

Window Box Versions

Variants of F, Fg and G window boxes differ mainly in the red inscriptions printed in the yellow stripe at the bottom and at the top above the cellophane window.

Different black lettering is also found on the tabs of the flaps. You will also find printed on them the letters A – H, indicating the different lengths, widths and depths of the box for each Yesteryear model.

The pink and purple on the F and G boxes often differs in colour saturation, but this does not justify sub-dividing them into further variants.

Window boxes heralded a significant leap in size. Lesney employed capital letters to denote the individual sizes of the window boxes. The code indicating the size of the box is usually found on the side tab, but is sometimes missing.

F-type window boxes were produced in seven size formats. The G-type, too, exists in seven sizes, but two of the formats are different.

Identical features of window box versions F1 to F4, Fg3 and Fg4

small inscriptions in the yellow strip on the upper side		small inscriptions in the yellow strip at the bottom of the face side	
upper left corner	upper right corner	bottom left corner	bottom right corner
REGD. U. S. PAT. OFF	MARCA REGISTRADA	"Matchbox" REGD T.M. G.B. AND ABROAD	MADE IN ENGLAND

Differences of window box versions F1 to F4, Fg3 and Fg4

variation	tab of the left flap	text on the face side, bottom centre	tab of the right flap
F1	Patents & Reg'd Design Applied for	none	box size code marking
F2	Patent and Design Application No. 937117	none	Trademark "Matchbox ®" Owned By Lesney Products & Co. Ltd. box size code
F3	Patent and Design Application No. 937117	LESNEY PRODUCTS & CO. LTD LONDON ENGLAND	Trademark "Matchbox ®" Owned By Lesney Products & Co. Ltd. box size code
Fg3	Patent and Design Application No. 937117	LESNEY PRODUCTS & CO. LTD LONDON ENGLAND	Trademark "Matchbox ®" Owned By Lesney Products & Co. Ltd. Printed in England. Made in England.
F4, Fg4	Patent and Design Application No. 937117	"Matchbox" IS THE REG'D T.M. OF LESNEY PRODUCTS & CO. LTD. LONDON ENGLAND	PRINTED IN ENGLAND box size code marking

F1 version

F1 and F2 boxes are characterised by a large gap between the two tiny red inscriptions on the edges of the yellow strips on the face side.

The inscription on the tab of the box's left flap is key. The F1 version has no patent number printed on it. The right tab of the F1 variant simply bears a number indicating the box's size format.

F2 version

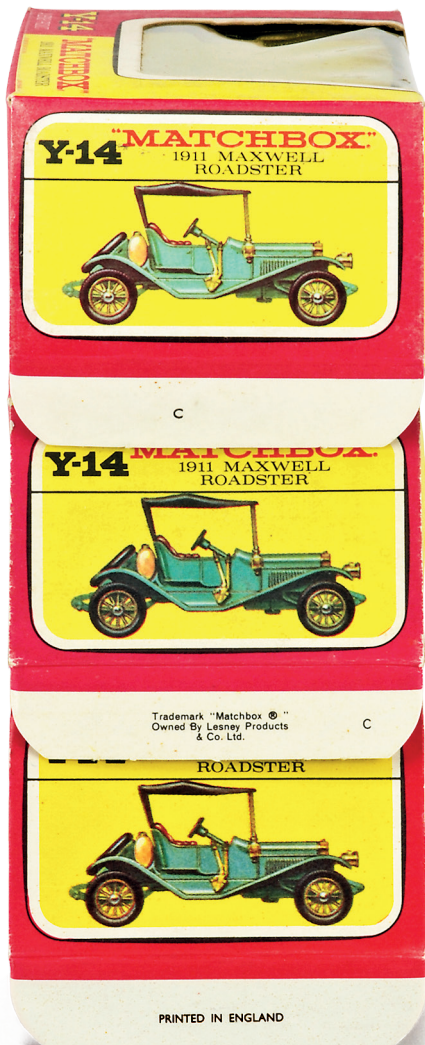
The tab of the left flap of the F2, however, does by this time feature a patent number. With the transition to the F2 variant the right tab began to feature further descriptions, initially on the new Y-5C Peugeot, the Y-8C Stutz and the Y-10C Rolls

-Royce and later on other models. The placement of the code on the tab to indicate the type of box varied: it appeared above the text, below the text or in the corner, while on some boxes it was omitted altogether.

There are also printing mistakes where either the left or the right tab or sometimes both tabs have been left blank. Compared to other models, for the Y-8B Sunbeam, markings on the right and left tabs of the F2 box are mutually interchangeable.

F3 and Fg3 versions

The third variant of the F-type window box and the first version of the Fg are distinguished by the



Y-14B MAXWELL BOXES: The evolution of the markings is shown by the right tabs of the F-type boxes. The F1 variant simply has the box size printed on the left flap. On the F2 and F3 versions, the inscription 'Trademark "MATCHBOX"® Owned By Lesney Products & Co. Ltd.' has been added for some models. The code indicating the box format is sometimes missing. The lower tab is found on versions F4, F5 and F6.

