

Postal Address

CITROËN CLASSIC OWNERS' CLUB of AUSTRALIA Inc.

The address of the Club and this magazine is:

PO Box 52, Balwyn, Victoria, 3103. The Club's website is:

www.citroenclassic.org.au

Citroën Classic Owners' Club of Australia Inc. is a member of the Association of Motoring Clubs.

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Life Members

Citroenina

accompanied by a RWC [pre

1949 cars can be inspected

by a Club Safety Officer],

ownership validation and

VicRoads forms endorsed by

The committee awards life membership to Club members in recognition of their contribution to, and support of, the Club. Life memberships have been awarded to: Arthur and Nance Clarke lack Weaver 1991 Peter Boyle 2003 Ted Cross 2012 Rob Little 2012 Sue Bryant 2017 Brian Wade 2017 Leigh Miles 2022

Club Permit applications the Club including financial to VicRoads must be validation.

New Permit holders must supply the Club with approved photos, club permit number and expiry date.

While Club permit renewals

can be done via the post CCOCA encourages you to do this via the internet and email. It is faster, simpler and safer than the post. Payment can also be completed via yourVicRoads on-line account.

Committee

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Membership

Marg Towt

Annual Membership is \$35 and printed editions of 'Front Drive' are posted to Australian addresses for an additional \$45 per year.

Russell Wade 040 | 859 704 [M]

0408 373 181 [M]

Meetings

Club meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of every month [except December] at 19:30. The venue is the Frog Hollow Reserve Rooms, Fordham Ave., Camberwell.

Support

Membership Secretary ~ lan Macdermott 0419 362 375 [M] treasurer@citroenclassic.org.au Asset Custodians ~ Ted Cross Max Lewis AOMC Liaison Officers ~ Max Lewis 0458 993 771 [M] Russell Wade [03] 9570 3486 [H] Club Permit & Safety Officers ~ Ted Cross [03] 9819 2208 [H] Philip Rogers [03] 5944 3091 [H] Russell Wade [03] 9570 3486 [H] Librarian ∼ Max Lewis 0458 993 771 [M] librarian@citroenclassic.org.au Club Shop ~ Vacant clubshop@citroenclassic.org.au ICCCR Representative ~ Ted Cross [03] 9819 2208 [H]

Contents

FD SFD PAGE 4 PRF7 SF7 PAGE 5 A-TRACTIONS PAGE 6 PAGE 16 AD I IB YOU SED PAGE 17 PERIOD PIECE 1: **MOTOR 1973** PAGE 18 PERIOD PIECE II: CAR 1974 PAGE 26 MEMBER'S MODEL PAGE 44 2CV TECH: PROTECTING THE IGNITION PAGE 48 DEFLECTING THE BREEZE PAGE 53 MAKING FRIENDS WITH THE AMI SUPER PAGE 63 FLORENCE THOMSON: PIONEER DRIVER PAGE 72

Cover Image

The cover image was provided by Catherine Liabot-Verne and shows Victor Mornai with their Ami Super sedan.

Contributors

Contributors to this edition of 'Front Drive' include Dominique Bellière, Peter Boyce, Thorsten Elbriggmann, Catherine Liabot-Verne, Daniela Loof, Victor Mornai and Joolz Smith

SPARE PARTS & TOOLS

Contact Lance Wearne. Phone: 0424 054 724 [if you do phone, please do so at a reasonable hour] or spareparts@citroenclassic.org. au

11

CLUB SHOP
Club Shop is presently
not operating. For further
information please contact
the Club's President.

Deadline

The deadline for the next edition of 'Front Drive' is Sunday, 22 January 2023, and for 'démarreur' it is Sunday, 18 December.

OTHER CLUBS

Vic www.citcarclubvic.org.au NSWwww.citroencarclub.orgau QLD www.citroenclubqld.org SA www.clubcitroensa.com WA www.citroenwa.org.au Tas www.citroentas.org

Ed Sed

ere is an interesting question, well interesting to your Editor. But I must admit that he finds many things which would bore many of you to death 'interesting'.

Well after I started work on this edition, celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the launch of the Ami Super I started to wonder whether the Ami Super was really a model in its own right, or merely a line extension of an existing model: the Ami 8.

For sure, the engine at 1,015cc is double the size of the one found in the 8 and it has a different name. But to all intents and purposes the bodywork looks the same. Is it more akin to the launch of, say, the V6 version of the Xantia [more of which in the next 'Front Drive'] than the launch of the CX?

Do we consider the Big 6 to be a different model from the four-cylinder car? Well, in 2024 the Citroën world will celebrate



the 90th Anniversary of the Traction... yes plans are already afoot in France. But will we celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the six-cylinder car in 2028? In 1984 there were huge international celebrations for the 50th Anniversary of the Traction, but I recall no similar events in 1988 to honour the Big 6.

Of course that is all by the way as, like it or not, this edition of 'Front Drive' does celebrate the Ami Super.

While I have been able to locate, in my archive, contemporary road tests, trying to locate a more recent analysis of the model in the classic car press, either in English or even in French, has been rather more fraught.

Lots of stuff about buying and running an Ami 8, even more on the original version, the Ami 6. But it is almost as if the Super is in the blind spot of the classic car world. I did finally locate a German feature for you.

But I did manage to make contact with a French Ami Super owner via the good offices of the Ami Club de France and Catherine and Victor's article, along with some great pictures are in this month's edition.

Maybe this edition will open our eyes to a very special motorcar.

For the technically-minded 2CV owner we have an article

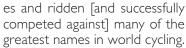
Continued on page 6



ear Members, Leigh always provides us with very interesting reading, delving well beyond the obvious to reveal fascinating information and to pose thoughtful questions and reflections about our classic Citroëns.

This month is certainly no exception, and provides interesting insight and celebration of the Ami Super ~ such a beautiful and quirky little car. I have only ever sat in two of them, and certainly the design and features scream innovation, beauty and utility. Features so familiar in our cars.

I want to acknowledge, thank and congratulate Eric Bishop on his exceptional presentation at our last Frog Hollow club meeting. Eric, of course, was an elite road cycling competitor in Europe through the '70s era, competing in many of the great rac-



I commented at the end that just listening to Eric made me feel that I had just raced IOOkilometres. His talk ~ illuminated so brilliantly with many [graphic] anecdotes ~ was mesmerising. He had all of us very much involved.

In support of his talk, Eric brought a long a number of his road and velodrome bikes which encouraged many questions.

Thank you, Eric, for a wonderful evening. It was great to see our club rooms so full on the night. Guests were beautifully catered for by Helen and Ted.

Sunday 11th of December is our Christmas Lunch, so please hit the registration tab on the website. I'm looking forward to welcoming as many of you as possible on the day.

Tim Cottrell ~ President







Continued from page 4

about protecting your ignition switch with a relay and adding accessories fuse boxes. This came from our friends at 2CVGB and has been 'vetted' for accuracy by Graeme Dennes who has given it the 'thumbs-up'.

Following on from our indepth look at running boards and over-riders we are back this month with wind deflectors and quarter-light windows. While I knew about wind deflectors as accessories I was not

aware that [in France, at least] there were kits available to allow the installation of quarterlights in the front doors. Fascinating!

In the A-Traction list we have been supporting the 2023 running of the Florence Thomson Tour which is sponsored by the AOMC and the RACV. But who was she and why is such an icon and beacon for female drivers in the early 19th century. It's all here.

Leigh F Miles ~ Editor



Please note: To book or RSVP for a CCOCA organised event you must register on line at the club's website.

Do not contact the organiser to register your attendance.

In line with Government guidelines CCOCA no longer requires proof of vaccination if you attend events arranged by CCOCA.

The requirements of other organizations is not impacted by this decision. The Club strongly recommends wearing a mask in areas where you cannot maintain social distancing.

December

Combined CCOCA and CCCV Christmas Spit Roast

WHEN: Sunday, II December TIME: From 12:00 WHERE: Frog Hollow Reserve, 25 Fordham Ave..

COST: \$10pp BOOKINGS: Essential, by Thursday, I December BRING: Tables, chairs, glasses, BYO drinks and nibbles MORE INFO: Lee Dennes, I.dennes@bigpond.net.au

This year your Club will be subsidising a spit roast lunch for you to enjoy at our end of year gathering.



There will be a selection of roast meats and salads along with all the trimmings.

Dessert will also be provided. Special Dietary Requirements will be catered for. [see Registration Form]

DO NOT CALL LEE TO REGISTER! You must register/book via the CCOCA website https://citroenclassic.org.au

January

January Club Meeting & Australia Day BBQ

WHEN: Thursday, 26 January
TIME: 12:00 to 16:00
WHERE: Frog Hollow Reserve,
25 Fordham Ave, Camberwell
COST: Free
BOOKINGS: Essential by
Tuesday, 24 January

BRING: Everything for a picnic or BBO

MORE INFO: Lee Dennes, I.dennes@bigpond.net.au When we say bring everything



for a picnic or BBQ, we mean everything. Don't forget tables, chairs, hats, umbrellas, sunscreen and all things Aussie!

DO NOT CALL LEE TO REGISTER! You must register/book via the CCOCA website https://citroenclassic.org.au

February

Citroën Castlemaine Cultural Cruise

WHEN: Friday, II to Sunday, I3

February

FROM: Melbourne
TO: Castlemaine
COST: TBC
BOOKINGS: Essential
MORE INFO: Haydn Kelvy,

INFO: Haydn Kelvy, haydnkelvy@gmail.com

Join us on the Citroën Castlemaine Cultural Cruise from Melbourne to Castlemaine on Friday, 11 February to soak up Castlemaine Culture on Saturday returning to Melbourne on Sunday.

Details to follow over the next



A-Tractions



weeks

Attractions include, Botanical Gardens, the Mill Cultural precinct, Historic Walks, Boutique Brewery, Art Gallery, Das Kaffeehaus... and much more! We'll include staying in a caravan park, and are looking to set up opportunities for group activities and communal meals. Put the dates in your diaries as

RACV British & European Motorshow

a car shake down run for the

Murray Bridge Cit-In!

WHEN: Sunday, 26 February
TIME: Display vehicles from
09:00

Spectators from 10:00
WHERE: Caribbean Park, off
Ferntree Gully Rd., Scoresby
COST: Display cars: \$15,

including all occupants.

Spectators: \$8.

RACV members \$5

BOOKINGS: Not required BRING: Everything for a day out MORE INFO:

AOMC [03] 9558 4829 www.aomc.asn.au

Trophies will be awarded for a number of categories and the presentation will be held at 13:30. The Car of the Show Award will be made from preentered competitors only. An entry fee of \$20 plus normal admission will apply. Entries for the Car of the Show can be made prior to the Show using the entry form that can be downloaded from the AOMC website, or enter on the day until 10:00, or by contacting the Shows enquiry line 0473 832 277. Car of the Show entrants will be parked in a special display area.

General:

- Food and refreshments will be available.
- There will be Music & Chil-



- drens' entertainment. There will also be trade stalls.
- Dogs are allowed into the display area subject to them being restrained on a lead at all times.

