

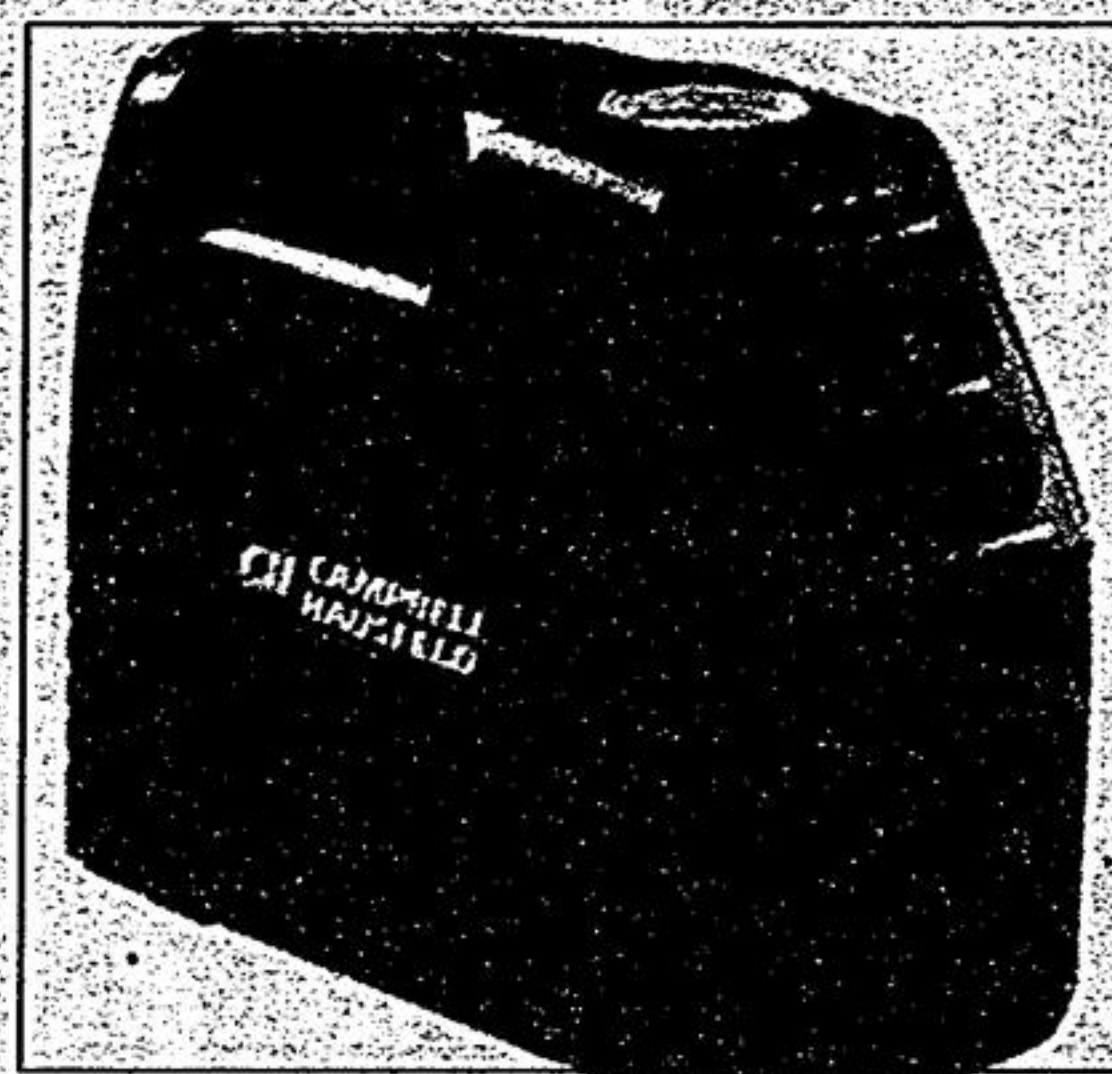
Like real life, only smaller

When you just can't afford to buy Dad the car of his dreams, thinking a bit smaller will get you in his good books and show that you're truly paying attention (we hope our kids are reading this right now). Whatever Dad considers to be his dream machine, there's probably a scale model of it somewhere on the face of the Earth, ranging from the tiny 1/64th to the larger and very popular 1/18th size replicas. Aside from making miniature versions popular production cars, model constructors are building a vast number of racing cars, from Formula 1 to NASCAR, with detail and colours that match the originals. Companies such as Exoto (exoto.com) even include highly accurate replicas of the drivers. Growing in interest over the years are die-cast cars from movies and TV (James Bond's Aston Martins and BMWs, Mr. Bean's Mini and Steve 'Bullitt' McQueen's famous fastback Mustang), which are also available from many sources. Those of you wanting something a bit more personalized can have Dad's 1/18th scale die-cast model made to look just the way he wants. For that, give Exotic Collectibles (1-905-665-0404) a call. Like any collectible item, prices vary depending on the quality and quantity of the miniature replica. Simple models can be bought for a few dollars, while Brooklands and Durham Classics 1/43 scale models sell for a few hundred. Scale die-cast replicas are locally sold at toy and hobby stores everywhere, or check out online sources such as die-cast-models.com.



Welcome to the battery age

One of the handiest items for any father who loves cars is a dependable rechargeable 12-volt air compressor such as Campbell-Hausfeld's CC2300. Even if he has a full-size air compressor wired up in his garage, this portable unit is a go-anywhere item that makes pumping up tires, toys and air mattresses a breeze. The compact unit measures about 25x23x10 centimetres (10x9x4 inches) and weighs in at about 3.6 kilograms (eight pounds). A built-in pressure gauge means Dad doesn't have to spend hours rummaging through his tool box to find the one you bought him last year. Covers on either end of the unit allow you to store the air hose, 12-volt charger cords and an assortment of nozzles for inflating balls, rafts and tubes. For Dads who might need a little extra power while camping (that cell phone is pretty hard to put down, isn't it...), the compressor comes with a 12-volt lighter-



style plug. Indicator lights let him know when it's time to use it and time to recharge it. The CC2300 goes for about \$90, depending where you shop. To get more information, visit Campbell-Hausfeld at chpower.com or call 1-800-543-6400.

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