should never diminish. CreaMINI figures are not just accessories; they're small sculptures that carry the emotion of a scene. In the design process, I blend industrial thinking with art — every body posture, wrinkle in clothing, and even the figure's gaze direction is designed to tell a story. Each piece is hand-painted, because that brushstroke transforms it into a living object. In short, we may scale down the size, but never the emotion or the quality.



SMALL FIGURES, BIG IMAGINATION – INSIDE THE WORLD OF CREAMINI

BY BULUT GEZER

PHOTOGRAPHY BY
OĞULCAN SOYLU



BG: Every model has a story behind it. When designing a figure, where do you usually draw your inspiration from — real-life scenes or collecting culture?

OS: From both. Sometimes the posture of someone sitting in a café, sometimes the way a collector arranges their display gives me ideas. I find it fascinating to miniature ordinary moments from real life. A figure isn't just a "standing person"; it's a reflection of a mood that captures the essence of the scene. Collecting culture also plays a major role — I see figures not as complementary accessories but as the living parts of a collection. Cars start the story, and figures complete it. After all, a car only has meaning when it has an owner.

BG: It's impressive that CreaMini, a brand from Turkey, has gained international recognition among collectors. What are your next steps to sustain this success globally?

OS: CreaMini is truly a "small-scale big export story." My goal is to make the brand more visible on the global stage. I'm currently working on product lines that blend cultural motifs with universal aesthetics, designed to complement collectors' models. At the same time, we're preparing to launch series-produced products in diecast shops across different countries and cities — without compromising our quality or originality. In the long term, I aim to position CreaMini as the artistic side of the diecast scene, because people today aren't just buying models; they're buying the stories that give those models a soul.

creamini

@crea.mini

BG: In the 1/64 world, dioramas, photography, and figure design have become inseparable. How do you think this culture will evolve in the future, and where will CreaMini stand in that evolution?

OS: The 1/64 scale world has evolved from a collecting hobby into a form of expression. People aren't just collecting cars anymore; they're building stories around them. In the future, this culture will become even more "scene-oriented," meaning dioramas will be more detailed, and figures more expressive. Photography lies at the heart of this evolution, as collectors share their scenes and build a sense of community through them.

At CreaMini, we're part of this transformation – continuing to design figures that strengthen storytelling. With every new series, we aim to add more emotion and more character to each scene. Because we believe this hobby will grow through miniature scenes that reflect real life, and CreaMini will always be a part of those stories.



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Collectors App

Mini GT Collectors App



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MINI GT
COLLECTORS APP

BEYOND THE SCALE: DAVELAMBO'S JOURNEY IN DIECAST EXCELLENCE



Bulut Gezer: Who's Davelambo? How "did he" start this passion?

DL – My name is David, I was born in Mexico City a few years ago haha. I really like traveling, going to concerts (obviously I'm very happy with the return of my favorite band Oasis), play sports (I love soccer and I'm a big fan of the Club America in my country and the Manchester City – since the 90's, thanks to the Gallagher brothers – and the Juventus) and in my free time I rescue street cats (I love them, in fact I have adopted 7 which live like queens & kings at home).

Since I was a child I liked cars and always I had a preference for Italian things (football, music, history), obviously Ferrari and Lamborghini are the popular ones but after seeing the colors and the names of the cars, I decided on Ferruccio's bulls. My facet as a collector began in 2011, my wife gave me my first Lambo, the Reventón Roadster from the Hot Wheels Speed Machines series. That Lambo started this great adventure, it was the first of more than 1600 Lambos of different brands and scales that currently make up my stable... and it keeps growing!



BY BULUT GEZER

PHOTOGRAPHY BY
DAVELAMBO



BY BULUT GEZER
PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAELAMBO

INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION AND CELEBRATING PASSION IN DIECAST COLLECTING

Bulut Gezer: Among Lamborghini's legendary models (Miura, Countach, Diablo, Murciélagos, Aventador, etc.), which one surprised you the most in terms of variation diversity?

DL – As you know, I love all Lamborghinis, but the Aventador, in my opinion, offer the best answer to this question. From the LP700-4 to the Ultimae, with its many variants like the J, the 50th Anniversario (without a doubt my favorite Aventador with its unique color yellow Giallo Maggio), the stunning SV, the impressive SVJ and the elegant S (I love the snake design on its front and at this time is one of the missing lambos in my collection) all variations of this car are incredible. This is why the Aventador versions are definitely the ones I like the most!



