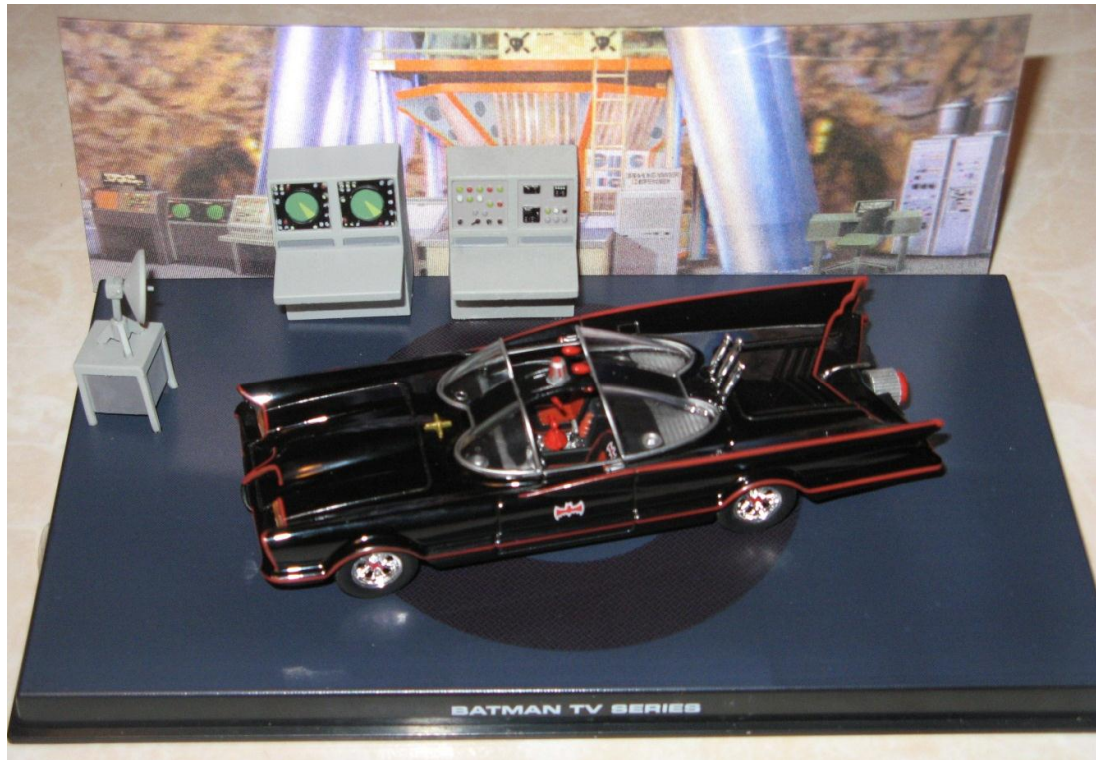


## Eaglemoss : Batman Automobilia Issue 2 -- £5.99

Review by Jonathan Aird



*"Holy price rises Batman," exclaimed Robin, thumbing his clenched fist into the open palm of his left hand.*

*"Indeed, Boy Wonder" agreed the Caped Crusader. "And, moreover, it is as I suspected -- Issue 1 was at a giveaway price, but Issue 2 sees the price doubled. The cunning fiends! They know the weakness of the male mind -- shiny toy cars, and all of them ... Batmobiles!"*

*"Yes, Batman -- and holy nostalgia bombs ! This is the most iconic of them all!"*

*"Yes, I fear, my young friend, that you may well be right."*

Which is by way of saying that, like many others, I've snapped up the second issue of this new part-work collection. The TV Batmobile is a sleek design that was originally built on the sole example of the Ford Lincoln Futura concept car -- it was truly a unique vehicle! It's a lot smaller than the Batman Movie car that came with issue 1 -- and that's partly because it is meant to be a smaller vehicle, and partly that the scale seems again to be a little off -- from the measurements provided in the fact file magazine it would seem that this model is not 1:43, but rather is about 1:47. Still a little large for 25mm figures, but again it looks great with 28mm slotta-based figures and HeroClix game figures.

As the accompanying photograph shows, the display base includes some nice 1960s style BatCave computers and a scanning device or data transmission dish - these are, as before, attached to the base, but I'll be prising them off carefully to re-use elsewhere. There is also a 3-D effect backdrop showing more of the Bat Cave, which I'm sure there must be a use for. The Batmobile itself is ... well, it is a splendid representation of the TV Batmobile, with plenty of detail showing the various crime-fighting devices available at the flick of a switch to this version of The Dark Knight (well, maybe Adam West's take on Batman wasn't so very dark!) even down to the tiny bat emblem tyre shredders mounted on the wheels. Obviously, it is really only of use for superhero games, but it's still an attractive item and at £5.99 is about the right price (future releases will retail at £9.99).

There's now a bit more information on the vehicles to come in the series included on the packaging, but even better is that there is a list of the first 10 of the 80 planned given on the Eaglemoss website. The upcoming items are :

Number 3: Batman Begins Movie: the big wheeled tumbler vehicle, which I can see being very popular with Science Fiction gamers.

Number 4: Batman Forever Movie: a modern design that harks back to the first heavily finned versions of the early comics.

Number 5: Detective Comics #400: a long bonneted blue sportscar -- it's a bit dull looking, to be honest, I'm surprised they didn't save it for later.

Number 6: Detective Comics #156: an ungainly looking huge finned number -- very nice!

Number 7: Batman Comic #575: a sporty little number.

Number 8: Batman: the Animated Series vehicle, which looks quite like a simplified Batman Movie Batmobile.

Number 9: Batman Comic #5: a compact sedan car, with a huge bat tail, very sleek in black and red paintwork (I like the look of this one, and may allow myself to be tempted again!).

Number 10: Batman Comic #311 - a very 1980s Batmobile.