



THE MERCEDES-BENZ S-CLASS COUPES

MODELS

420 SEC, 500 SEC,
560 SEC



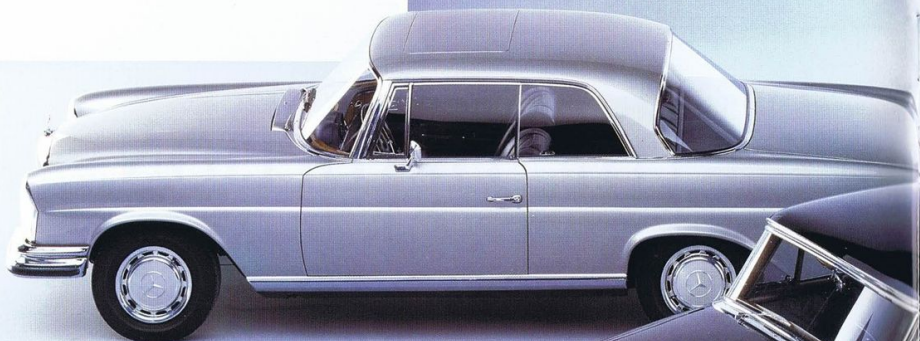
THE TRADITION OF EXCLUSIVITY.



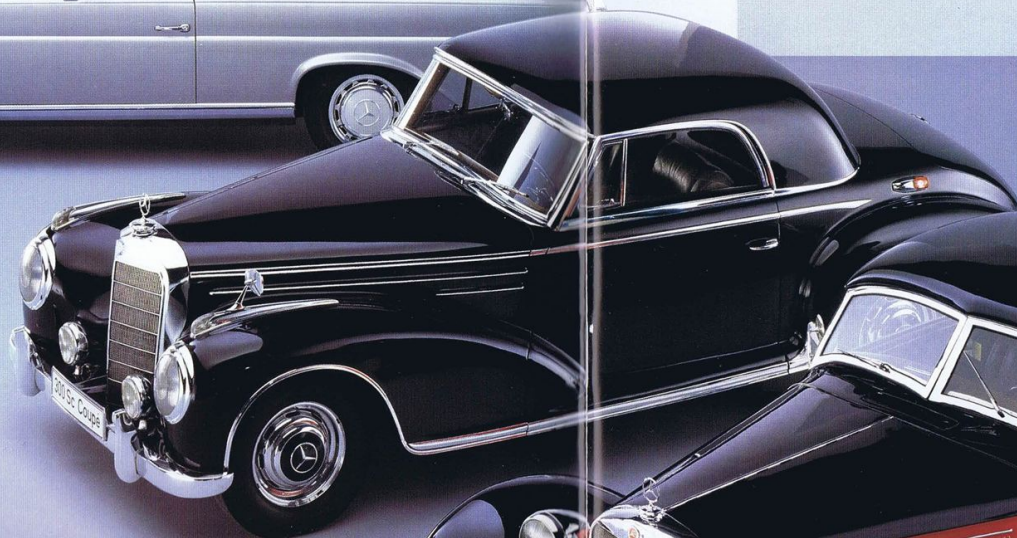
The large coupés with the three-pointed star. One of the major traditions in the history of the car. And one of the few that have remained alive and still valid. A concept that has expressed the highest standards of the Mercedes-Benz marque – for decades.

Time and again, Mercedes coupés have been the high points in international automotive design. Symbols of exclusivity, due to their superiority, their style and their first-class engineering. Over the page are three historic examples of this individuality, at its highest level.

Please note that this brochure may contain details which do not conform to vehicles as imported into this country. For U.K. specifications please refer to the separate specification sheet at the back of the book.



*Mercedes 280 SE 3.5 coupé,
1969;
eight-cylinder injection engine;
147 kW (200 hp).*



*Mercedes 300 Sc coupé,
1955;
six-cylinder in-line injection engine;
129 kW (175 hp).*



*Mercedes 320n coupé,
1938;
six-cylinder in-line carburettor engine;
57 kW (78 hp).*

THE INDIVIDUAL SHAPE OF CON- TEMPORARY MOTORING REFINEMENT.

The S-class coupés: the entire engineering potential of Mercedes-Benz at its most exclusive – in its most refined form. Sporty, elegant expressions of supreme leadership in modern automotive design. A distinctive, individualistic and balanced shape.

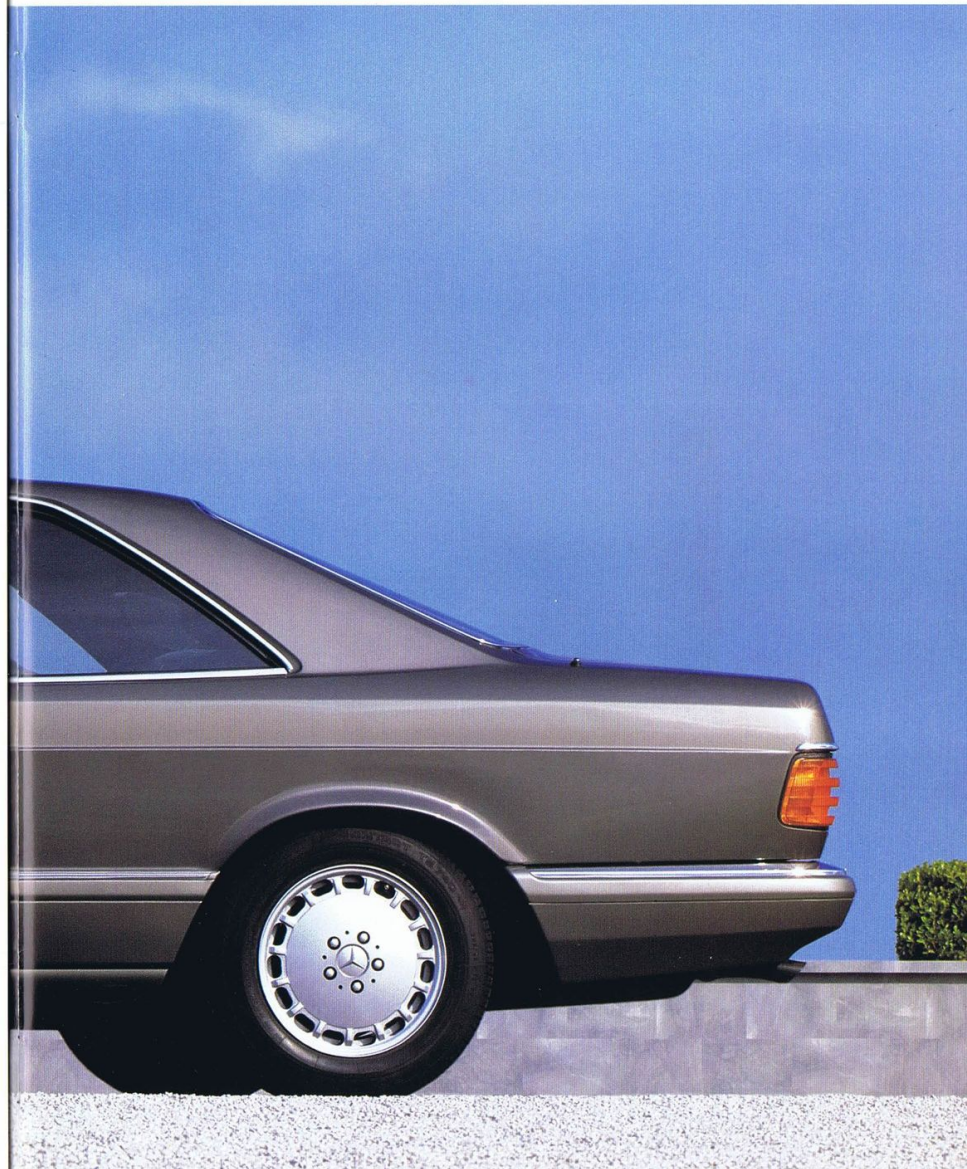
Highly positive in its appearance. Rare and eye-catching. A clean, sleek shape; powerful lines. An accent on performance, with a radiator star similar to that of the SL models. Long side windows, with no centre pillar to interrupt the visibility.