March 2023



Pre-Citln Run or Alan's Amazing Adventure

WHEN: Tuesday, 14 to Friday, 17 March

FROM: Geelong
TO: Murray Bridge
COST: Accommodation, meals

BOOKINGS: Essential BRING: Everything for a great road-trip

MORE INFO: Helen Cross crossfam@ozemail.com.au or Alan Simpson

alansimpson99@gmail.com

Hello fellow Citroën enthusiasts who are joining us for Alan's Amazing Adventure ~ on our way to Murray Bridge for CITIN 2023.

This is a preliminary advice as to daily destinations and accommodation recommendations. Please arrange your own accommodation as soon as you are able and then advise us. Mention a Group Booking for

the Citroën Club which will then trigger appropriate discounts.

For those folk who intend to travel along with us could you please advise both Helen Cross [crossfam@ozemail.com.au] and Alan Simpson [alansimpson99@gmail.com] and include detail of where you intend to meet with us and also the accommodation that you have booked [Warmambool, Mount Gambier, Robe]. With this we should be able to manage an accurate head count as we travel!

For folk coming over from Tasmania, the ferry will now arrive/depart from Geelong at the new ferry terminal. So with this in mind it is suggested to have the meeting and assembly point in Geelong, approx. 70km from Melbourne CBD.

A further circular will be provided to entrants detailing suggested routes and activities as we travel along.

- Tuesday, I4 March Meeting place: BP Truckstop South Bound, 455 Geelong Ring Road at Corio, Geelong Meetig time: 10:30, depart II:00.
- Day I: Tuesday, I4 March, Geelong to Warrnambool, about 260km
 Suggested accommodation: Big 4 Fig Tree Holiday Park, 33 Lava Street, Warrnambool, 3280.

www.figtreepark.com.au

A-Tractions

reservations@figtreepark.com.au

[03] 5561 1233.

This park has a multitude of cabins and some tent sites and has camp kitchens. The park is located quite close to the Warrnambool CBD, about a lkm walk or drive.

• Day 2: Wednesday, 15 March Warrnambool to Mount Gambier, about 200 km Suggested accommodation: Blue Lake Holiday Park, Lot 100 Bay Road, Mount Gambier. 5290 https://bluelake.com.au/ info@bluelake.com.au [08] 8725 9856 Again this park has a multitude of cabins and some tent sites and has a large camp kitchen. The park is located a short 3km drive to the CBD of Mt Gambier.

• Day 3: Thursday, 16 March

Mount Gambier to Robe,

about I40km.
There are multiple accommodation options in Robe, however we found it difficult to find a tourist park site that would likely house all our happy mob. So multiple options are suggested, all located relatively central to the town.
Suggested accommodation:
I] Sea Vu Caravan Park,
I Squire Drive, Robe. 5276.
www.seavucaravanpark.com.au/admin@seavucaravanpark.



com.au

[08] 8768 2273

This park has a modest number of cabins and plenty of van sites and tent sites and has a large camp kitchen. The park is located a short walk to the cbd of Robe.

2] The Guichen Bay Motel, 42 Victoria Street, Robe. 5276. www.theguichen.com.au/ info@guichenbaymotel.com.au [08] 8768 2001

This small motel has a limited number of rooms and is located in the cbd of Robe. I may have booked a room here!

3] Robetown Motor Inn, I Squire Drive, Robe. 5276. www. robetownmotorinn. com.au/

reception@robetownmotorinn.com.au

[08] 8768 2185

This motel has an array of rooms and is located a short 500 metre walk to the cbd of Robe

 Day 4: Friday, 17 March Robe to Murray Bridge. about 260km Arrive at Murray Bridge for CITIN 2023.

Citln 2023 ~ Murray Bridge, SA

WHEN: Friday, 17 to Monday,

20 March, 2023

WHERE: Murray Bridge, SA COST: Until 15 Jan., '23: \$295/\$95

December

2022. Make

mention

that you

to

sure

ANNO

MURRAY BRIDGE

are part of the

SA.

CITIN group.

A-Tractions

Until 17 Feb., '23: \$320/\$95

Under 5: Free

BOOKINGS: Essential by Friday,

17 February 2023

Everything for a BRING: long weekend away

MORE INFO: Greg Moorhouse 0499 600 841

citin2023@clubcitroensa.org.au

The booking/registration form is now available on the CCOCA website https://citroenclassic. org.au

Registration fee includes: Friday evening welcome meal, Saturday breakfast, lunch and dinner, Sunday admission to Monarto Zoo, lunch and dinner, Monday farewell breakfast.

It EXCLUDES accommodation. which is your own responsibility. Accommodation should be booked before submitting your registration form.

The rivers, the lakes, the Coorong, the wineries, Monarto Zoo,the Bend, the clear night skies; the bustling rural town of Murray Bridge and its surroundings are well worth exploring.

The new Bridgeport Hotel in the centre of town, overlooking the mighty River Murray will be the event's hub.

Our CITIN Committee has been hard at work planning a diverse range of activities that are sure to keep you entertained!

COVID-willing, this 54th gathering of combined Australian



www.123ignition.

A-Tractions

Registration, welcome supper and general conviviality and camaraderie.

- Saturday, 18 March Show and Shine by the river. motorkhana, informal dinner,
- Sunday, 19 March Observation run, visit to Monarto Zoo, formal dinner and presentations.

NB We have been able to secure early preferential reservation options for the Behind the Scenes Experience at the Monarto Safari Park up until 19 December. If you choose to take advantage of the preferential booking for Behind the Scenes Animal Experience please aim to book into the later sessions as you may have to forego the Observation run to arrive at Monarto Safari Park in time for the early Behind the Scenes

sessions. The preferential booking form will be emailed to members by Lee Dennes.

• Monday, 20 March Bon voyage breakfast.

April

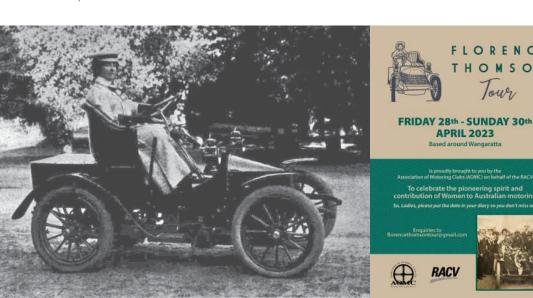
WHFN: Friday, 28 to Sunday, 30 April

WHFRF: Based around Wangaratta

MORE INFO:

florencethomsontour@gmail.

The Florence Thomson Tour is proudly brought to you by the Association of Motoring Clubs [AOMC] on behalf of the RACV. The Tour celebrates the pioneering spirit and contribution of Women to Australian motoring. So, ladies, please put the date in your diary so you don't miss out.



Better starting ess emissions Cross (Vic.) 0400 592 208 its most classic/historic cars th modern performance and reliabilit ue curve or ted@123ignition.com.au Also: Bluetooth control Viso available: mport agent. authorisea

CITROËN XN

Ad Lib

//t is a pleasure to announce II that after some time getting a scheme worked out to take pictures of the missing books from our site. all are now up and ready for your perusal.

All the books are open for lending and I will be happy to send them on at your instruction.

Now that summer is nearly here For is it I wonder!] and general meetings may be held at Frog Hollow, I will bring a selection of books to each monthly meeting.

There have been a number of new books on the Citroën marque recently published...

There two outstanding books Citrovifrom sie which should whet the appetite of fanciers of the XM [how many remember this model in a warm and fuzzy mode remains a guess] and

for those who have an interest in the design of a number of notable models by Citroëns head of design Dan Abramson who was responsible for the shape of the XM, Xantia and our beloved Sylvie... the C6. I hope to have a copy of the XM

book as a Kris Kringle but will have to wait and see if my KK buddie turns up with a copy. I will defi-

nitely purchase for myself a copy of 'Sketchbook of a Citroën SKETCHBOOK OF A CITROËN DESIGNER
CARNET DE CROQUIS D'UN DESIGNER CITROËN Designer'.

After the C6 with maybe one or two exceptions and in my humble opinion

Citroën lost their design individuality to the Citroën DS panderings of the great unwashed The classic car in Australia and banal car buy-

ing public.

So folks, if you have an 'older' Citroën like a C6 for example... keep it and keep it well maintained there will probably never be another to rival it.

The other book that you



ear Leigh, dear Citroën Friends from the other end of the earth.

Please let me once again sincerely congratulate you for the incredible quality of your indepth articles.

The story of SE-100, in particular, is so interesting that I feel like opening a debate! In fact, I do not subscribe to the author's assertion that Citroën had the strategy to produce the SE-100 at Quai Michelet, Levallois. I have no doubt that, in 1939, the one and only objective of the factory was to devote to the future TPV production, with daily cadences and challenges clearly not compatible with any concomitant aeronautic activity.

Of course World War II had changed these plans: suddenly, the priority has turned to 'effort de guerre', war effort, and the factory was then in emergency re-configuration to the production of mechanical parts, in particular for SE-100. But I insist, this was sudden and unwanted, not the result of a long term strategy.

I would be pleased to share a beer will Phil Chidlow to continue this debate!

I could show him that the 'AC' signs visible on the facade of the factory, on page 26, have survived the destruction: I had the great honour to preserve two of them, see:

Levallois, 1903-1988 : L'ancre de façade | Le Grenier du Docteur Estipallas (le-grenier-estipallas. blogspot.com)

Best regards from France and please continue to offer us such inspiring reads,

Dr Estipallas

Members might recall that Dr Estipallas made a significant contribution to Volume 46. No 6 of 'Front Drive' with an article entitled '1952-55: Holding Out for the DS'. Since then, as an internationally respected Citroënist he has received [via email copies of both 'Front Drive' and 'démarreur' each month.

Ad Lib [cont'd]

might point out to Santa is 'Citroën DS, The Classic Car in Australia' by Geoff Webber, Helen Walker and Mark Gordon. This one has the advantage of being available locally. But we believe stocks are limited. You can order it direct from citroenDSau-

stralia@gmail.com

Don't forget to ask Santa for a Citroën book this Christmas and if you have been a good boy or girl your wishes may come true.

Max Lewis ~ Librarian



Australia's National Magazine for

itroen's decision to slot the small 1.015cc GS engine into the bowels of the Ami 8 was a welcome surprise as it gave the odd looking small car, hitherto available only with a sluggardly 602cc flat twin unit, a completely fresh appeal. The enfant terrible has received what must amount to the biggest power increase any one model has ever had ~ a massive 67% boost from 'a meek 24kW/32bhp at 5,750 to a far more virile 40kW/53bhp at 6,000rpm.

However, what must surely dampen a lot of people's enthusiasm is the price. With only a fiver's change from £1,000 the Super Club saloon, as tested here, is expensive for what remains a utilitarian car.

Even so, to say that the Ami has been transformed by the beefier unit would be a rank understatement for the performance gains are impressive. Top speed has been pushed up

IN SUMMARY

 Quite fast for its class; excellent brakes; comfortable seats and ride; good roadholding and ventilation.

AGAINST

 Snatchy transmission and notchy gearchange; poor driving position; engine lacks mid-range punch; noisy road and wind roar; crude trim and décor.