DEVELOPING PASSION AND ADVANCING INCLUSIVITY IN DIECAST CULTURE
EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION AND NURTURING UNITY IN THE DIECAST WORLD

Bulut Gezer: Looking at different manufacturers (Hot Wheels, Mini GT, Kyosho, Autoart, etc.), which brand do you think has produced the most accurate proportions and details for Lamborghini variations?

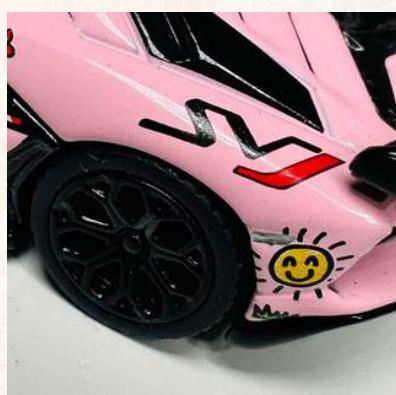
DL – There are many brands that put in a lot of effort. Kyosho and MiniGT are one of them, I love these brands! Also, autoART, Time Model, Pop Race, Hung Hing Toys, Veloce are great but without a doubt, in 1/64 scale, MR Collection Models is, for me, the best. The paint, wheels, and every detail on their cars are impeccably done! I have two cars from this brand, the Terzo Millennio and the Veneno, and these ones are in the top of my collection!



INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION AND CELEBRATING PASSION IN DIECAST COLLECTING

Bulut Gezer: When bringing together different Lamborghini variations in your collection, which design detail impresses you the most?

DL- I definitely put special attention to the wheels, the lights, the spoilers. I love the Aventador's LED headlights and taillights, they're my favorite! The carbon fiber also adds a little something extra when choosing a model. The spoilers on the SV, Huracán GT, SVJ and STO models make me crazy about these Lamborghinis!



EVERY DIECAST MODEL TELLS A STORY – OF CRAFTSMANSHIP, EMOTION, AND THE TIMELESS BEAUTY OF DESIGN

WHERE PASSION MEETS PRECISION IN MINIATURE FORM.



Bulut GEZER: Color variations are very important for collectors. Which official Lamborghini color fascinates you the most, and what is your favorite model in that shade?

DL – Uff, this is a hard question. Any color you choose for a Lamborghini looks great, but my favorites are these: Arancio Argos, Verde Scandal and Viola Pasifae. Arancio Argos was the color chosen for the Aventador LP700-4, the successor to the Murciélago. This color is absolutely amazing, intense, pure, a perfect match for one of the best Lambos ever designed. The color Verde Scandal, as their name says, it's absolutely stunning, actually no brand released a 1/64 model in this color, the closest is the MiniGT Aventador SVJ Roadster Verde Shock and one of my biggest friends Darumal64z makes me a custom with this color, I really love it! And finally, the Viola Pasifae. It's a rare but an awesome color. The brightness and the intensity of it it's definitely incredible, MiniGT caught perfectly this color with their incredible Huracán STO.

BY BULUT GEZER
PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAVELAMBO

INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION AND CELEBRATING PASSION IN DIECAST COLLECTING

Bulut Gezer: Which Lamborghini variation in your collection holds the most personal value for you, and why?

DL – Without a doubt, Mr. Glen Chou's director's gift is the one. This car represents the recognition for those who support his brand, it's one of the holy grails of MiniGT and, therefore, one of the most desired and difficult to obtain (in the market some of them are on sale, with a very high price). Every detail of this model is unique, and receiving it from his hands, with his signature on the box, makes this Lamborghini the most special in my collection.

MINI GT LAMBORGHINI AVENTADOR SVJ BLACK CHROME 2022 DIRECTOR'S GIFT



Bulut Gezer: Wow, you're truly one of the lucky ones, Dave! That director's gift is practically the holy grail of MiniGT – every collector dreams of it. I have to confess, it's also the model I'd love to own one day. Maybe luck will be on my side too... though with that price tag, I might need a miracle instead!

DL: Haha, I totally get that, Bulut! It's definitely one of those models that feels almost mythical. But hey, never say never – the diecast universe has a funny way of surprising us when we least expect it. Maybe one day you'll be the one telling me the story of how you got yours!