Dynamic motoring, yet refreshingly light steering. A superbly successful combination of sporty, exclusive style and automotive practicality.

The dynamic appearance is matched by the power from the V-8 engines. An ideal and highly efficient combination of large swept volume within the right number of cylinders.

Dynamic performance, for sheer motoring pleasure – with a suspension system which turns the power into relaxing active safety. A driving position without gimmicks – for maximum comfort and alertness, for excellent steering control, even when driving fast. A feeling of ease which matches the style of the car.

Then there are the classic virtues. Durability, reliability; passive safety which sets the standards worldwide. Exclusivity, even in day-to-day motoring, and, as part of its contemporary concept, economy and environmental acceptability.







The taut shape of the coupé; lower than the saloon, and wider – with an even lower centre of gravity. The wheelbase is almost ten centimetres shorter, for even better manoeuvrability.

An attractive symbol of classic coupé elegance; fully retractable side windows without a centre pillar to interrupt visibility. The rear side windows are shaped to integrate smoothly into the flowing lines of the rear section of the bodywork – typical coupé lines.

The elegance is totally in unison with the purpose of the shape. Functionality and practical benefit in every detail, with scarcely any wind noise, even at high speeds. An in-



terior that does not heat up excessively in the sun, despite the aerodynamically shaped body. Excellent all-round visibility. A bonnet that slopes up towards the windscreen, with fully recessed wipers. Water deflectors on the front pillars and along the roof.

Large light units, ribbed at the rear to prevent the accumulation of dirt. Fully integrated, flexible bumper system. Low aprons front and rear reduce lift forces even further. And 15-inch wheels with attractive hub caps, with light-alloy wheels as an optional extra.

PERFORMANCE AT A NEW, EXCLUSIVE LEVEL.

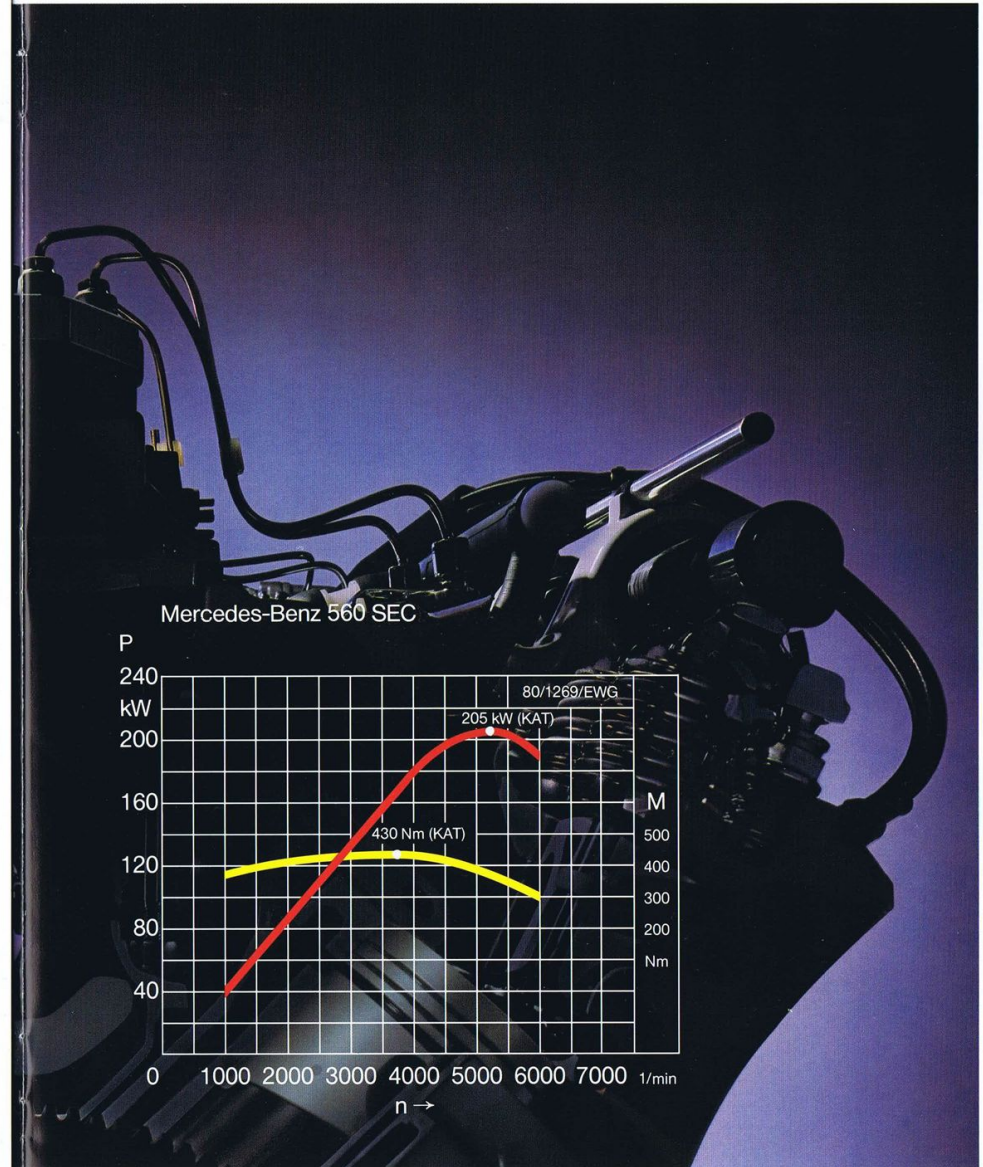
Three models, one engine concept – the range of proven lightweight V-8 engines. Masterpieces of modern design. With cubic capacities of 4.2, 5 and 5.6 litres in the three models: – 420 SEC, 500 SEC and 560 SEC.

One aspect shared by all of them is their further-developed power-potential. New, dynamic performance figures; significant increases in power. An effortlessly-available 220 kW (300 hp) in the 560 SEC, for example. Power that you can experience in the acceleration – true dynamic power.

With Mercedes, the decisive factor is the way the performance is delivered. Majestically smooth yet instantly responsive power at all engine speeds. And, therefore, in all situations. The most important factor is the large swept volume, rather than the number of cylinders. The superior “breathing” ensures high torque, even at low engine speeds. Providing performance-capability right where it is most needed.