Australia's National Magazine for

from 119kph to 142kph with a best quarter of 145kph, and the standing start acceleration times to 80, 100 and 110kph have been halved. Sixty mph [96kph] came up in 16.4seconds [two seconds quicker than Citroën actually claim] compared with 34.3 sec, and 112kph is reached in a shade over 24sec, compared with more than a minute!

Similarly the improved torque

[70.5Nm at 3,500rpm instead of 40.7Nm at 4,000rpm] is very noticeable with the 50-80kph top gear time cut from 24.5 sec to 13.5.

The light-alloy overhead cam engine is reasonably economical, returning over 9.4L/100km at a steady 110kph. In a mixed bag of running, most of it quite hard, we returned an overall fuel consumption of 10.1L/100km and have computed a reasonable

touring figure of 8.8L/100km. At this average the 40-litre tank ought to be good for around 400km between refills.

Unfortunately the faults we noted in the early GS engine are still there: it's slow to warm up, hesitant at low revs, fussy and noisy when revved hard and, worst of all, lacks bottom-end punch compared with most of its rivals. To get the best from the car you must rev the engine hard and swap gears frequently.

The need to change gear regularly serves only to emphasise

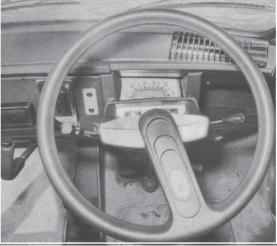
Below: Both the gearlever and faciamounted handbrake lever are awkward to reach. the transmission's snatchy behaviour, the lever's notchy, floppy action and poor siting. Without exception, tall or short, our testers complained that the floor-mounted lever was difficult to reach; it needs to be at least 7cm longer and cranked back towards the driver.

The intermediate ratios give maxima of 42, 74 and 112kph, though the hole between second and third is very noticeable due to the engine's indifferent torque. The gearbox also whines a bit, especially on the overrun.

The Super's handling is something of an acquired taste.' Shod with 15in Michelin 7Xs the Ami







is surefooted enough to cope with most situations but, cornered guickly, you have to apply lots of lock as the understeer builds up. It's virtually impossible to slide the tail, so tenacious is the rearward grip. However, as there is no tuck-in when you lift the throttle in mid corner, exuberance must be tempered with caution, especially as the strong castor action tends to tear the steering wheel from your grasp. About the straightahead position, though, the steering is light, the small diameter, single-spoke leather-rim wheel being a delight to hold. Furthermore, fast takeoffs don't induce a strong FWD torque reaction at the wheel.

The amount of roll the Ami 8 displays has always been something of a joke. Fortunately the Super is far more upright. Stout anti-roll bars have been fitted

Left: The Super's boot size is 215litres which a little below the class average. Above: Most of the controls are thoughtfully grouped about the nicely padded steering wheel but the facia looks thrown together.

Right: Rear seat accommodation is restricted. The sliding windows on the rear doors emphasise the car's utilitarian nature

front and rear and although it still rolls more than most competitors, we didn't find it excessive.

The all-independent suspension feels [and is] firmer than that of the Ami 8 and is a bit thumpy at low speeds, though very resilient on unmade tracks. It smooths out the quicker you go until, at about 110kph, the ride is very comfortable indeed. Towards maximum speed it tends to become floaty.

The improved brakes, unas-



sisted discs at the front and I drums at the rear, are excellent. They pull the car up very well and are light and progressive into I the bargain. On the other hand we hated the nasty umbrella-type handbrake, situated under the facia where it required quite a stretch to reach. It wasn't very effective, either.

In typical French style the seats are very comfortable, nicely contoured and providing support in all the right places.

The seat backs recline and the range of fore and aft adjustment is fair for all but those over 6ft tall; they have to suffer a rather cramped driving position. Rear seat legroom even behind a driver of average height is limited; in fact the car is strictly a small four seater as the cabin is narrow and you tend to sit shoulder to shoulder.

The pedal arrangement is satisfactory and it's possible to heel and toe. Similarly the layout of other important controls, on stalks either side of the steering wheel, is well thought out. Only for the choke and the heater fan do you have to take a hand from the wheel.

As on other Citroëns, the indicators don't self-cancel ~ an inexcusable irritation: they don't even have a warning light. Nor is there a tell tale for the head-lamp main beam control.

The lights, Cibie halogen units, give excellent illumination and, by way of a bonus, are adjustable through a wide arc to compensate for varying load heights. Adjustment is by a handy knurled knob under the facia.

With its fairly high gearing the engine is not unreasonably noisy at 110kph, but wind noise and tyre roar [especially over granite-chip surfaces] are quite high and get worse the faster you travel.

The heating system is rath-

er poor. Apart from the major omission of markings on the control slides, the output is weak unless you're travelling at speed or are prepared to have the noisy fan blasting away. In contrast the crude. clam-like. fresh air vents which sit either side of the facia, are enormously effective. Fully open they emit a veritable gale. However, when they're not in use, you have to make sure they are fully closed or else the in-rushing air whistles loudly.

Instrumentation is confined to a speedometer, fuel and battery condition gauges, plus warning lights for temperature and oil pressure. They do their job

Chit Chat Tuesday

WHEN: Ist Tuesday 6 December

3 January '23 7 February

10:00am TIME: WHERE: Laneway Espresso

Café, Dromana

Cheap Eats COST: Not required **BOOKING:** CONTACT: Warwick Spinaze

0407 016 719.

Laneway Espresso Café ~ next door to the Dromana Hotel, 167 Nepean H'way, Dromana. Easy to find, plenty of parking, under-cover seating if the weather is wet. This is a low key 'DIY' event for like minded Citroën owners to meet and chat.

and no more, lacking much in æsthetic appeal. Which brings us to the facia trim. What a mess! Little of it fits, and frankly we'd criticise it in a car with a £700 price tag, let alone one bordering on the £1,000 mark.

Australia's National Magazine for

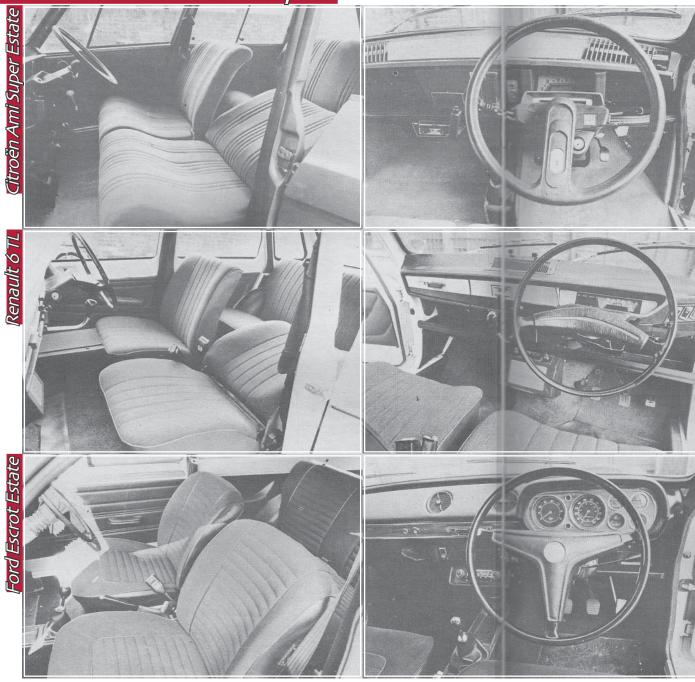
Doubtless the car has character and the extra power is bound to appeal to Citroën addicts. But there will probably be lots of sales resistance without the services of a good beautician, inside and out, and perhaps a cut in price too.

This review first appeared in 'Motor' magazine in 1973. Neither the author nor the photographer is credited, which is typical of the period. The original article forms part of the Editor's collection.



PERFORMANCE											
Maximum Speeds	s [kph]	Acceler	ation	from Re:	st	Accelerat	ion in To	р	Fuel C	onsumpti	ion
·	•	[sec]				[sec]			[L/100	km] ·	
Banked Circuit	142	0-20		2	.5	40-60		6.0	Touring		8.8
Best ¼mile	145	0-40				60-80		8.0	0veral		10.1
Terminal Speed		0-60				80-100		11.8	Grade		4-stai
at ¼mile	108	0-80		- 11.		100-120		12.8	Max R	ange	434km
at Ikm	125	0-100		18		Accelerat	ion in Th	ird	Test D	istance	1,448kn
at Imile	133	0-120		28		40-60		6.0	Speedo	[mph]	
Speed in Gears		Standir	ıg km	38	.4	60-80		6.0	Indica		Tru
' Ist	42					80-100		7.5	30		29
2nd	74								50		48
3rd	112								70		67
GENERAL SPECIFI	ICATION										
Engine		Transm	ission			Suspensio	n		Brakes		
Cylinders	Flat 4			d manu		ront		Ind/	Туре	Di	sc/Drun
Capacity I	1,105cc	Ínterna	ıl Ratio	20		coil sprir	ng and d	amper	Servo		N
Bore/Stroke 74×	59mm		h/1,00			plı	us anti-ro	oll bar	Divisio		N
Cooling	Air	4th		.8923/24		Rear		Ind/	Rear V		Ye
Block Light alloy		3rd 0.6562/18			coil spring and damper		Adjustment Front only				
	t alloy	2nd).4324/12			ıs anti-ro	oll bar	Wheel	S	
Valve	OHC	lst		0.2619/	<u></u>	Steering			Туре		4J×15F
Compression	9:1	Body/C				Type	Rack & p	oinion,	TyresM	lichelin I	35-152
Carburettor		Constru		Unita				ssisted	Pressu	res	26F/28
	28CIC2	Protect				Toe Out		3mm -			
	39.5kW	Electi	ophore	etic prin		Camber		0+45'			
Max Torque 7	70.5Nm			& pa	int		non-adju	stable			
COMPARISONS											
		y Price	Max	0-96	50-	Fuel E	conomy	Length	Width	Weight	Boot
	[cc]	£	kph	kph		0verall		[m]	[m]	[kg]	[litres
Ami Super	1015	995	141.6	16.4	13.5	10.5	8.8	3.96	1.55	955	215
Austin 1300	1275	957	135.3	18.4	14.0	9.8	7 .3	3.68	1.50	1011	181
Fiat 128	1116	1070	137.4	[5.5	12.7	10.3	9.1	3.84	1.58	1011	269†
Ford Escort	1298	1014	139.4	16.9	12.7	10.4	8.0	4.04	1.55	1011	226
Hillman Avenger		988	138.9	16.2	10.5	10.6	9.4	4.12	1.58	1036	291
Morris Marina I.		983	127.8	16.8	[].0	10.4	7.6	4.14	1.63	1072	351
Triumph Toledo	1296	1039	135.0	17.5	12.2	8.6	7.9	3.96	1.58	1021	215†
Vauxhall Viva	1256	924	[33.3	 7.0	.2	.5	7.8	4.12	[.63	1036	280
† = Measureme	nts taken	ın boxe	S								





selves looking at car they would have ignored in the past: plain, unadorned, unstylish cars like the Citroën Ami and Renault 6.

Over the past few months another factor has crept into the scene, a factor that's as disturbing as the high cost of fuel itself: the purchase price of new cars. So high have prices rocketed that a Mini Clubman is now £1,005, a base Escort is £1,063 and the lowliest Vauxhall Viva is £1,074. And apart from the Mini Clubman which fits into a somewhat different category, these cars require assorted items from the options lists to make them even slightly habitable. In short, they are really price leaders with little appeal to motorists looking for cars that will give them at least some satisfaction.