BEHIND EVERY DIECAST LIES A STORY – WHERE PRECISION MEETS PASSION AND DESIGN BECOMES TIMELESS ART.

BECAUSE TRUE COLLECTORS DON'T JUST COLLECT – THEY CONNECT.



Bulut Gezer: Looking ahead, which Lamborghini model or variation do you believe will stand out most in the diecast collecting world?

DL – The latest Lambos to come out are the most preferred by collectors (the Aventador and Huracán in all their versions), but I think a look back at the brand's past would be a good bet. Iconic models like the Murcielago SV, the Diablo, and the Miura (I eagerly hope some brand releases the Miura with the LBWK kit!) would definitely be a resounding success, as they were Lambos that changed everything in the world of supercars and in addition, it would make more people aware of the history of this great Italian brand.

“BIG FRAMES IN SMALL SCALES”

BY BULUT GEZER
PHOTOGRAPHY BY CEM TÜFEKÇİOĞLU

Bulut Gezer: How did you start diecast model photography, and where did your inspiration come from?

Cem Tüfekçioğlu: First of all, I'd like to send my greetings to everyone involved in this hobby. My model car journey began with my late father — who was truly a knowledgeable man when it came to automobiles — collecting what we used to call “pull-back” models. I can honestly say that it was thanks to him that I took my first step into this fascinating world.

I started collecting model cars with the well-known 1:43 scale Bburago models. After reaching around 100 Bburago pieces, I wanted to take my collection a step further and moved on to the 1:18 scale. During that period, I made new friends, got to know the collecting culture more closely, and turned my attention to Autoart — a brand that truly stands out with its impressive detailing quality.

Although 1:18 scale models are visually stunning, over time I faced difficulties in terms of space and display. For that reason, I eventually transitioned to the 1:64 scale. I genuinely love all types of cars, but Japanese cars have always held a special place in my heart. The way the Japanese keep this culture alive and the care they put into it is truly inspiring.

That's also where my journey into model photography began. At first, I started quite amateurishly, but over time I improved myself through trial and error. The photographers I followed and the communities I joined played a big role in that progress as well.



BG: What techniques or equipment do you mostly use in your shoots?

CT: When taking model photos, the most important thing for me is natural light. Even when the weather isn't sunny, daylight adds a great sense of realism and depth to the image. That's why I always try to make the most of it whenever possible.

As for equipment, I use a smartphone — currently a Samsung S25 Ultra. While shooting, I prefer to use the highest optical zoom the device can handle without losing image quality (in my case, 15X). This allows me to capture the model's details as sharply and clearly as possible.

There's also a common mistake I often see among photographers: when shooting inside a diorama, many people try to capture the entire scene in the frame. In my opinion, that's the wrong approach — because the focus should always be on the model itself. All other elements are just supporting components meant to enhance the overall composition.



BG: Which model or theme has excited you the most while photographing?

CT: As I mentioned earlier, I've always had a special admiration for Japanese cars. However, some models are simply far more photogenic than others. For instance, the TLVN Ferrari Testarossa is a good example of this – it's an undeniably high-quality model, yet no matter what I do, it never quite gives me the shot I want.

Recently, the model I've enjoyed photographing the most has been the Aston Martin DBS by Mini GT. It's a true "gentleman" in every sense – no matter the angle, it always manages to look striking. With its elegant lines and meticulous detailing, it has an incredible presence in photographs.



BEHIND EVERY DIECAST LIES A STORY

WHERE PRECISION MEETS PASSION AND
DESIGN BECOMES TIMELESS ART



BG: What has combining collecting and photography brought to you, and what are your goals in this field for the future?

CT: To be honest, combining photography and collecting hasn't brought me any financial gain, aside from meeting many wonderful people I didn't know before. But this hobby isn't something you pursue with expectations – it's a passion project that should be done purely for enjoyment. Looking ahead, I do have some plans. I'm particularly interested in improving my skills in diorama creation. I plan to start by making pieces for my own collection, and if people like them or show interest, I may eventually produce them for fellow collectors as well.



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@spottedinjapan64



BY BULUT GEZER
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MERT ÖZDAL

FROM CHILDHOOD PASSION TO DIGITAL INNOVATION: THE STORY BEHIND THE MINI GT COLLECTORS APP

Introduction

From a very young age, cars—and by extension, model cars—held a special place in my life. A big part of that came from my father. He was deeply passionate about cars, and as a child, I naturally followed in his footsteps. Every evening, when he returned home from work, I would rush to the door to greet him and ask the most important question of the day:

“Dad, did you buy a Majorette today?”