This adds up to sparkling yet smooth motoring pleasure and active safety – and not just when you have the road to yourself. Sporty dynamism which is barely audible – exceptional ride comfort, with powerful acceleration that does not come at the expense of high fuel consumption even when the power is used to the full. Because, today more than ever before, first-class engineering also means maximum utilisation of energy.

A further contribution to low fuel consumption is the electronic control of a number of basic functions: the ignition and injec-



tion systems are microprocessor-controlled. This means constant, automatic and precise adjustment of the ignition timing and the mixture formation under all driving and load conditions and in all throttle positions.

420 SEC: 170 kW (231 hp) at 5400/min. Fuel consumption: 15.1 litres per 100 km on the urban cycle, 8.7 litres per 100 km at a constant 90 km/h, 10.7 litres per 100 km/h at a constant 120 km/h.

500 SEC: 195 kW (265 hp) at 5200/min. Fuel consumption: 15.8 litres per 100 km on the urban cycle, 8.8 litres per 100 km at a constant 90 km/h, 11.1 litres per 100 km/h at a constant 120 km/h.

560 SEC: 220 kW (300 hp) at 5000/min. Fuel consumption: 16.8 litres per 100 km on the urban cycle, 10.5 litres per 100 km at a constant 90 km/h, 12.7 litres per 100 km at a constant 120 km/h.

So, engineering leadership in the engines, as well. Matured over millions of kilometres of testing – and therefore highly reliable and with legendary durability, even when used hard.



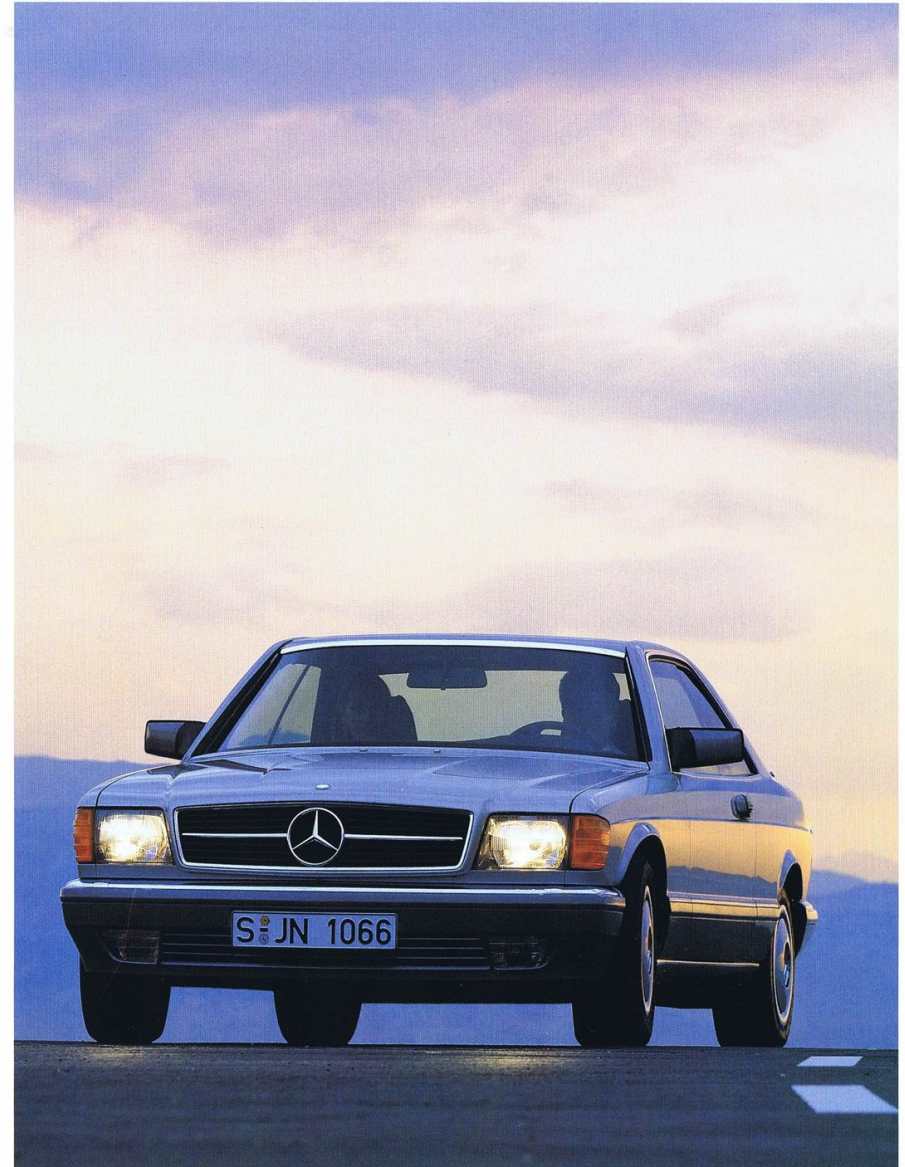


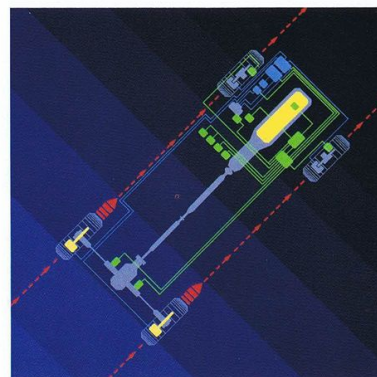
TOTAL CONTROL.

The big coupé is a car for drivers who really enjoy driving. Its character and performance are distinctly sporty and the suspension is a fundamental part of the concept: a total synthesis of stability, ride comfort and active safety. Relaxed control however hard you drive. Highly accurate steering, even when cornering at speed. The unexpected can be handled with consummate ease, and even extremely bad road surfaces are comfortably neutralised. You can actually feel the engineering maturity of the car – the “fine-tuned” springs and shock-absorbers, the low centre of gravity, the remarkably wide track. The highest standards of manoeuvrability, effortless steering control, even in crowded city traffic – due to the relatively small turning circle and the specially light Mercedes power-assisted steering.

Standard on the 560 SEC: self-levelling rear suspension and a limited-slip differential. Optionally available on the 420 SEC and 500 SEC.

The transmission and the braking system continue to set standards of engineering. Highly efficient dual-circuit servo-braking system. Fixed-caliper disc brakes on all four wheels. ABS as standard. A brake booster for precise, gentle yet highly efficient braking power. Low-profile 15-inch wheels for maximum stability, emphasising the car's powerful, elegant appearance. All three coupé models are fitted as standard with four-speed automatic transmission. With two dif-





ferent shift programmes, for a more dynamic style or with the transmission shifting up earlier, for more economical driving.