And so the more rounded cars like the Ami and Renault 6 are being thrust steadily into the limelight. They tend to offer a more civilised family package than others of similar prices, and are admired for their comfort and versatility ~ something that is soon seen to be above average for their price groups.

Among Citroën's Ami range ~ the Super has been getting a good deal of attention. All but ignored when it was first released here, the Ami is now seen to offer comfort and fair room within tight external dimensions as well as performance that is quite outstand-

ing for its engine capacity. Many people, ignoring its weird looks, are finding that it presents a very reasonable answer to new car problems.

For our test we chose an Ami Super Estate in order to take the practicality-and-versatility theme to its greatest lengths, and also to make the Ami Super line up more closely with the concept of the Renault 6TL, the other car we specially wanted to look at. After the recent price rises, the Ami Super Estate costs £1,154 and the Renault 6TL £1,230. We selected an Escort 1100L Estate to pit against the Ami Super and 6TL because it represents the British approach to the same sort of problem, and its steep £1,328 price serves as a most effective measuring stick of the value present in the other two imported cars. Right here is an example of the question people are starting to ask: are British cars going to price themselves off the market in the face of increasingly stiff competition from imports?

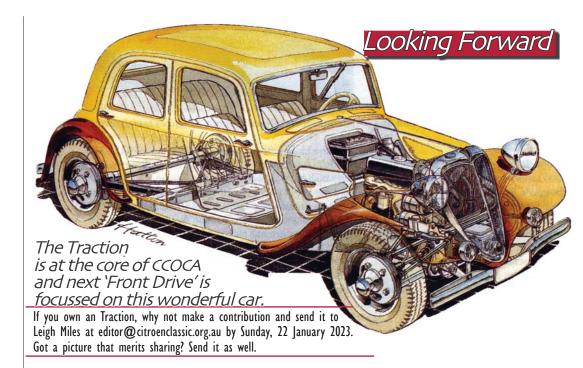
Styling, Engineering

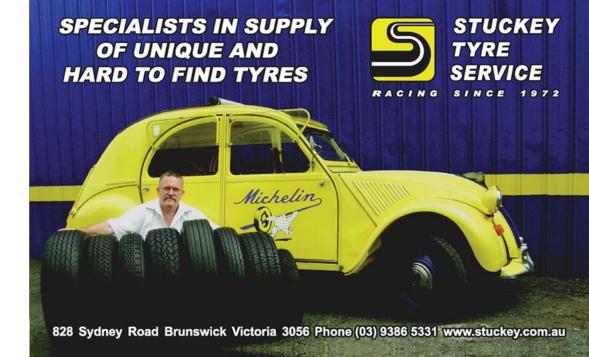
The Ami Super is peculiarly Citroën. With its strangely shaped nose, where the headlight nacelles seem to be gouged out and the bonnet line dips between them, it looks to be a cross between a piece of 'fifties sculpture and something futuristic. It is an ugly, but smooth shape and one that grows on

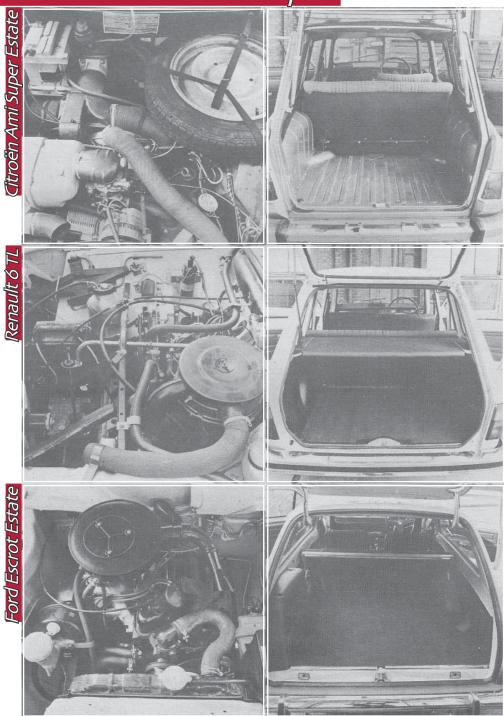
you when you are living with it day-by-day. You can end up quite liking it. Of course, a pretty face is becoming less and less important as people re-adjust their motoring priorities, and the Citroën's unorthodox looks have the decided advantage of being very good aerodynamically.

Although the Renault 6TL has the typically practical French approach to styling, its shape is quiet and normal. It is not especially pretty ~ nor is it ugly ~ although it certainly is boxy. It is simply functional and neat.

The Escort is just as visually appealing as it was when introduced six years ago ~ a straightforward styling job that has no fussy areas and does not need a lot of tacked-on, dress-up gear to look good. However, by appearing rather more stylish than its French competitors it loses out to them in the increasingly important area of space utilisation, although the estate car is nowhere near as bad in this respect as the saloon. In contrast with the other two, the Escort does not have the wheelat-each-corner approach that proves so handy in giving good interior room while keeping the external dimensions at the minimum. To prove the point, all three cars have identical 240cm wheel bases, but at 407cm the Escort is appreciably longer than the 396cm Citroën and 385cm Renault. The Escort, at 157cm, is













5cm wider than the Ami Super and just over 2½cm wider than the Renault. The tracks are extremely close; showing how far out Citroën has sited the Ami's stance in order to achieve maximum stability and roadholding. The Ami stands at 126cm, the Escort at 127cm and the Renault at 127.6cm. The Renault is highest at 150cm, 21/2cm up on the Citroën and nearly 13cm up on the Escort. That the Escort is so much lower is a fact that has an important bearing on the load space: although the Escort is more than 10cm longer and 5cm wider, it carries 149litres less than the Ami Super, and passenger head room is more restricted.

33

The cars' weights are fairly similar. The Ami is a fly-weight 815kg, the Renault is the middleweight at 820kg and the Escort the heavyweight at 840kg. Significantly, it is the Citroën that will carry the biggest payload of 370kg, compared with 365 for the Escort and 357kg for the Renault.

Just as it is the most outlandish in its styling, so the Citroën is the engineering extrovert. Its body is mounted on an exceptional chassis: in the centre there is a big, flat platform with arms extending forward to hold the engine and transmission, and backwards to provide the rear mounts for the end of the body. At either end

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SPECIFICATIONS			
	CITROËN AMI SUPER ESTATE	RENAULT R6TL	FORD ESCORT ESTATE
Engine			
Material [head/block]	Alloy/Alloy	Alloy/Cast iron	Cast iron/Cast iron
Main bearings [No]	´3 ´	´ 5	5
Valve gear	OHC	OHV	OHV
Capacity [cc]	1,015	1,108	1,298
Bore/stroke	74×59	70×72	81×63.3
Compression ratio	9.0:1	9.5:	9.0:
Carburettors	Twin choke Weber/Solex	Single Solex	Single Ford
Power	45.5kW@6,750rpm	32.1@5,500rpm	42.5@5,500rpm
Torque	73.4Nm@3,500rpm	77.3@3,500rpm	90.8@3,000rpm
Cooling	Air	Water	Water
Transmission			
Gearbox ratios	3.81/2.31/1.54/1.12	15.3/9.2/6.0/4.2	3.65/2.18/ .42/ .11
Final drive ratio	4.12:1	4.12:1	3.9:
km/1000rpm in top	24.0	24.1	
Clutch	Single dry plate	Single dry plate	Single dry plate
Chassis & body	/	/ /	. 6 /
Type & method of	H-platform & bolt-on	All-steel unitary	Steel unitary
construction	panels	riii seeci aintai j	steer amear /
Lighting	paners		
Headlamps	2, Tungsten	2, Cibie	2, Tungsten
Battery	12volt	12volt	12volt
Dimensions [cm/l]	121010	121011	121010
Wheelbase	240.0	243.8	240.0
Track [F/R]	125.7/121.9	128.3/124.5	125.7/128.3
Overall width	154.9	120.3/124.3 49.9	123.7/120.3
Overall length	397.5	398.8	386.I
Overall height	147.3	147.3	142.2
Ground clearance	147.5 [3.0	12.7	 142.2 5 .5
Headroom [F/R]	81.3/76.2	-/-	95.5/95.5
Shoulder room [F/R]	11.3/70.2 4.3/ 8.1	-/- -/-	121.9/126.0
Legroom [F/R]	99.1-116.8/88.9-73.7	-/- -/-	103.4/83.8
Luggage capacity	450	368-1,189	878-1,529
	130	300 1,107	070-1,327
Wheels & Tyres	AlvelE	40.412	13 × 41/
Wheels	4J×15	4B×13	12×4½
Tyres	135×152	145 SR 13	155 SR 12 radial

of the main platform section hang the suspension members. And what a strange suspension it is! The rear has trailing arms made of pressed steel sections welded up to give a tube-like appearance, and they pivot on the thick tubular 'axle' mounted on the chassis platform. This is not so unusual, but the method of springing and damping is. Instead of the spring/damper units rising up vertically from the trailing arms, they lay horizontal and parallel with the sides of the chassis. The shockers connect to mounts that jut down from the forward part of the trailing arms and then to locating points on the side of the platform. They work in the opposite direction to normal systems: most of their work is done in the rebound position since as the wheel rises over bumps it pulls the shocker outwards. The springs, located in special enclosed cylinders on the side of the chassis work the same way, linked to the mounts on the trailing arms by metal rods. The front suspension is, in essence, the rear suspension turned around to face forwards. Its rods run back to springs housed in the same pods as those for the rear suspension. All very strange, but in true Citroën fashion it works admirably and saves a great deal of space because the chassis has nothing poking up from it to intrude into the body. The Ami's steering is

rack-and-pinion with 3.4turns lock-to-lock, the wheels it turns are of course the driven ones. Citroëns have had FWD for so long now they are synonymous with the word. The engine is in front of the gearbox, and the inboard discs are mounted close in, on the driveshafts.

The Renault 6 is FWD. too. But more conservatively so than the Citroën. The 6 is based on the Renault 4 chassis ~ the body and bigger engine of the TL are the only major differences ~ which means that the front suspension is by wishbones, longitudinal torsion bars and an anti-roll bar. Trailing arms work the independent rear suspension along with Renault's familiar transverse torsion bars. Steering is rack-and-pinion with 3.8turns lock-to-lock: brakes are front discs and rear drums. without the complication of servo assistance.

Mechanically, the Escort is a real Plain Jane compared with the French pair. Its construction is unitary, its engine is mounted in the nose and drives the rear wheels. Suspension is super conventional with MacPherson struts and lower links at the front and a live axle mounted on leaf springs at the rear. Steering is rack-and-pinion with 3.5turns lock-to-lock. The brakes are drums all round, unless you pay more for the optional front discs.

DRICEC 9 COCTO

Period Piece II: Ami Super

With its air-cooled, flat fourcylinder engine, the Citroën again leads the way so far as interesting engineering goes. The little 1.015cc unit, with its 74mm bore and 59mm stroke, comes from the GS; the Ami Super was created by the now well-used trick of dropping the engine from a more powerful car into a body originally intended to use a smaller unit [the standard Ami 8 has the Dyane 602cc engine].