Y-6C CADILLAC BOXES: The tab on the left flap is also a way of distinguishing window box variants. The tab at the top left is an F1 version, while underneath it is a tab for the F2, F3, Fg3, F4, and Fg4 variants. These differ according to the inscriptions on the front. The text on the tab at the top right belongs to an F5, F5 and G1. The last text, on the Cadillac box at the bottom, is characteristic of the F6 and G2.

larger 'LESNEY PRODUCTS & CO. LTD. LONDON ENGLAND' inscription in the middle of the yellow strip on the front. The print on the right tab is identical to that of the F2. The F3 variant was used for distributing the last Y-2B Renaults.

The Fg3 version of the Y-15B Packard is a purple and yellow mutation of the F3 box, which is usually pink and purple. The words 'PRINTED IN ENGLAND' have been added to the right tab.

F4 and Fg4 versions

On these variants, the red inscription on the front was expanded to read "Matchbox" IS THE REG'D T.M. OF LESNEY PRODUCTS & CO. LTD. LONDON ENGLAND', in a noticeably smaller font in order to fit into the confined space. The text on the right tab has been shortened to 'PRINTED IN ENGLAND', and next to it is usually a letter indicating the box's size format.

F5, Fg5 and F6 versions

The F5 version finally saw a revision of several redundant inscriptions. On the top of the boxes

they were edited and on the underside they were replaced with a single long inscription. A variant of the F5 window box has a modified text on the left tab that reads 'Design Application No. 937117 Patent Applied For', while the right tab is the same as on the F4.

This box was the first to feature an illustration of a Y-9B Simplex with a gold body and red mudguards. The F6 version of the box has a slightly different text on the left tab; the word 'Registration' is used instead of 'Application'.

The F6 and the G1 that followed it are transition versions. It can be assumed that for each of the Yesteryears, either an F6 or a G1 was produced.

G1 and G2 versions

The most obvious feature of the G-type is a transition from the pink used on the F boxes to purple. The inscription on the right-hand tab was expanded to read 'PRINTED IN ENGLAND SPECIFICATIONS AND COLOUR OF CONTENTS SUBJECT TO AMENDMENT'. The versions G1 and G2 differ in the same way as the F5 and F6 boxes;

Identical features of window box variations F5, F6, G1 and G2

upper left corner	upper right corner	at the bottom of the face side
MARCA REGISTRADA	MADE IN ENGLAND	"Matchbox" AND "YESTERYEAR" ARE THE REGD T.M. OF LESNEY PRODUCTS & CO. LTD. LONDON ENGLAND

Differences of window box variations F5, F6, Fg5, G1 and G2

variation	tab of the left end flap	tab of the right end flap
F5, Fg5	Design Application No. 937117 Patent Applied For	PRINTED IN ENGLAND <i>box size code marking</i>
F6	Design Registration No. 937117 Patent Applied For	PRINTED IN ENGLAND <i>box size code marking</i>
G1	Design Application No. 937117 Patent Applied For	<i>box size code</i> PRINTED IN ENGLAND SPECIFICATIONS AND COLOUR OF CONTENTS SUBJECT TO AMENDMENT
G2a	Design Registration No. 937117 Patent Applied For	<i>box size code</i> PRINTED IN ENGLAND SPECIFICATIONS AND COLOUR OF CONTENTS SUBJECT TO AMENDMENT
G2b <i>code size 'G' or 'H'</i>	Design Registration No. 937117 Patent Applied For PRINTED IN ENGLAND	SPECIFICATIONS AND COLOUR OF CONTENTS SUBJECT TO AMENDMENT

the inscription on the left tab features either the word 'Application' or 'Registration'.

The two most recent G2b boxes from 1972 can be recognised by their darker purple which is slightly shiny. On the boxes for the new Y-16B Mercedes and Y-11C Lagonda, the word PRINTED IN ENGLAND has been moved from the right tab to the left.

The G-type box for the Y-11C Lagonda also featured additional tabs that hold the model inside it more securely. Lesney later began using the extra tabs for all its window boxes.

Window box interiors

The cardboard insert inside the F boxes was either light blue or yellow, and always the same for one type of model. The Y-4C Opel, Y-5C Peugeot, Y-6C Cadillac, Y-8B Sunbeam, Y-10B Mercedes, Y-11B Packard, Y-13B Daimler, Y-15B Packard and Y-16A Spyker all had light blue interiors. The interior colour is unrelated to the dimensions of the box. Boxes of other Yesteryears of the same size may have different colour interiors. G-type boxes were only produced with light blue interiors.

THE FOUR DIFFERENT VERSIONS OF THE SMALL INSCRIPTION ON THE FRONT SIDE are one of the crucial criteria for classifying F and G boxes. The inscriptions on the oldest versions of the F1 and F2 (top) are located on the edge of the yellow strip and there is a large gap in the middle. On the F3 and Fg3 versions (second from top) and the F4 and Fg4 (third from top), there is also a line of text in the middle. On the latest version (bottom), the text has been completely redesigned. This version occurs on F5, Fg5, F6 and G1 and G2 boxes.