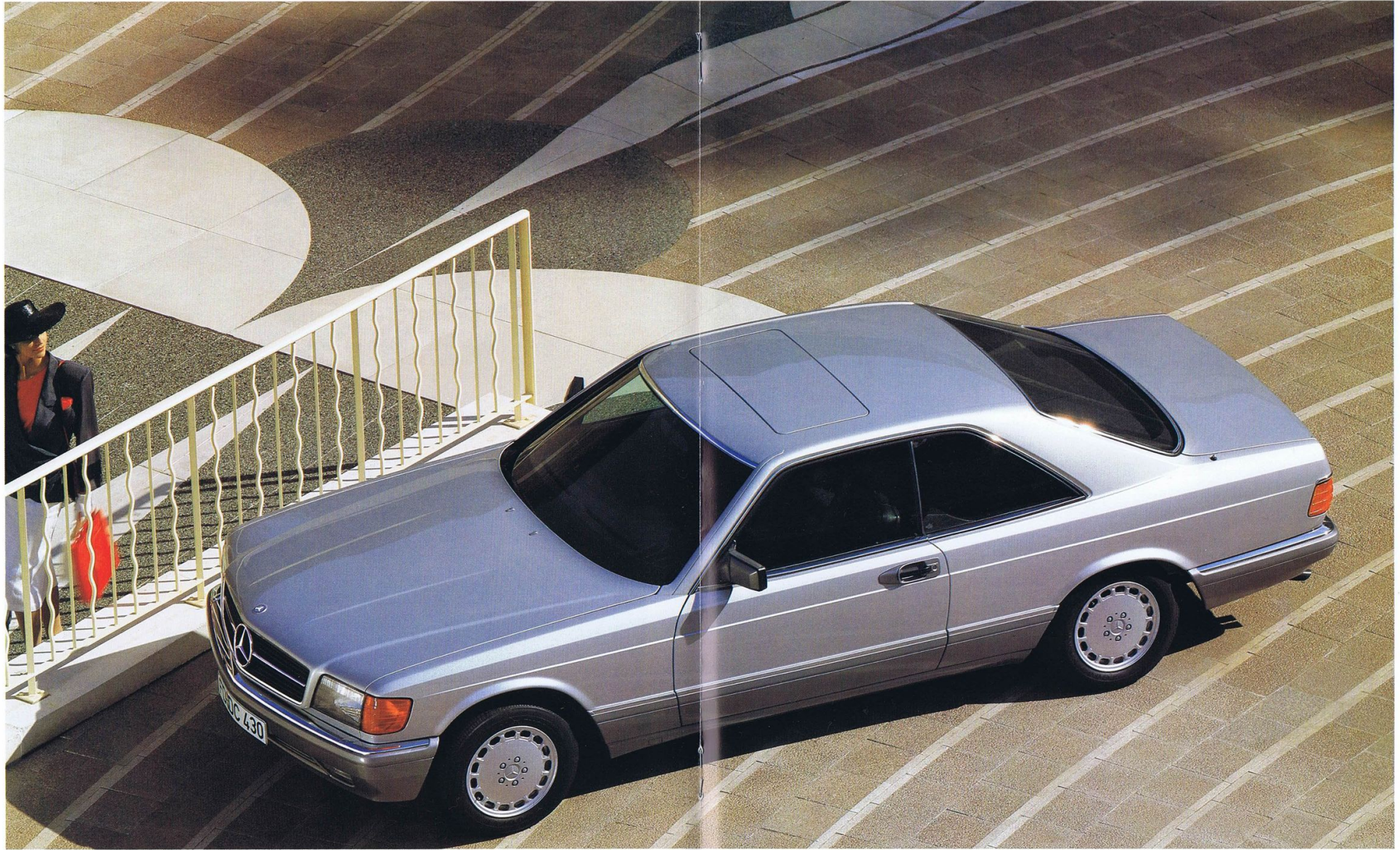
ASR: electronically-controlled automatic acceleration skid control.

ASR allows the excellent handling qualities of these exclusive cars to be used to the full, even under more difficult conditions. On bends, when taking evasive action, when accelerating hard, or when moving off uphill, perhaps on snow. The driven wheels do not spin and the car does not skid off course, even if the driver accelerates too hard. With the "electronic accelerator pedal", each driven

wheel is automatically given only as much power as the road adhesion can take and convert into forward movement. This further improves active safety, in all driving situations.

The new and essential aspect of ASR is that it works electronically and automatically. It engages and disengages itself – but only whenever, and for as long as, it is actually needed. The electronics make the correct decision in all circumstances, without any effort from the driver. An indicator in the speedometer tells him that the system has been activated, so he can then adjust his driving to suit the conditions.

ASR and ABS should go together as a system. Then the wheels do not spin when cornering or accelerating, and do not lock when braking. An ideal combination.





A SPACIOUS ATMOSPHERE OF ELEGANCE.

Exclusivity – even in everyday motoring – the special Mercedes coupé concept. For this reason, a pleasing interior and a clear information system determine the design of the driving position. Non-dazzle instruments and gauges, with all the controls ergonomically designed and positioned, within easy reach and easy to operate. A seating position designed for comfort at the wheel. For relaxed concentration and alertness on long journeys.

Full control of the car, stress-relief and motoring pleasure. The steering wheel and the gear selector are leather-covered. The two front seats give decidedly positive lateral support – without limiting freedom of movement. Firm, yet very comfortable seat-springing. Electrically-adjustable seats (and head-restraints) for the driver and the front passenger. Memory feature as an optional extra (standard on the 560 SEC), to store two seat positions.

When the ignition is switched on, belt guides offer the seat belts in a position convenient for front-seat occupants.

Further examples of detail-features include monitor displays for fuel, engine oil, coolant, screen-wash fluid and for all the exterior light bulbs. Timely warning of wear on the front brake pads. Screen-wash system, screen-wash nozzles and exterior mirror heated. Courtesy light with reading lamp for front-seat passenger. Central locking with multi-point operation.

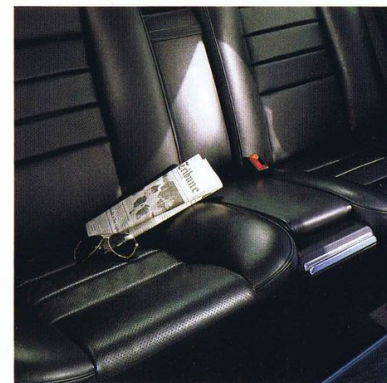


The impression of space inside the big coupés. Firstly, the sporty, elegant overall impression with the sleek contours of the side windows, uninterrupted by any centre pillar. Clean lines, the typical, individualistic atmosphere of a coupé, yet still generous freedom of movement, for rear-seat passengers too.

The interior: a superb blend of modern styling, subtly built-in safety features, high-quality materials and meticulous workmanship. Fully developed details, totally integrated into an overall entity, giving a complete impression of style, as typified by the generous and tasteful incorporation of fine woods. The feeling of security is immediately apparent, as is the dynamic character of this high-performance car – the most exclusive expression of Mercedes comfort for long journeys.