The flat four gives the Super 40.3kW at 6,500rpm and 67.8Nm of torque at 3500rpm, getting its oomph from a compression ratio of 9.0 to one and single overhead camshafts, on each bank of cylinders. Drive is taken through the four-speed gearbox and driveshafts fitted with constant velocity joints at each end to the front wheels. Although it is the smallest engine of the three, the Citroën four is the most powerful. The 1,098cc [81mm by 53mm] Ford engine has 35.8kW at 5,500rpm with 74.6Nm at 3.000rpm. The 1,108cc [70mm by 72mm] Renault engine is less powerful again at, 35.1kW at 5,500rpm, but it has the heftiest torque of 77.3Nm at 3,000rpm. Whereas the Citroën engine is in front of its gearbox, and therefore ahead of the axle line, the Renault is face-about in the fashion of the R4 and R16. The gearbox is nearest the nose. with the engine tucking in be-

hind the axle line and sitting up against the firewall. Like the Citroën, both the Renault and Escort use four-speed, all-synchro gearboxes. The final-drive ratios are similar: Renault 4.13. Escort 4.12 and Citroën 4.01. But because the Citroën does not have a 1.0 to one top gear [it is 1.12] its overall gearing is lower so that it gives 24kph/l000rpm compared with the Renault's 24 lkph and the Escort's 24.9.

Performance

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Part of the appeal of the Citroën Ami Super can be traced to the fact that it is something of a O-car. It is small, it is weirdlooking, it is practical and versatile but it goes-and goes ~ a lot harder than anyone has the right to expect of a 1,000cc vehicle of its size. Since it is not much lighter than the Renault 6 and Escort and not that much more powerful, it must be concluded that its weird shape is highly efficient aerodynamically. Contrast the 0-96kph times of the three cars: the Ami Super gets there in a very good 15.4seconds compared with the Renault's 18.2 and the Escort's tardy 19.6. Those same aerodynamics must also do their bit towards the Ami's fine top speed of 147kph, a velocity that not only gets it well clear of Renault's 142kph and Escort's 132kph but is enough to give the drivers of many larger engined cars a fright. The Citroën en-

PRICES & COSTS			
	CITROËN AMI Super Est.	RENAULT R6TL	FORD ES- CORT EST.
Price Structure Base Price Purchase tax/VAT Price as tested	- - £1,154	£1,032 - £1,229.80	£1,159.80 £194.91 £1,354.19
Spares Prices Engine [exchange] Gearbox [exch] Differential [exch] Clutch unit Brake disc Brake pads [pr] Drum linings Fuel pump Damper [F] Exhaust system Oil filter Dynamo/Alternator Contact breaker set Starter motor Speedometer Front door [primer] Bonnet [primer] Front bumper Wiundscreen	199.00 109.00 37.83 8.95 7.51 5.46 6.34 6.59 5.08 29.66 1.41 26.49 1.63 27.50 5.69 21.27 25.89 16.72 10.31	99.00 110.00 17.32 4.60 7.50 1.78 6.11 6.38 23.34 1.60 15.27 0.89 15.05 9.29 26.80 29.40 13.94	121.46 66.31 49.07 12.73 4.48 5.10 1.73 7.18 13.45 19.12 1.90 15.37 0.50 38.67 4.28 26.20 19.67 4.42 33.28
Maintenance [hrs] Remove/replace engine/gearbox Replace clutch Renewing brake pads/shoes Remove/replace exhaust system	6.5 7.0 0.5	11.5 4.0 3.15 3.35	2.5 2.1 0.5 1.5

gine is very fussy when cold; it requires full choke and needs a lot of mothering for the first few miles, spewing out a great deal of mixture smoke all the while. Once properly warm, however, the engine is vigorous, smooth and willing to rev to very high levels. It will run way past 7,000rpm without the slightest complaint, something that pushes its gear maximums a long way past its contemporaries, and helps in overtaking and press-on driving along bendy roads. The gear ratios are excellent but the change is notchy [although the movements are very short] and first is sometimes hard to find. Because the Ami Super does have good performance for its class, you tend to drive it hard too much of the time. If you take it easy, it will give 9.3L/100km and better. Thrash the legs off it and the consumption goes up to 10.9 [strangely, the figure we returned is identical with the one Citroën claim], which still is not too bad for a 145kph car that can carry so much

If the Citroën has the best out-and-out performance, the Renault 6TI has the best compromise between performance and economy ~ it records 142kph and 8.6L/100km when driven as hard as it will go. In fact, the 6TI feels faster than its acceleration figures show because its strong torque and traditional Renault smoothness

EOUIPMENT

Period Piece II: Ami Super

make it feel potent. Staying very smooth right through the rev range, the Renault engine is happy to soar past its peak power point, so that it will hang onto gears in tight situations. The Escort's engine is rather the lame duck of the trio. It is torquey and smooth low down, but it does not like to rev out, getting rough and noisy past 5,000rpm. Besides returning the worst performance figures, the Escort also uses the most fuel: 9.5L/100km overall. In economy, it offers no advantage over the more powerful 1,300 engine. Flat out the Escort only does 132kph.

Tuning Potential

Obviously, if more power is your thought for the Escort then it is best to opt for the 1,300 engine from the start. However, the 1,100 engine can be cleaned up somewhat in the cylinder head and fitted with improved manifolding to give it both more power, more revs and better economy. The myriad of Ford tuning shops will advise you on parts availability and costs.

Not much can be done to the Citroën and Renault engines. The Citroën engine is highly efficient in its present state, and tampering with it probably is not worth the trouble. Renault engines always have a lot of potential left in them, but finding someone to competently carry out the work could be difficult. A check with a long-established

Renault dealer would be the best bet.

Maintenance and Spares

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This is the area where Ford's design and engineering simplicity pays off. The car is so basic any home mechanic can tackle its maintenance and repairs. And the Ford dealer chain is so vast there should never be any problem getting parts or service.

Both the French companies, however, have extensive setups in Britain. Renault, who are the biggest car importer in the UK have good spares availability so there should never be trouble getting parts, although they're going to cost more than those for the Escort. Service intervals are 5.000km for the Ami. 10.000 for the Escort and 15.000 for the Renault.

Handling, Steering and Brakes

The trio splits here, with the FWD Renault and Ami pairing off on one side and the Escort standing alone on the other. Naturally, the FWD cars understeer, and in true French tradition they body-roll profusely. But in the case of the Ami the body roll is of no concern and understeer is minimal. Steering is moderately heavy and you need to get used to the self-centring action under full power, but the Citroën handles very well, going around corners very rapidly with a good deal of precision. The roadholding is very good

EQUIPMENT			
	CITROËN AMI Super Est.	RENAULT R6TL	FORD ES- CORT EST.
Safety belts	Extra	Extra	Extra
Tool kit	×		$\overline{\checkmark}$
Heater		$\overline{\checkmark}$	×
Rear window demister	· 🗹	$\overline{\checkmark}$	Extra
Cigar lighter	×		×
Map light	×		×
Fog lights	×		Extra
Spot lights	×		Extra
Clock	×	×	×
Fresh air ventilation	☑ <mark>※</mark> ☑		$\overline{\checkmark}$
Hazard warning	×		Extra
Sun visors	\square	\square	\square
Tachometer	☑ <mark>※</mark> ☑		×
Sliding roof	×	Extra	×
Vanity mirror	$\overline{\checkmark}$	$\overline{\mathbf{A}}$	Extra
Reversing lights	×	×	Extra
Coat hooks	×	×	\square
Grab handles	⊠ Extra	⋉ ✓ ⋉	×
Reclining seats	Extra	$\overline{\checkmark}$	×
Wash/wipe facility	\square	×	\square
Map pocket		×	$\overline{\checkmark}$
Boot light	×	x	×
Engine light	×	x	×
Adjustable steering	×	×	×
Oil pressure gauge			×
Oil temp gauge			×
Water temp gauge			×
Ammeter			×
Locking petrol cap		×	×
Underseal		⋉ ✓	✓
Glovebox	≭ ≭ /√		×
Parcel shelf [F/R]	× / √	<u> </u>	√ / ×
Headrests	⊠ ✓	⋉	Extra
Steering lock	✓	lacksquare	☑
Parking lights	×	×	×
Door armrests	☑	\square	\square
Centre armrest [F/R]	×/×	×/×	x / x
Dipping mirror	×	$\overline{\square}$	Extra
Laminated screen	Extra		Extra

indeed, giving the driver confidence and letting him use the little engine's performance to the full. In this area, too, the drivers of many theoretically faster and more sporting vehicles get a shock, for the Ami Super is a O car in more ways than one.

In layout and concept the Renault 6TL is virtually a smaller version of the RI6. Unfortunately it does not behave as impeccably as the 16, revealing that in engineering it is nothing but a bigger-engined R4. In the R4 and R16, you get body roll, but it comes in and goes out with a gentle flowing motion that you soon learn to enjoy. In the R6, the body roll does not work like this, the movements feeling out of phase with the steering and leaving the car feeling poorly balanced; it doesn't make you feel as-safe as other Renaults do. And where they have only a little understeer, the 6 has a great deal. Come too hard into a roundabout and you think you're going to go charging straight on. So the car cannot be driven with the fervour usually applied to Renault-pedalling. It feels to be what it is: a chassis that has had too much power stuffed into it and too much weight added onto it.

Handling is the Escort's forte. Its steering is remarkably light and very smooth, and it directs the car with pin-point accuracy. The Escort goes around corners

with a great deal of nimbleness and understeer only intrudes when you are pushing it so hard you are reaching the very limits of the roadholding. In the wet, the breakaway is progressive and you get plenty of warning, and correction is easy. In short, the car has delightful handling on smooth roads. Bumpy bends make it hop about, and overall the roadholding is not as good as the Citroën's. Of course, Ford always supplies its test cars on wide wheels and radials but even without them the Escort does handle very well.

Normally, Amis have good brakes. But our test cars required a great deal of effort to pull up in anything like a hurry and then only with some juddering. Brakes in the Renault were excellent, retarding the car quickly and smoothly with modest effort at the pedal. With its standard drums, the Escort does not pull up as well as the other two disc-braked car. But when the optional discs are fitted it stops well enough, although the tail is prone to skittering about under really hard braking. Sometimes the Escort will pull to the left or right as the whim takes it, but at least pedal pressure is light at all times.

Ride and Comfort

This is the area where the French cars completely overshadow the Escort, and all other small British vehicles. It is not

possible to find a current French car with a poor ride [except the Chrysler 180], and just about all of them have very good seats. Citroën and Renault are masters of the two arts. There is little to choose between the ride of the Ami and the Renault: both are very good, soaking up bumps with ease. The Ami's seats are well-shaped and comfortable, finished in soft cloth. But the narrowness of the car means that the driver and his passenger sit close together. Rear legroom is not great, but it is adequate; overall the Ami is a good fourseater. As well as having a squab that tilts forward to extend the load area, the rear seat can be removed completely in a matter of seconds, turning the Ami Super estate into a small van with a 1,472litres of load space.