That simple ritual shaped the roots of my enthusiasm. My interest never faded as I grew older; I continued buying model cars, always drawn to the joy of holding a miniature piece of automotive culture. But back then, I wasn’t a collector in the true sense of the word. I didn’t curate, preserve, or track anything. Models were lost, damaged, or forgotten over time—casual tokens of a hobby I loved, but didn’t yet organize.

Everything changed about three years ago, when I discovered Mini GT for the first time. My childhood fascination with Majorette had quietly left me with a permanent appreciation for the 1:64 scale. And as someone who always valued objects that faithfully captured real-world details, Mini GT immediately stood out—true-to-scale proportions, rich authenticity, and craftsmanship that felt almost artistic.

The turning point arrived the day I unboxed my very first Mini GT: the Porsche Taycan Turbo S, No. 218. The moment I held it in my hand, something clicked. The arrow had left the bow.

From that day forward, I wasn’t just someone who liked model cars anymore—I was a Mini GT collector.

My Journey as a Collector

My serious journey into 1:64 collecting began around mid-2023. Although model cars had always been a part of my life, this was the first time I approached the hobby with true collector consciousness. I’ve always been drawn to small, meticulously detailed objects that remain faithful to their real-life counterparts, and that preference naturally led me toward the 1:64 scale. It was the perfect balance of size, realism, and craftsmanship—compact enough to display easily, yet rich enough in detail to appreciate like art.

As my interest deepened, collecting became more than simply buying models I liked. It turned into a passion for completing full variation sets of the manufacturers I admire. I began following new releases closely, trying to secure every model from the brands that resonated with me. At the same time, hunting down mint-condition pieces sold within the collector community became part of the thrill—finding a pristine, hard-to-get Mini GT always feels like a small victory.



Although my collection includes a handful of models from other manufacturers, Mini GT remains its true backbone. Focusing heavily on Mini GT brings me a sense of harmony and continuity; their sculpting, detailing, and consistency across the lineup make the collecting experience incredibly satisfying.

Today, I continue several brand lines in full variation, including Porsche, Formula 1, McLaren, Aston Martin, Jaguar, Lincoln, Mercedes-Benz (passenger cars), and Audi. I'm 2 or 3 models behind for full variations on my BMW and Bentley collections, filling in the smaller gaps one release at a time. Each new addition, each completed sequence, adds another layer of joy to the journey.



THE CHALLENGES BEHIND THE COLLECTION

As my collection continued to grow, one of the biggest difficulties I encountered was the simple issue of availability. Some Mini GT models, especially older or highly demanded releases, are incredibly hard to find in Turkey. Strict import regulations and unpredictable customs processes create an additional barrier—often turning what should be an enjoyable hobby into a logistical challenge. For collectors like me, who follow this passion wholeheartedly, these restrictions can feel like one of the greatest obstacles standing between us and the models we love.

Another challenge emerged as my collection expanded into the hundreds. Once your catalog reaches the 500–600 model range, managing it becomes a surprisingly complex task. I found myself unintentionally buying duplicates—purchasing a model I already owned—or, even worse, missing out on rare pieces because I mistakenly thought I had them. The larger the collection grew, the easier it became to lose track of everything.



For a long time, I tried to manage the chaos through Excel spreadsheets. I tracked purchase dates, prices, and sold items manually. But spreadsheets were never built for collectors. Keeping the file updated was difficult, and without any visuals or model-specific metadata, it often became unclear which entry corresponded to which car. Over time, the system felt more like an obstacle than a solution. Eventually, I realized there had to be a better way—and that realization led me to a very important decision, which I'll come back to shortly.:)

THE LIGHTBULB MOMENT

After repeatedly reviewing my entire inventory from scratch, updating spreadsheets manually, missing out on models I desperately wanted, and accidentally buying duplicates of the ones I already owned, it became clear that something had to change. These small frustrations accumulated into one undeniable truth: my collection had outgrown the tools I was using to manage it.

In an age where technology supports even the smallest daily tasks, I realized there was surprisingly no reliable, collector-friendly app designed specifically for us—Mini GT fans and 1:64 enthusiasts. The few apps that did exist were either unstable, outdated, or so impractical that using them became more work than benefit.