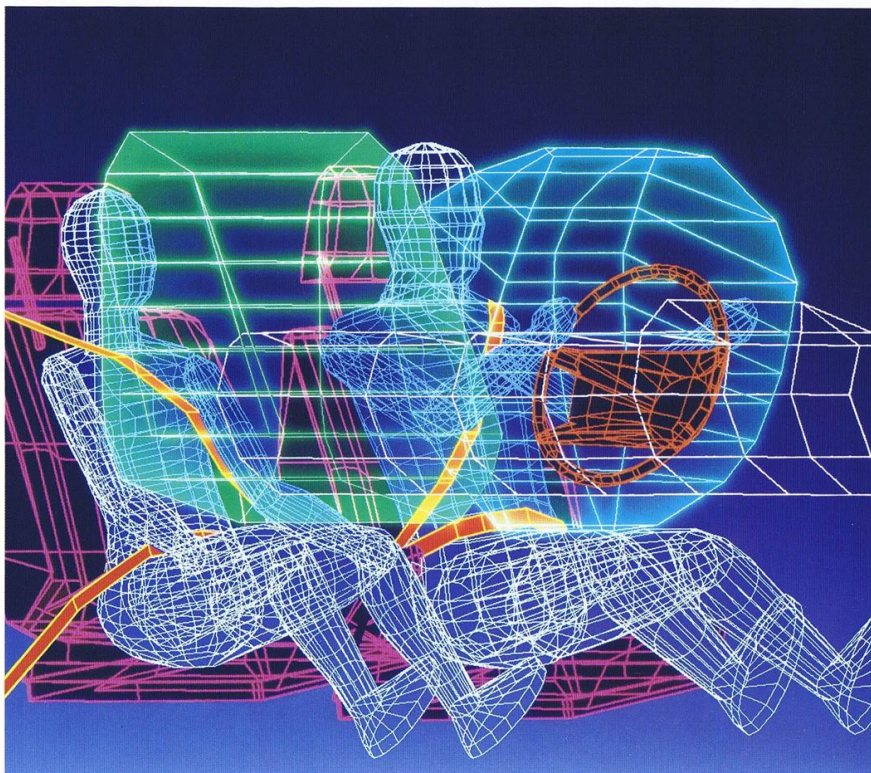
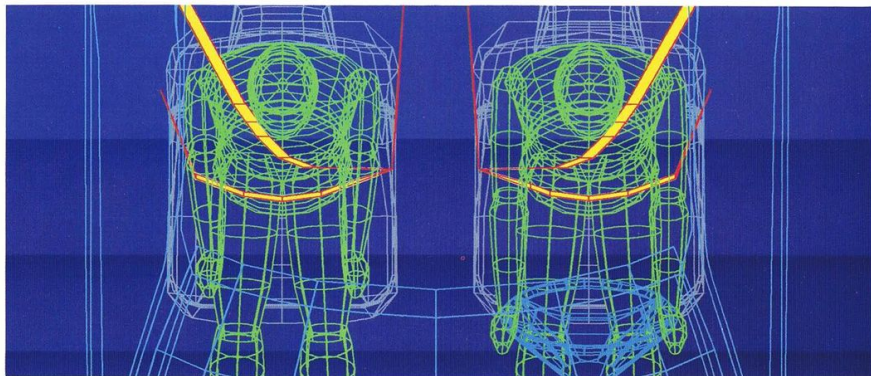
Another high point of the interior design is the pair of attractively-shaped, individually-contoured rear seats. Folding centre armrest. Seat belt buckles recessed yet easy to reach. And an example of climate technology that has been thoroughly refined: an electronically-controlled heating system with a recirculating-air facility; this can be used either for faster heating of the interior or to reduce the amount of ambient air used, in the event of troublesome dust or exhaust fumes.

The range of optional extras includes the airbag system for the driver and the front passenger, the trip computer, an electrically-

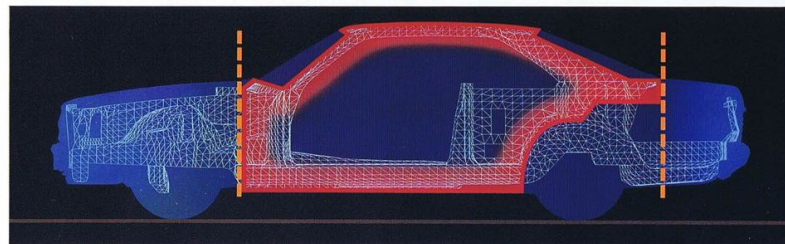


operated rear-screen blind and the Mercedes Sound System, with specially co-ordinated, balanced technology.

And further optional extras which are standard on the 560 SEC; heated nearside exterior mirror, sun visors with illuminated mirrors, electrically-adjustable steering column (with memory), electric tilting/sliding sunroof. Air conditioning, stereo radio/cassette player, automatic aerial.



WIDER DIMENSIONS TO SAFETY.



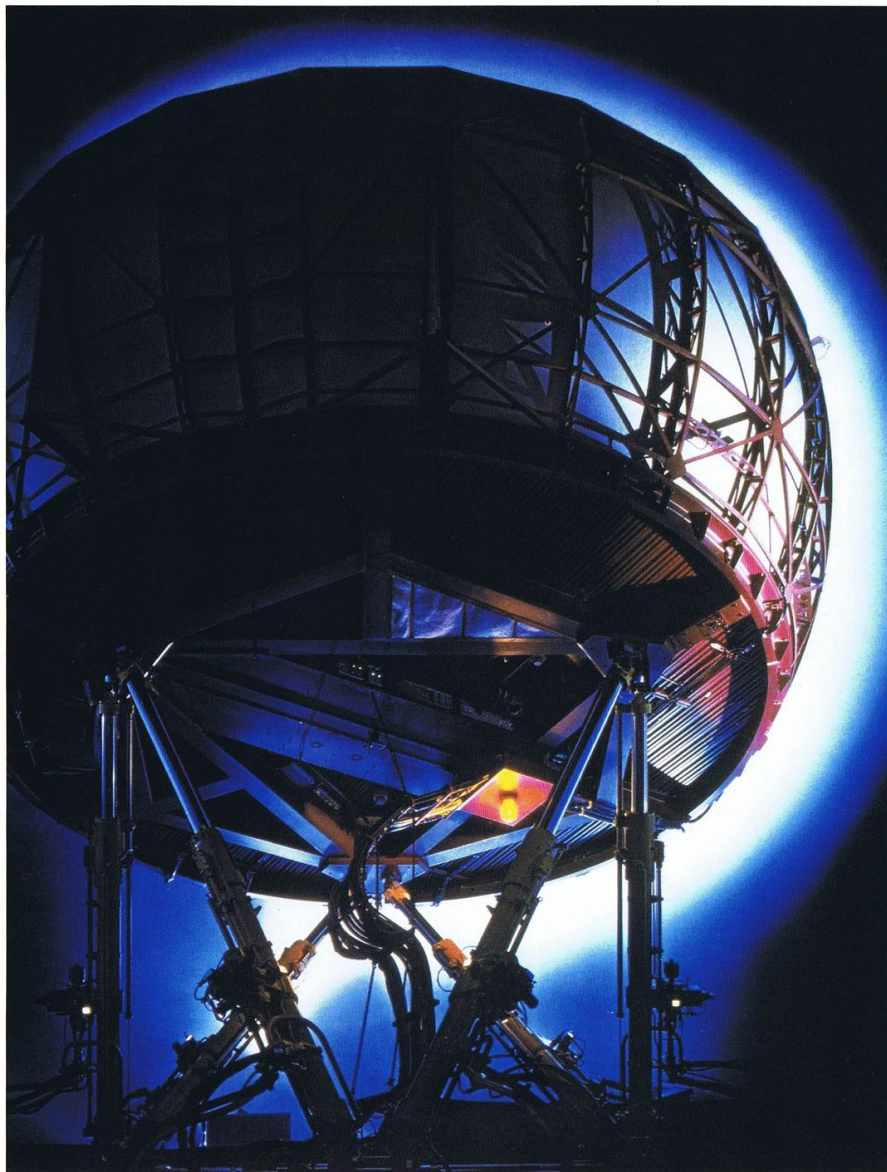
A masterpiece by Mercedes designers. The comprehensive safety system is integrated almost invisibly into the elegant shape.