The Renault feels rather more relaxed inside, having more room and a more conventional appearance. Rising well up your back, its front seats are excellent and the bench in the rear is nearly as good. Rear space is better than the Citroën's, and overall the 6TL feels very comfortable. It has a clear edge over both the Citroën and Escort so. far as noise is concerned, riding more quietly over harsh surfaces and not having as much wind or mechanical noise. Because of these things, the Renault is more relaxed and feels more refined.

The Escort's ride is comfort-

able enough on smooth to moderately bumpy surfaces. But when it hits pitted roads or hefty bumps it does not have the ability to soak them up like the French cars. The front seat squabs do not rise up high enough on the Escort, but otherwise the seats are not too bad, even though they are not up to the French cars' standards. Headroom in the rear is restricted although legroom is quite good [better than in the Escort saloon, in fact]. A problem with the Escort is that it is only a two-door, a point that puts it at a disadvantage compared with the other cars. Access to the rear seat is not good because the front seat squab does not come forward far enough. The low height of the Escort's roof fremember, it's 10cm down on the R6TL1 also means the car is more awkward to load than the other two and while it will carry more than the Renault [which, after all is only a versatile saloon that happens to have a folding rear seat] it doesn't have the capacity of the Ami.

Controls and Instruments

The driving positions of all three cars are quite good, although the Escort's is best. You sit easily behind the wheel, which is at perfect reach to be played effortlessly and pleasantly through the hands. The gear lever is well-located too, and works beautifully through its

gate. Along with the handling, the gearchange is one of the delights of the Escort. The pedals are well-placed ~ toe-and-heeling is a snack ~ and everything works lightly and precisely. Minor controls are not quite so good: the one column stalk only works the turn indicators, flashers, dipswitch and horn. To turn on the lights requires a reach under the right hand side of the dash, and to get the wipers working means reaching around the wheel to the rocker switch set into the dash on the left. The two-speed fan control is next to the wipers switch. Washers are worked by a diaphragm button on the floor. The car in our photographs had the sports instrument cluster, but the standard cluster has only a speedo and another dial that houses the gauges for fuel and water temperature. Ventilation in the Escort is feeble, and the fascia vents have to be swivelled about to change the air's direction from face level to the windscreen if demisting is necessary. Equipment is sparse. There is no locking glovebox, only an open parcels shelf in front of the front passenger; a heated rear window is an extra and the seats only adjust fore-and-aft.

While the Citroën Ami has a comfortable driving seat, some people will find that it cannot be moved far enough back: the pedals remain just a little too

close. The reach to the steering wheel is good, and the view out of the car superb; getting hold of the gear lever is another matter: it is far too short. Toe-andheeling is possible, but not really easy in the Ami. Otherwise, the pedals have short throws and work pleasantly. The minor controls are worked by stalks in the Ami. Turning a knob on the lone right-hand stalk brings on the lights, and moving the stalk to-and-fro alters the beam. The horn is there too. A short left hand stalk turns on the indicators and a longer one behind it works the wipers and washers.

The dashboard looks extremely basic in the Ami: it could only be found ~ and accepted ~ in a Citroën. A wide plastic surround on the steering column fans out to shroud the bases of the control stalks, and set into its face are the tiny gauges for battery condition and fuel contents. The speedo is sunk deep into a nacelle between the bottom of this steering-column surround and the main part of the dash. It looks very simple and basic. The heater controls are easy to reach but the heater does not work very well without the noisy fan switched on. The fresh-air ventilation is excellent, working through huge vents set into each side of the fascia. Once again, they are super-simple but work admirably. Although the Citroën appears to be very basically equipped, it does have cloth seats, a heated rear window, disc brakes, radial tyres and its headlamps are adjustable to compensate for loads changing the height of the beams. To adjust them you simply reach under the dash and turn a knob. The Ami's windows slide instead of winding down, showing that cost-cutting has been applied.

The Renault's driving position is more upright than the others. It is still very comfortable and offers the driver excellent vision in all directions. The pedals are light to work and well-located, but the gearlever juts out of the fascia like that of the R4 and R5. It looks strange but works well enough. The dash of the R6 has a certain simplicity and is distinctively French, though nowhere near as eccentric as the Ami's. The speedo is set into a plasticky surround and is very basic like the Ami's; near it are the fuel gauge and voltmeter. A stalk on the column works the indicators, and a second one cares for the lights, flashers and horn. Set into the right hand side of the dash, and quite easy to reach, are rocker switches for the wipers, two-speed fan and heated rear window. The wipers have only one speed and you must press the button to make them park. Heater and air direct ion controls are in the centre of the fascia, the air vents are in the

top edge of it and on the left there is a glovebox that is covered but does not lock. The R6 has a night-and-day mirror.

Basic inside, the R6 nevertheless has a fair measure of appeal because it looks restrained and it feels solid and well-built. Although it is really a saloon, it can indeed double-up as an estate car; its rear parcels shelf pulls out like that of the R16, and that alone greatly increases the luggage space. Then if you need more, the rear seat folds just like that of the Escort Estate and you then have 906litres carrying capacity.

Conclusions

Obviously, all three cars are fairly basic transport. In the case of the Frenchmen, the seating and ride comfort [and performance, in the case of the Ami Super] puts them above what is the usual standard of equally basic British cars with similar carrying capacity.

The Escort, however, shows up reasonably well ~ better than you might expect ~ simply because it has such good handling and is so easy to drive. On the other hand it misses out in ride quality, performance and ultimate economy. It also needs extras like disc brakes, wide wheels and radials and a heated rear window to make it re-

ally habitable. Since the price is already relatively steep this puts its value even more in question.

Although the Renault 6TL has the most comfortable cabin [by a whisker from the Ami], feels the best-built and is the most relaxed at speed, it lurches into corners with awkward body movements and understeers too much. It is not a pleasant car to drive quickly and that makes it a major departure from normal Renaults . By Renault standards the 6TL's dynamic qualities are inferior. The Ami Super is hardly a perfect car. It is noisy when driven hard [above 110kph], is hard to warm-up, and is guite crude in areas like the fascia and windows and the styling depends on your taste. But it is practical and versatile; it handles well and has good roadholding as well as a fine ride.

Furthermore, its brisk performance gives it Q-car qualities and yet it does not consume too much fuel. Thus we pick the Ami Super from the Escort and Renault. For the money, at a time when money does not buy much, the Ami offers enough pluses to justify its not inconsiderable price.

This review first appeared in 'Car' magazine in September 1974. The photographs were taken by Peter Boyce, but no author is credited.

Member's Model: Ami Super

//t will come as no great sur-// prise to readers to read that I was not able to find an Ami Super owner here in Australia to write about their ownership experiences. While my memory does tell me that there is an Ami Super in Australia, for the life of me I cannot remember either where, or from whom. I heard this.

So, I turned my attention to our friends at 2CVGB in the hope that they would regard the Ami Super as part of the A-Series family and be able to point me in the direction of an owner who might be prepared to write for us.

While the answer to the first question was 'yes', the answer to the second was 'no'. As Moss Foster, the Ami Registrar for 2CVGB wrote,

Australia's National Magazine for

'I sometimes think Amis are thin on the ground here but it's a bountiful oasis compared with Australia.

I do cover and write about Ami Supers, we have a small number of them on the register, although I know for a fact that there are probably more than 10 Ami Supers still driving in the UK.

That said they don't have a separate column in our magazine, all Amis fall under my supervision, so that includes Ami

6s, Ami 8s, and Supers [+everything inbetween.]

I will be doing an article for their 50th and of course you are more than welcome to feature it in part or full as you desire.

I only know two Super owners personally, both of whom lead busy lives and don't seem to be interested in writing for a magazine unfortunately.

I do wish you the best of luck at finding someone.

And thanks for sharing the magazine, very interesting read! Clearly a lot of time and

effort goes into making them. Looks like you're doing a brilliant job.'

My next port of call was the Ami Club de France. I received a very prompt reply for Bruna Chanel Olive. the President. She replied in a very positive tone and passed my request for contact with an Ami Super owner on to Catherine Liabot-Verne and Victor Mornai.

As a result of making this contact CCOCA will now exchange magazines with the Ami Club de France.

Some members and readers may recall meeting Catherine and Victor as they visited Australia in 2005 and spent time with some of our members. I have to admit to not having met them back then, but they have fond memories of their time here.

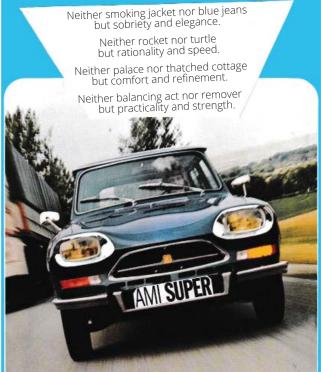
You can read more about Catherine and Victor's Ami 8 adventures in Africa and Australia on their website. I cannot recommend it too highly. www.phacodundee.com

Here is what Catherine and Victor gave us...

It may surprise you, but the 4 'double' Flat Twin enhances the personality of the Ami for the 'ami' of the Ami 8.

The Ami Super is the flagship of the technical progress of the Ami because of its characteristics, while keeping its original





Member's Model: Ami Super

style.

Both the 8 and the Super are seductive vehicles but they are very different in more than one way. By placing the Ami Super as the culmination of the evolution, Citroën gave its owners a surprising vehicle. Surprising in its driving, giving it a particular 'grand routière' feeling; it is almost sporting and can handle any road surface.

In fact, the 'Super 8' is in a class apart car in the eyes of many road users. They are deceived by the familiar lines of the Ami 8 and are surprised by its performance on long journeys [I40 kph] and known for its agility in built-up areas

It has, to our eyes, a certain American reflection, as in the era of compact models.

But the Ami is so much more inventive with her 4-cylinder, 'flat twin', cooled by air. To my eyes air-cooling is the best engineering solution to engine cooling without the need for expensive accessories.

Morover, the Ami Super is comfortable and has excellent braking.

The Ami Super is really a great 'ami' and today she is very rare. Only 44,820 examples were produced between 1973 and 1976.

We have been members of the Ami Club de France for 26 years and are the happy owners of a blue 1973 Ami Super Break







[Estate] and a 1974 Ami Super Sedan in Brun Santal. We have owned the sedan for 33years!

The Ami Super is a very pleasurable way to cover the kilometres in a very rare steed; especially one in such an excellent state of conservation. For me they represent two very happy purchases.

Both cars came from elderly owners who took great care of them and I have maintained them in that state since 1989.



Isn't this the real feeling of the magic word 'SUPER'?

But one must never forget that the Super is also more fragile than the Ami 8 and more complicated, and that they are cars that have to be run regularly to remain operational.

Jacques-Victor Mornai et Catherine Liabot-Verne.

Translated with the assistance of www.DeepL.com/Translator (free version).