So I decided to put my software engineering background to use and take matters into my own hands.

Drawing directly from my own pain points and real collector needs, I began building what would eventually become the Mini GT Collectors App—a tool crafted by a collector, for collectors. What started as a personal solution quickly evolved into something much bigger: a way to simplify the hobby I love and to help others who face the same challenges.





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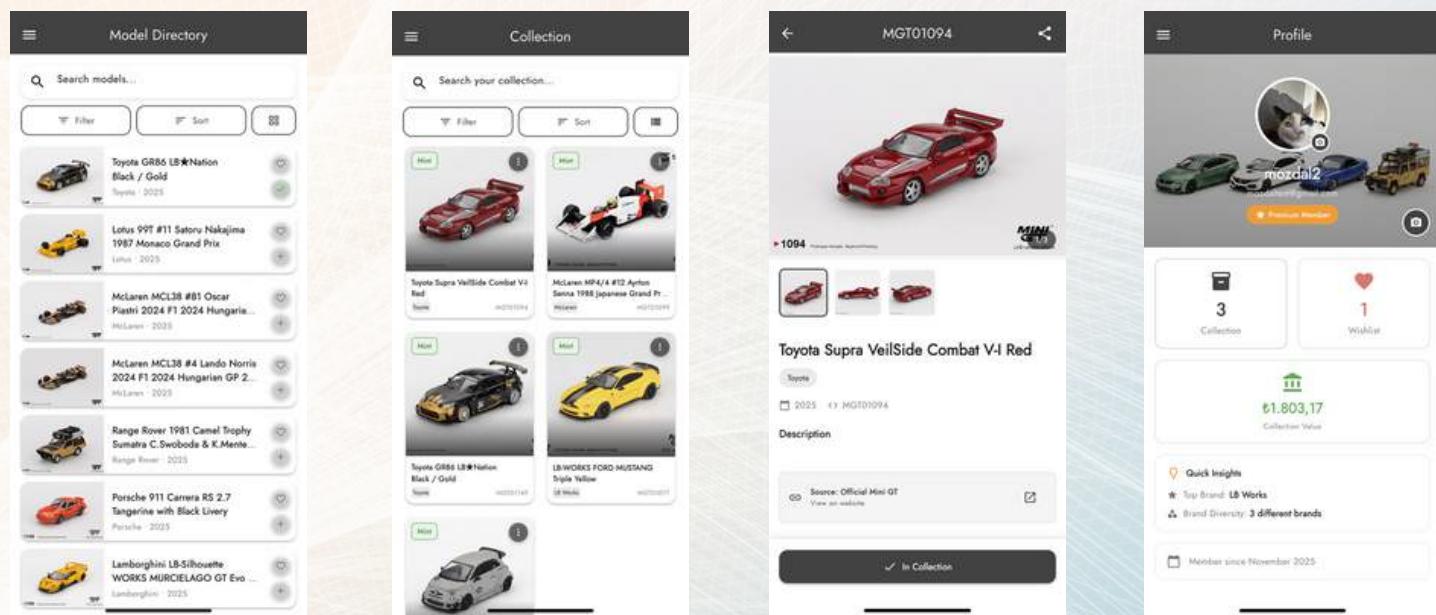
BUILDING THE APP - FROM COLLECTOR TO CREATOR

As a computer engineer, I decided to combine my professional experience with my passion for collecting. In my spare time, I began developing what would eventually become the Mini GT Collectors App. What started as a personal solution—a way to bring order to my own growing collection—quickly evolved into a project I felt compelled to share with the community.

The app is currently in the review phase on the Apple App Store, and our Google Play review will begin within a week. If everything goes smoothly, I hope to bring the Mini GT Collectors App to both iOS and Android collectors very soon.

Throughout the entire development process, I designed every feature with a collector's eye. I wanted each part of the app to address a real pain point: organizing variations, preventing duplicate purchases, tracking buys and sells, monitoring wishlists, and simply keeping a clean overview of the entire collection. My goal was not to create just another tool, but to build something genuinely useful—something that makes this demanding hobby just a little bit easier for all of us.

In the end, I believe the app reflects exactly that: a practical, collector-focused companion born directly from the challenges we share.



● WHEN ADDING A MODEL TO YOUR WISHLIST, YOU CAN SET A TARGET PRICE AND LEAVE PERSONAL NOTES TO HELP GUIDE YOUR FUTURE PURCHASES.