There is no other car in the world that offers such a high degree of safety. The knowledge of proven reliability, the active safety features which include keeping the driver fit and alert. And above all the exemplary passive safety system. Genuine protection, should the worst come to the worst – but also a relaxed feeling of comfort.

The safety system. For Mercedes, this means the comprehensive and fully-integrated interaction of many protective features. Throughout the whole car, to meet any contingency. Only in a Mercedes is there a system this comprehensive – due to decades of research and development work, with a unique level of investment. A huge asset for the driver – developed in part because the big coupés often cover considerably more kilometres per year than other cars.

Pre-determined deformable crumple zones front and rear. The fuel tank is located in a safe position above the rear suspension assembly. Despite the coupé design, an extremely strong, rigid passenger compartment. Highly rigid along the sides and in the roof section. Electronically-controlled belt tensioners on both front seats as standard. Mercedes safety steering with a deformable corrugated tube, steering wheel with impact absorber and padded boss. Instrument panel and all internal controls designed to yield on impact. Also, preventive features such as the monitor light for the entire exterior lighting system.

And a further example of pace-setting Mercedes safety: as an optional extra, the air-bag system for additional protection. Now with an additional airbag for the front passenger. Logical application of matured electronics.



TOP QUALITY FROM CONTINUOUS DEVELOPMENT.



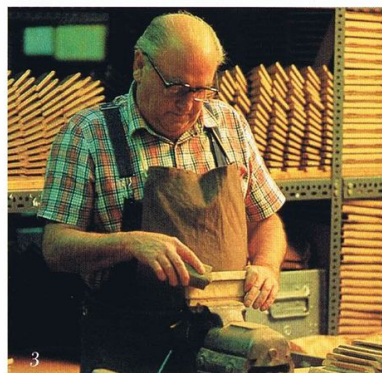
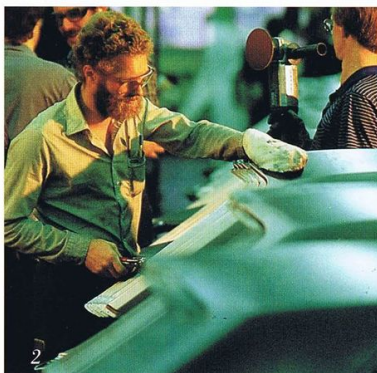
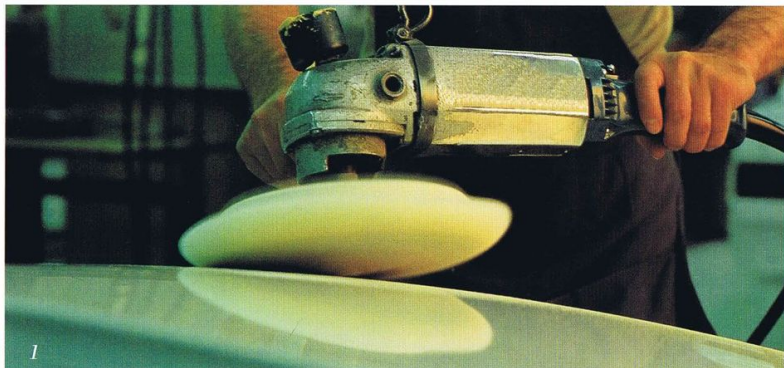
The exclusivity of the big Mercedes coupés is an enduring characteristic. In engineering terms too, due to designs which will set the standards for many years to come. Due to a shape which determines the style for their class; sporty elegance which points the way forward. And due to their dynamic yet timeless appeal.

The Mercedes principle "committed to the best" is particularly relevant to the cars. The new range, introduced in 1985, is a practical example - further-developed engines for all models, with trend-setting electronic control systems; the more powerful style of the exterior lines, and the further refinement by the inclusion of important new features, from the electronic belt-tensioners on both front seats through the monitor for all exterior lights to details such as the unique electric adjustment of the front headrests. And now the increased power output of all three coupé models.

Continuous Mercedes progress goes

together with improvements in quality and value retention. There is no either/or. Lighter materials are used only where they also provide increased strength. New, better materials are only applied where they increase durability. Electronic production control and advanced testing methods to provide even greater precision. Internationally respected research work such as the use of the driving simulator - allowing experiments which were not even conceivable a few years ago. Computer-aided design; materials tested by data-controlled torture tracks, climate chambers which reproduce extreme conditions. All this creates the certainty that innovation also signifies the further development of classical quality.

Nowadays, only manufacturers who combine exclusivity with a responsible approach can lay claim to first-class engineering. So the big Mercedes coupés are models of economy. The economy of the new, more powerful engines, the maturity of



the design, the maintenance-free major components and the long service intervals make the cars exceptionally practical.

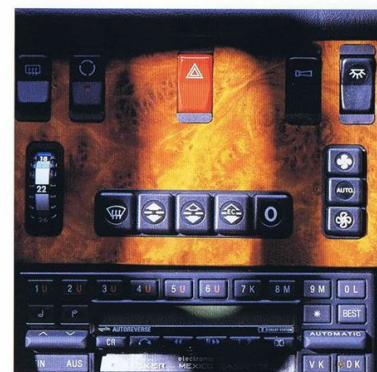
A degree of reliability which minimises time off the road and unexpected costs. Corrosion protection also fulfils the highest standards – electrolytically-galvanised sheet-steel panels, electronically-tested cavity sealing, a bodysshell protection system with multi-layer paint treatment. And value retention, due to the high standard of Mercedes-Benz service – with around 1000 service points in Germany and over 5000 all over the world. With fully trained, dedicated personnel and rapid parts supply. Mercedes customer service also contributes to the reputation of these exclusive cars.

1 The Mercedes paint system is applied in one of the most up-to-date facilities in the world. The subsequent polishing, followed by thorough manual finishing, gives the cars their final lustre.

2 The body, computer-controlled precision. Yet there are still "personal" checks at the end, by eye and by touch.

3 Advanced technology in combination with manual skills. For example, when fitting the finely-made wood components.

THE WIDE, PERSONALISED RANGE.