2CV Tech: Protecting the Ignition

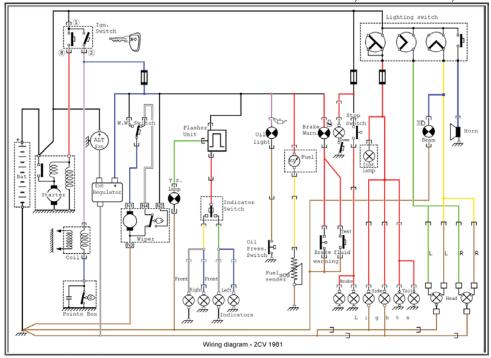
Protecting the Ignition
Switch with a Relay
& Adding Accessories
Fuse Boxes

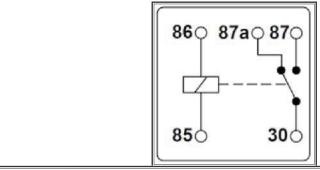
hen I look at the 2CV wiring diagram, I'm often struck by how all of the key-switched circuits are fed by a single fuse. Worse, that they all draw their current via that, by now quite elderly, key switch.

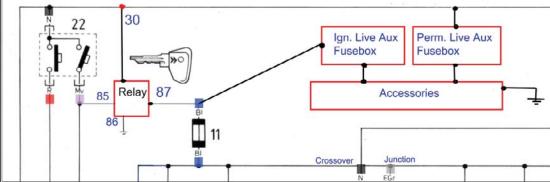
If you wish to add any keyswitched accessories, you further increase the load on the key switch. So I inserted a relay into the key-switched circuits, to do all the heavy lifting.

If you're not familiar with these handy little items, a relay is a two-part electrical switch. If the first part is fed a low current, it turns on the secondary part: a high current switch. It works by energising an electromagnet, which then opens or closes a set of points. Typically the trigger current for the electromagnet is about 0.25amps, whilst the points switch may handle 30 or 40amps. So we can reduce the ignition switch current drastically, if it now merely turns on the relay, whilst safely increasing the switched current available, indirectly.

As well as taking the strain off the key switch, the relay can







also supply switched power to an extra fuse box. Which can in turn easily and safely power all your accessories, via suitable fuses.

The main addition to the existing wiring is a new positive feed wire, from the battery or from the terminal post on the rear of the starter motor. This needs to be routed with safety in mind, as that stretch is unfused. So a short run to the new relay location is best. But an inline fuse can be fitted.

If you have fitted, or will fit, headlight relays, then it pays to mount all the relays together. Then a single battery/starter

feed wire can be daisy-chained from the first relay to the second, and so on. Neatest to use relay sockets, which can clip together. These make changing relays quick and foolproof, as all the connections are in the socket and the relay simply plugs in.

The feed wire[s] need to be able to handle the total expected current, if all devices are in use simultaneously. The formula for this is

Current [in Amps] = Power [in Watts] divided by Volts.

e.g. I20W [main beam lights] divided by I2V = I0A current draw.

A feed wire powering the

Protecting the Ignition







Above: Piggyback connectors. Right: Relay fuse boxes and airhose. Facing page: Auxiliary fuse box.

original switched circuits, and all accessories, may need a lot more. Err on the side of caution. The same formula can be used to determine the fuse ratings to be used e.g. I5A for the main beams [my headlights now run on fused relays].

You need to obtain a normally-open or crossover relay [not a normally-closed type].

To insert the relay into the whole key-switched side of the system, you first need to identify the positive feed wire coming from the switch to the existing fuse box. Post-'81 wiring has this as the blue-tagged wire at the fuse box.

Disconnect the ignition coil fto avoid burn out whilst testing], then use a test light to identify which side of the fuse box is the input side: remove the fuse, turn the key to on, test which side of the fuse holder will light the test lamp, when linking the fuse holder to earth. Then disconnect the battery.

Step by Step Wiring Changes

These may sound complicated, but are not really. The wiring diagram before and after pictures [on previous page] may be easier to follow, if your mind prefers visuals.

- I Remove the switch input wire from the fuse box and attach it to terminal 85 of the new relay ~ you may need to put a different terminal connector on the wire for this.
- 2 Run an earth wire from the 86 relay terminal to a suitable earth point. This wire carries very little current, maybe

250mA, so can be light.

- 3 The new battery positive feed wire is run to relay terminal 30, directly from the battery, or the starter motor post, or from an existing adjacent relay: link both terminal 30s.
- 4 The switched power output can now be taken from the relay terminal 87. Note there may be more than one 87 terminal, or terminals labelled 87a. 87b etc. You want one that is turned on when the relay is energised, which is normally 87 or 87b, but see the diagram on the relay body to confirm this [see picture]. If still unsure, use a test lamp to see which 87 terminal does what, when the key switch is on [reconnect the battery for this]. A power wire of suitable dimensions [probably the same as terminal 30 wire] is

run from terminal 87 to the missing bluetagged fuse connector on the fuse box. This completes the key-switched relay wiring.

To Power an Auxiliary Keyswitched Fuse Box, for Accessories

A modern fuse box, with a single positive input [aka a busbar], blade fuses, and LED blown fuse tell-tales, is best.

Run a relay-switched positive feed wire to the new fuse box. Either from relay 87 terminal, or from the blue-tagged input on the original fuse box. So the auxiliary box only receives power when the key is on. To double up wire connectors at the relay or fuse box, piggyback connectors are useful. [See photo top left]

Then you can simply hook up your new toys to the auxiliary

Protecting the Ignition

fuse box, using suitable fuses.

Before and after wiring diagrams.[see pages 46 and 47] The before shows the feed from the key switch [top left corner] going directly to the blue-tagged fuse.

The after shows that same wire now going to relay terminal 85. With terminal 86 earthed.

The new positive feed wire is taken from the positive 'bus' and attached to relay terminal 30

The new switched output

runs from relay terminal 87 to the original fuse.

Australia's National Magazine for

Another new wire, connected at the fuse input, takes switched power to a new auxiliary fuse box.

This diagram also shows a permanently live auxiliary fuse box, fed directly from the positive bus.

This article was written by Joolz Smith and first appeared in the June 2022 edition of '2CVGB News' the magazine of the Deux Chevaux Club of Great Britain.

90 Years of the Traction Avant

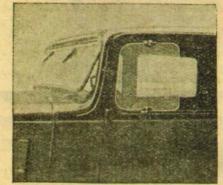
International Traction Avant Meeting Thursday, 9 to Saturday, 11 May, 2024 Circuit de Charade, Puy de Dome, France



Deflecting the Breeze



VOLET "PROTECTOR " pour conduite intérieure Constitué par une



Constitué par une glace sans encadrement, montée sur deux pivots chromés fixés en haut et en bas de la baie de la portière. Supprime les remous d'air si désagréables, notamment pour les passagers des places arrière.

50649

Le volet complet, avec glace de sécurité. Pièce 165. »

A la commande, Indiquer la marque et le type de la voiture.

Volet d'air D. E. F.

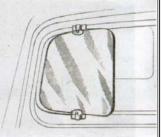
Permet d'avoir de l'air... sans courant d'air

Le Volet d'air D.E.F. est articulé sur deux pivots à ressort et formant rotule. Il ne gêne en rien la manœuvre de la glace de portière. Il permet de passer le, bras pour les signaux, sans aucune manœuvre,

Pose facile : Fixation par deux vis en acier trempé et spéciales pour la tôle, donne toute sécurité et les 2 petits trous de 2,5 qu'il faut percer, ne peuvent nuire en rien à l'esthétique. Supports culvre chromé — Glace de sécurité

IMPORTANT. — En cas de commande, bien indiquer marque de la volture, la série, l'année et type carrosserie.

Pour les voitures anciennes, les carrosseries spéciales et voitures de fin de série : envoyer un gabarit.



In the previous edition of 'démarreur' re-published the first of a series of articles taken from the magazine 'Traction Avant': the magazine of 'Le Traction Universelle' the umbrella Club for Traction Avant Citrons in France. You may recall that last time we looked at entirely superfluous accessories such as running boards and marginally more useful over-riders and stylish bumper bars. This month we are looking into wind deflectors. You may recall that I mentioned in passing last time that my Traction is fitted with wind deflectors and they are fine, functional addition to a car.

But, until I read this French article I did not realise how extensive the range of wind deflectors was. Not just externally mounted units, but complete 'quarterlight' fittings were available.

Leigh F Miles

Previous page: 1] Publicity for DEF from 1936.

2] This is DEF advertising from 1937.

This page:

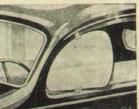
- 3] This photo was taken during the 1940 exodus depicts a Traction with clamp deflectors.
- 4 & 5] More advertising for DEF's range, these are from 1938.
- 6] Undated publicity for both DP and DEF.
- 71 More undated DEF advertising showing the range of models for which they made deflectors, including foreign brands Fiat and Lincoln.
- 8] While this is once again undated it must post-date the launch of the 2CV as it offers deflectors for the lower/ folding glass of that model.







PERMET D'AVOIR DE L'AIR SANS COURANT D'AIR Très élégants les volets DEF enjolivent une voiture



CITROEN
C1, pour C4, C4F, C4G, C6, C6F,
C2, — 5, 10 et 15 CV
C3, — 7, 9 et 11 CV
C4, — coachs Manessius, S, 10 et 15 CV
C37, — coupé 9 et 11 CV
C47, — P6, pour 201 et 301 airodyr P7. - pour 401 et 601 aéro POUR PORTE AVANT GAUCHE et AVANT DROITE, avec GLACE DE SECURITE et vis à tôle, spéciales pour la pose. Pour 2 PORTES, la paire Frs 250
Pour 1 PORTE, la glace . . Frs 145

Glace de Sécurité

PEUCEOT



Pendant les grosses chaleurs, en ouvrant le voiet à l'intérieur, on obtient l'effet d'un véritable vontila-eur rafraichissant la volture.

Tous ces appareils sont en verre de sécu rité. Ils pe génent en aucune façon le maniement de la glace et permetient de passer le bres pour la

5.850 Pr. 6 300 Va

MODÈLE INTÉGRAL D. P. DE LUXE. Nº 11851 B. — A monture brunde se fait mar Citrois T. Av. 11 et 15 cy. Simca 6 et 8. Pruppet 293



MODÈLE D. E. P. Nº 11850 B. Se fait pour toutes voitures. La fixation à leu par 2 vis type américain de 2 m/m à de

D. E. F. "LUX" No 11819 B.

any accessories were Usuccessful when the customisation of Tractions was going well just before the war and from 1946 onwards: bodywork ornaments, exterior equipment of all kinds. The most useful ones concerned the ventilation of the passenger compartment: the air deflectors.

The air deflector flaps that appeared before the war were guite successful. They are made of 'Securit' glass and fixed to the front doors by clamps or Parker screws with chrome tops and bottom brackets. Most of the





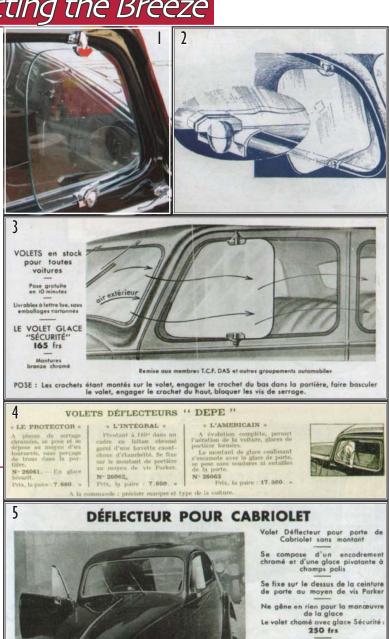
windows do not have chrome frames.