● WHEN ADDING A MODEL TO YOUR COLLECTION, YOU CAN RECORD YOUR PURCHASE PRICE, PURCHASE DATE, AND ANY NOTES YOU WANT TO KEEP.

● IF YOU EVER SELL A MODEL, YOU CAN LOG THE SALE PRICE AND DATE AS WELL.

ALL OF THESE TRANSACTIONS ARE STORED AND CAN BE VIEWED LATER, CREATING A COMPLETE HISTORICAL TIMELINE OF YOUR COLLECTING JOURNEY.

What the App Offers Today

The foundation of the Mini GT Collectors App began with a complete database of every model published on Mini GT's official website. But the good news doesn't stop there. Shortly after launch, I will begin adding limited editions, event exclusives, regional releases, and other rare models that never appear on the official site—ensuring the app becomes one of the most comprehensive Mini GT resources available.

Within the app, collectors can read every issue of MINIVERSE Magazine directly in both Turkish and English, seamlessly integrated into the interface.

From the full catalog of models, you can add any car to either your Wishlist or your Collection.

The app also provides summary statistics and total collection value, giving collectors a clear overview of their growing Mini GT universe.

To make the app useful for collectors worldwide, Mini GT Collectors App supports a wide range of languages—including Turkish, English, Spanish, Japanese, Malay, Indonesian, Korean, Chinese, German, French, Italian, Hindi, Dutch, and Russian—as well as major global currencies such as TRY, USD, EUR, GBP, JPY, CNY, KRW, MYR, IDR, MXN, BRL, SGD, RUB, and INR. My goal is to help not only Turkish collectors but enthusiasts across the globe solve the fundamental challenges we all share.

Mini GT Collectors App is a fully self-funded project, sustained entirely by personal resources. For those who wish to support it, there will be an affordable monthly subscription option. However, even without a subscription, every feature of the app will remain fully accessible—only a small, unobtrusive ad banner will appear at the bottom for non-subscribers.

WHAT COLLECTING MEANS TO ME & LOOKING AHEAD

At its core, collecting Mini GT models is far more than a hobby for me—it's a way of preserving the automotive stories, designs, and emotions that have shaped my life since childhood. Every model carries a memory: a car I admired growing up, a race I followed, a design that inspired me, or a moment of excitement when hunting for a rare variation. Holding a 1:64 scale replica is like holding a small piece of real automotive history in the palm of my hand.

Creating the Mini GT Collectors App has allowed me to contribute something meaningful back to this community. It's my way of honoring the passion we all share and making the journey a little more organized, enjoyable, and accessible. But more importantly, this app is not meant to be a finished product—it is the beginning of a long-term vision.

Going forward, I want to build the future of this app together with collectors like you. Your feedback, your needs, and your ideas will shape the next features we add. Whether it's improved market tracking, new collection views, event-based features, better release calendars, or anything else that makes our experience richer—I am committed to evolving the app continuously based on the community's voice.

At the end of the day, each model in our collection represents more than just a miniature car. It symbolizes our stories, our passions, and the joy we find in the smallest details. And for me, building this app has become an extension of that joy—an opportunity to give something back to the hobby that has been with me since the moment I first ran to the door and asked my father, "Dad, did you buy a Majorette today?"

As this journey continues, I hope we'll shape the next chapters of the Mini GT Collectors App together—making it not just a tool, but a true home for collectors around the world.

The graphic features a dark background with scattered blue leaf-like shapes. In the center, there's a large, rounded rectangular button containing the 'MINI GT' logo and the text 'Collectors App'. Below this button, the text 'New launch alert.' and 'Ready. Set. Get.' is displayed in white. At the bottom, there's a smaller button with the Apple App Store logo and the text 'Download on the App Store'.

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UPCOMING RELEASES



WHAT'S NEXT IN THE MINI WORLD

UPCOMING RELEASES

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MEET THE CREATIVE MINDS AND DEDICATED COLLECTORS WHO MADE THIS ISSUE POSSIBLE

VOCABULARY WORD SEARCH

FIND 12 WORDS RELATED TO CARS IN THE WORD SEARCH BELOW



- LAMBORGHINI
- HOT WHEELS
- PAROLA
- CREAMINI

- DIORAMA
- MINIGT
- MINIVERSE
- LIBERTYWALK

- JDM
- MAJORETTE
- TOFAŞ
- ŞAHİN

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