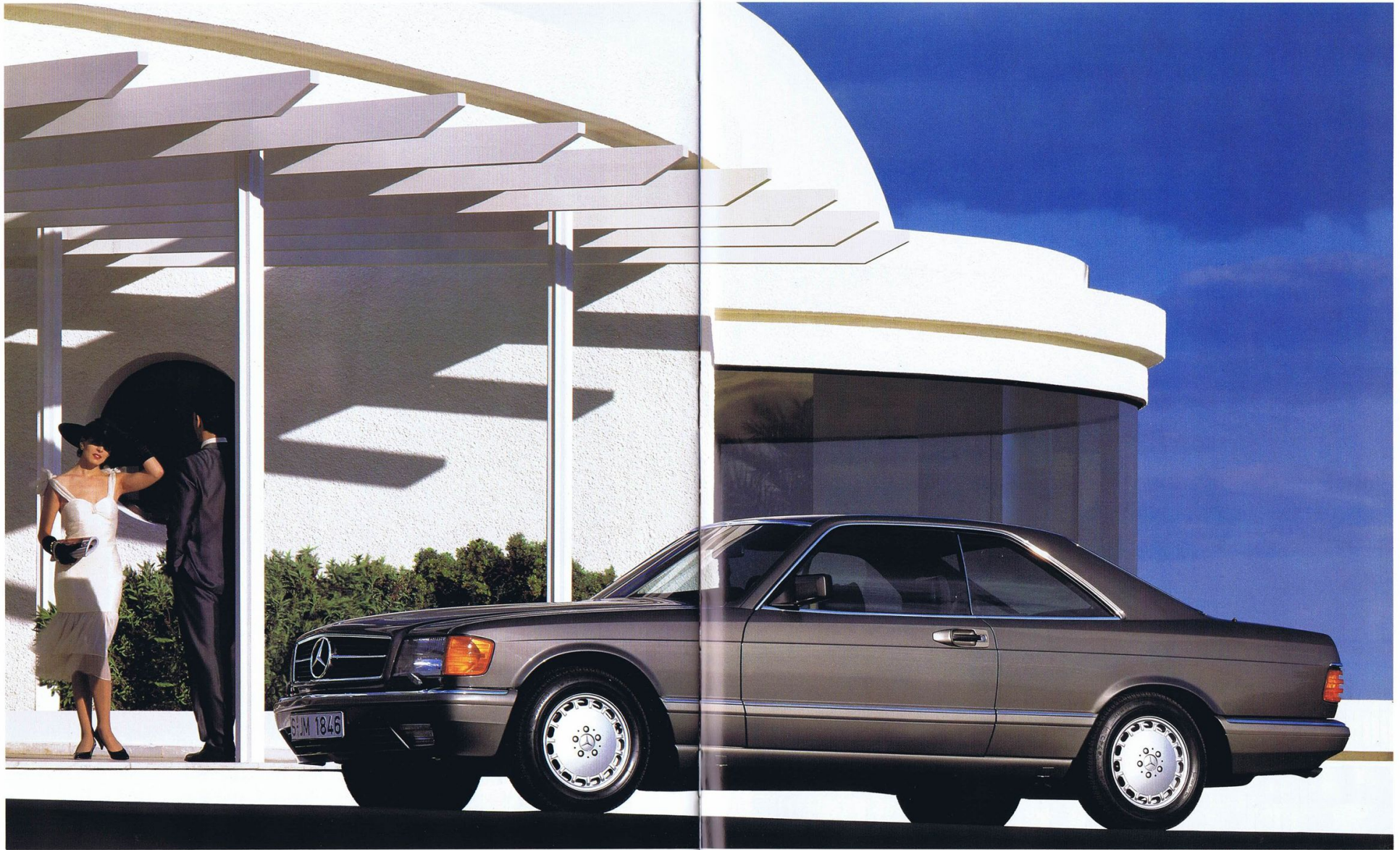


The exclusivity is inherent and the individualistic coupé shape is matched by fully comprehensive equipment and trim. Electric seat adjustment, for instance, and central locking that can be operated from both doors and from the boot. A generous standard specification, an asset to any coupé owner, following the Mercedes principle of maximum practical benefit from bumper to bumper.

Beyond this, customers can decide for themselves what they, personally, prefer in the way of extras. They can decide on the specification of their own car in finalising their own ideas of comfort and convenience. From a range of optional extras which includes a car telephone, the headlamp wash/wipe system (standard on the 560 SEC) and

automatic climate control, to high-quality leather upholstery which you can specify for the top 5.6-litre model at no extra charge.

The whole range of individual extras fulfils Mercedes standards of quality. Matched to the functionality of the car, right from the design stage, so that they are integrated fully into the overall style.



BASIC EQUIPMENT

MERCEDES-BENZ 420 SEC, 500 SEC, 560 SEC

Engine

420 SEC: light-alloy V-8 engine 4196 cm³ cubic capacity; fuel injection; 170 kW à 5400 min.
500 SEC: light-alloy V-8 engine 4973 cm³ cubic capacity; fuel injection; 195 kW à 5200 min.
560 SEC: light-alloy V-8 engine 5547 cm³ cubic capacity; fuel injection; 220 kW at 5000 min.
Multi-functional mixture formation and ignition system, microprocessor-controlled; anti-knock sensor; fuel cut-off on the overrun; electronic idle speed control; diagnostic socket; hydraulic valve clearance compensation; engine located by three rubber mountings; two hydraulic vibration dampers; visco-drive fan.

Transmission

Mercedes-Benz torque-converter 4-speed automatic with programme selector and B position, gear selector on the centre console.

Optional extras: Tempomat cruise control (standard on 560 SEC); acceleration skid control (ASR).

Suspension

Front and rear pairs of wheels each have two coil springs, one anti-roll bar, two single-tube gas-filled shock-absorbers.

Axles

Front axle: double wishbones with anti-dive control. Rear axle: diagonal swing axle with anti-lift control; 500 SEC and 560 SEC also fitted with anti-squat control; differential case located by flexible mountings.

Optional extras: self-levelling rear suspension and limited-slip differential (standard on 560 SEC).

Rims and tyres

420 SEC and 500 SEC: forged steel-plate disc wheels, rim size 7Jx15H2; tyre size 205/65 VR 15, with fibreglass-reinforced polyamide hub caps in astral silver.

Optional extras: forged light-alloy rims of the same size.
560 SEC: forged light-alloy rims, size 7Jx15H2 and tyres, size 215/65 VR 15.

Brakes

Dual-circuit braking system with vacuum-type booster and automatic wheel-lock prevention (anti-lock braking system). Fixed-caliper disc brakes front and rear; internally-ventilated front brake discs. Self-adjusting brake pads front and rear. Lamps in instrument cluster for monitoring brake fluid level, brake pad wear and the anti-lock braking system; foot-operated parking brake with additional shoes and drums, acting on rear wheels.

Steering

Mercedes-Benz power-assisted steering with steering damper. Dish-shaped steering wheel with impact absorber. Safety steering column, with corrugated tubing in lower section; steering gear box located behind front axle. Steering column electrically adjustable for reach available as an optional extra (standard on 560 SEC with memory feature).

Bodywork

All-steel monocoque bodyshell; light-alloy bonnet and boot lid; two easy-to-close doors with semi-recessed handles; safety bodyshell with rigid passenger compartment; fuel tank located above rear axle assembly; energy-absorbing front and rear sections, consisting of large crumple zones; plastic bumpers with energy-absorbing, self-regenerating foam core; low-reaching, steeply angled front and rear aprons for reducing lift forces; smooth-surfaced side mouldings to protect against minor damage; plastic-panelled door sills; superb anti-corrosion features; safety-glass windows; optimum visibility all round; separate compartment for relays, fuses etc.
Electric tilting/sliding sunroof with built-in air deflector as an optional extra (standard on 560 SEC).

Windows

Front and rear screens made of laminated safety glass; rear screen electrically-heated; side windows made of single-layer safety glass; tinted glass all round, with untinted windscreen available instead, for no extra cost; electric windows; electrically-heated screen-wash system with two heated twin nozzles on the bonnet; two windscreen wipers, with two speeds and intermittent control, operated by means of the combination switch on the steering wheel.

Locks

Conical-pin door catches with main and safety positions for both doors; lockable by key and from inside; boot lock; steering wheel lock combined with ignition lock and starter non-repeat unit; glove compartment lock; central locking system which also includes fuel tank cap lock; master key system with four-way key. Anti-theft warning system (EDW) available as an optional extra.

Lights

Rectangular headlamp units with sidelights, asymmetrical dipped beam, main beam, front fog lights (halogen); pneumatic headlamp range adjustment for laden and unladen car; parking lights; tail lights; brake lights; reversing light; rear fog light; number plate illumination; finely variable instrument illumination; courtesy light with delay relay, flashing "fasten seat belt" sign, and an

additional reading lamp for the front-seat passenger; rear courtesy light; illumination for ashtray, glove compartment, heating and ventilation controls, rotary light switch, gear indicator on shift gate, boot light. Warning buzzer which sounds when headlights have not been turned off.
Optional extras (standard on 560 SEC): exit lights in the doors and headlamp wash/wipe system, combined with windscreen wash/wipe system (only when headlights are switched on).

Seats

Front: two body-contoured individual seats with bucket-seat character; folding centre armrest; seat reach, height, backrest and head-restraint on both seats electrically adjustable by means of symbol switches on the doors (560 SEC with memory); two three-point inertia-reel seat belts with automatic belt guides and belt-tensioners; vacuum locking mechanism for backrests.

Rear: bench seat with individual-seat character, folding centre armrest and oddments tray with extra cushion placed in it; two three-point inertia-reel seat belts.

Velour upholstery. Optional extras: leather or amaretta upholstery (at no extra cost on 560 SEC); pre-programmed front seat positions (memory feature, standard on 560 SEC).

Heating and ventilation

Continuous, draught-free warm or cool air flow; electronic interior temperature control, operating independently of driving speed, able to keep pre-selected temperature largely constant when in heating mode; air distribution to windscreen, side windows and both front and rear footwells; heating separately controllable for left and right sides; large fresh-air outlet in the centre of the dashboard, finely adjustable to all sides; heated rear screen; four-stage radial blower with main air flap; switch for recirculating air.

Optional extras: Air conditioning (standard on 560 SEC), automatic climate control.

Signalling system

Self-cancelling indicators with finger-tip contact for overtaking, operated by the combination switch on the steering wheel; horn; headlight flasher; brake lights; hazard-warning lights.

Optional extra: two-tone horn (standard on 560 SEC).

Instruments and monitors

Dashboard with specially padded impact areas, designed to yield in a way compatible with the limits a human body can tolerate. Speedometer; mileage recorder; trip recorder; oil pressure gauge; coolant temperature gauge; fuel gauge; quartz clock; fuel consumption trend indicator;

rev counter. Monitor lamps for main beam, indicators (separate for left and right sides), hazard warning lights, battery charge, parking brake, brake fluid level, brake pad wear, ABS, rear fog light, reserve fuel, engine oil level, coolant level, screen-wash fluid level; lamp defect monitor for all exterior lights; flashing "fasten seat belts" symbol; monitor lamps for airbag and ASR.

Optional extra: exterior temperature display (standard on 560 SEC).

Miscellaneous

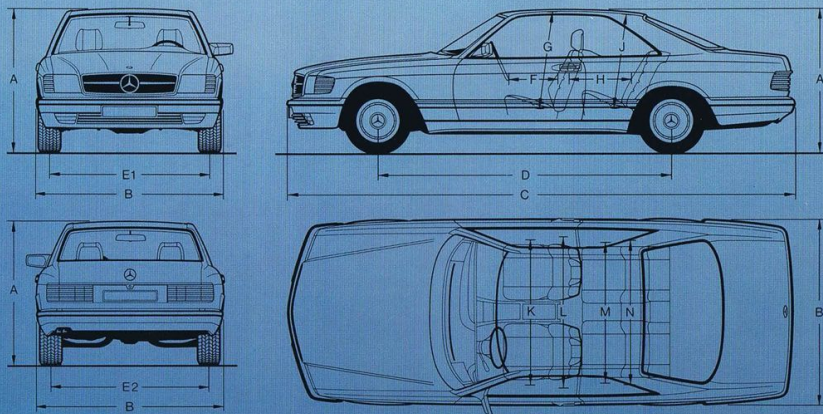
Loudspeaker covers left and right in dashboard; ashtray with cigar lighter; dashboard and centre console with burred walnut veneer; doors with open door pockets and padded grab handles; first-aid kit in parcel shelf; lockable glove compartment; oddments tray between the two front seats; two padded sun visors, swivellable to one side, with metal safety mirror on passenger side on 420 SEC and 500 SEC, illuminated vanity mirror on passenger side on 560 SEC; interior rear-view mirror with anti-dazzle position; grab handles on roof frame, one for front passenger, one each side in rear, both flexible and with clothes hooks; pull-out ashtray in centre console; electrically-heated off-side rear-view mirror, adjustable from inside and with dazzle-reducing mirror glass (on 560 SEC also nearside exterior mirror, heated and electrically-adjustable, with dazzle-reducing glass); steering wheel and gear selector leather-covered; fine velour compartment in the spare wheel recess. Additionally on 560 SEC, "Becker Mexico electronic" radio/cassette player with automatic aerial, speakers left and right in dashboard and two rear speakers; higher-capacity battery.

Optional extra: airbags for driver and front passenger.

DIMENSIONS

	420 SEC	500 SEC	560 SEC
A Overall height at kerb weight	1407 mm	1407 mm	1412 mm
B Overall width	1828 mm	1828 mm	1828 mm
C Overall length	4935 mm	4935 mm	4935 mm
D Wheelbase	2850 mm	2845 mm	2845 mm
E1 Track width, front	1555 mm	1555 mm	1555 mm
E2 Track width, rear	1527 mm	1527 mm	1527 mm
F Steering wheel - driver's seat backrest ¹⁾	478 mm	478 mm	478 mm
G Seat height, front ²⁾	960 mm	960 mm	935 mm
H Driver's backrest - rear-seat backrest ¹⁾	612 mm	612 mm	612 mm
J Seat height, rear ²⁾	932 mm	932 mm	914 mm
K Width at hip level, front	1398 mm	1398 mm	1398 mm
L Width at shoulder height, front	1454 mm	1454 mm	1454 mm
M Width at hip level, rear	1348 mm	1348 mm	1348 mm
N Width at shoulder height, rear	1376 mm	1376 mm	1376 mm

¹⁾ Dimensions vary according to seat position ²⁾ Without sunroof





MERCEDES-BENZ