Good Ventilation

These deflectors channel the air, avoid the swirls when the front windows are down, and the current thus created renews the air in the passenger compartment. They provide protection against strong side winds and slanting rainstorms. They eliminate the eddies and draughts that make the rear seats uncomfortable.

The majority of Tractions on the road were closed saloons, and few were decouvreable or had sunroofs. The Traction was

- I & 2] The 'Lux' option provided an automatic locking feature.
- 4] Dupré-Perrin's range prior to the Second World War offered 'The Protector', 'The Integral' and 'The American'.
- 5] Dupré-Perrin also made deflectors for both cabriolet and coupé models.
- 61 This is an extract from Dupré-Perrin's 1948 catalogue.
- 7, 8 & 9] A model from Dupré-Perrin with a partial frame which supports the fastener.



Le Déflecteur pour Cabriolet se

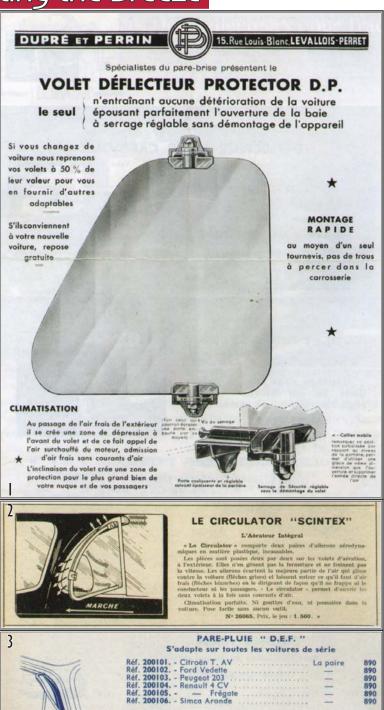
monte sur toutes marques de Cabriolets et Coupés



designed with two, then one hatch on its scuttle, opening to 45°, ventilating the front seats a little, and a windscreen that opened efficiently but noisily at high speeds, letting in sometimes dangerous insects.

The two main suppliers were DEF [Ets Defleur] and DP [Dupré-Perrin] which appeared at the end of the 1930s.

- 3] Small deflectors could protect the quarter-lights from rain and were placed in front of or above the opening.
- 4] Farnier produced the 'Deviator' deflector which was similar to the DP 'Integral' model.





portière, donne absolument l'impression d'uvoir été prévu avec la carrosserie, comme sur les recents modèles, notemment américains. La fixution se fait en 10 minutes par 3 via parher ses avec l'appareil et ne laissant pratiquement aucune trace en cas de démontage.

The **DEF** [Ets Defleur] brand was the first to offer a standard deflector with two screwed fastenings on the door with friction locking of the glass, a luxury model with partial locking, then another with retaining claws without the need to drill.

There would also be an 'Aerméric' version with a deflector built into the door [Image 6, page 60].

Dupré-Perrin offered a 'Protector' deflector with clamp fastenings, an 'Integral' deflector pivoting in a chromed crimp with a rubber seal screwed to the door and half-framed glass, and an 'American' type system with a flush-mounted baffle like

DÉFLECTEUR "ÉVITO"

Le déflecteur "ÉVITO", est une sorte de gouttière qui se place sur la porte de la voiture en avant des volets d'air.

Il évite à la pluie de fouetter sur la glace de la portière ou sur le volet d'air s'il y en a un de monté.

De construction robuste

en plexiglas, avec monture chromée, les déflecteurs "ÉVITO" tout en s'harmonisant par leur présentation soignée avec la ligne de la voiture, ne gênent en aucune façon la visibilité, grâce à la transparence du plexiglas.

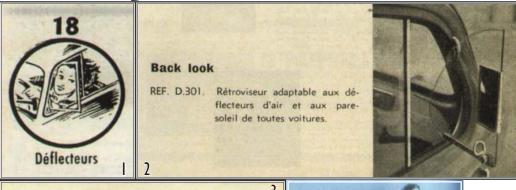
La pose est rapide et facile, et ne nécessite que le perçage de deux petits trous.

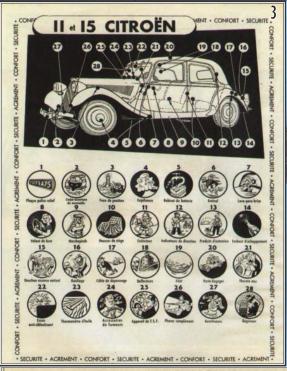


VENTILATEUR Petit ventilateur de volture

Petit ventilateur de votture de capite d'un moteur de très grands précision montés au roulement : billes, ports charbon en métil ar genté, collecteur à 18 laures, indui rectulés. Concommation o Ampere 8 Livré avec appert métal chromorientable en tous sens. Diamète hors tout 150 m/m.
N° 11851 A. . . . 4,950 fr.













4 & 5] The chrome latch of the DP system

8 & 9] The DEF quater-light latch is an ivory-coloured plastic handle screwed onto a thread.

101 DEF's 'Aerméric' was a small rain deflector that fitted above the top of the quarterlight and is integral with the assembly.





that of DEF [Image 4, page 54]. Door-Mounted Quarter-Lights

61

The DEF and DP brands offered 'American-style' front door flush-mounted quarterlightsin the early 1950s. This type of equipment was becoming common among car manufacturers [American, Peugeot, Renault, etc], reducing the size of the front windows.

A fixed chrome post separates the quarter-light from the window.

The installation required a stripping of the interior of the door.

The opening flap is tamperproof and sealed by a 4-part moulded rubber seal.

The locking is tamperproof thanks to a solid latch that fits on the separating jamb.

This feature, by Dominique Bellière, first appeared in 'Traction Avant' magazine in April 2021. It was translated by the Editor with the use of www. DeepL.com/Translator



The complete Dupré-Perrin quater-light kit [front windows not included]. This is taken from the personal collection of the author. The 1957 IS-Six Limousine of President Coty with DEF quarter-light windows.

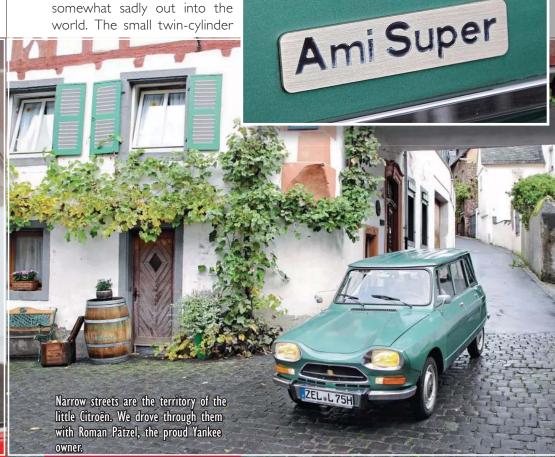
Making Friends with the Ami Super

here was a gap between the middle-class 2CV and the posh DS in the 1960s, which was filled by the Citroën Ami. The second-generation Citroën Ami Super, had the chassis of the 2CV and the 40.3kW/54hp engine from the GS.

When the Citroën Ami 6 appeared on the market in 1961, it looked like it had been driven into a wall on every side. It had a grooved bonnet, bodywork full of creases and it looked somewhat sadly out into the world. The small twin-cylinder

boxer engine produced only 14.2kW/19hp at first, later it became 18.3/24.5 and 23.9/32 again later.

The last mentioned power variant became the base engine for the Ami 8, which debuted in 1969. It differed from the Ami 6 in a few ways: it had adopted a fastback design, although despite appearances it was not a hatchback and the



Making Friends with the Ami Super

characteristic rearward-sloping rear window had disappeared. The dented exterior was also smoothed out. A slightly fancier version of the Ami 8 appeared in 1973: the Ami Super. It was supposed to fill the gap between the 2CV and the much more expensive GS.

800kilos Light

From that GS, the Ami Super got the engine, a boxer with four instead of two cylinders and an overhead camshaft on each side. This made the Ami suddenly fast: a power output of 40.3kW/54hp was quite decent at the time. Even larger

mid-size cars hardly had more to offer in their basic configuration. As the Ami weighed only 800kilos, it delivered fine performance.

You might not expect it, but the Ami Super was pretty fast around corners. It was built on the same platform as the 2CV. The wheelbase was the same, the rear track width even a bit narrower. For the Super, Citroën strengthened the chassis and wider tyres were fitted: 135 SR 15. The 2CV had tyres of just 125mm. With its 'wide' tyres, the Ami was a fun little car to drive.





Facing page: The chassis is reinforced compared with the 'Duck', but the lateral inclination is still enormous.

Above: A magazine advertisement for the Ami Super which appeared in 'Car' magazine in 1974. In the UK the Ami Super saloon was priced at £931.57 plus 10% VAT, making the total £1,024.73. In Germany the price started at DM6,480; the Ami Super cost DM900 more than the Dyane, but DM1,500 less than the GS.

Australia's National Magazine for

The body leaned over quite a bit, but if you are familiar with French suspension and have family members who don't get carsick easily, you can have fun. To the unsuspecting outsider, it looks like the body tilts alarmingly, but it is quickly balanced again on the straight.

Thanks to the GS engine, the Ami accelerates to 100kph in 17.5 seconds. Very little happens in the lower rev range, but from 3,000rpm more power is released. It is possible to reach a speed of 150kph, but at the limit of its power, the boxer engine rumbles wildly and sounds like a horny duck. But that's only if you push it to the limit.

If you keep it at 120kph, all you hear is a satisfied hum. Moving off the motorway, you benefit from the famous French comfort. Thanks to its long suspension travel, the Ami Super handles every unevenness. We'd like that in a modern car too if we're honest.

Spartan Interior

The interior of the Ami Super

Spartan cockpit: The Ami Super looks rather cheap inside. Contemporary testers accused Citroën of sloppy workmanship.

Pull and push: The handbrake protrudes from the dashboard like an umbrella handle. Shades of the GS?

The speedometer is hidden deep in the plastic. The Ami Super reaches a good 140kph.













is Spartan, but at least there are plenty of storage options. The controls are logically placed and the speedometer is tucked deep into the plastic. The materials and finish quality were not everyone's cup of tea at the time, but we don't think this is too bad 40years later. Everything still functions and nowhere is the plastic crumbled or discoloured by the sun.

67

The same goes for the green fabric of the seats: it looks like new. Only the foam underneath has clearly suffered: you sink extremely deeply into the seats. In the back, you even sink almost to the floor, making it hard to sit comfortably. Oh my poor back...

Lateral Support

That must have been different 40years ago. Back then, the seats were compared to a gentlemen's saloon and the lateral support was also found to be fine. What impresses even today is the space. The Ami Super is small, but two people can sit very comfortably in the front.

Three people can ride in the front if necessary, the foam of the seat cushions is extremely soft although it was probably more supportive when the car was

Turn by the tip of the nose to open the door. Press small lever to lock it. Press in the middle to unlock it.

The recessed door handles with the flash chrome surround look rather prestigious.

Making Friends with the Ami Super

Behind, you have more room for your knees than in many a modern car. Thanks to the narrow roof pillars, visibility all around is excellent.

If you pay closer attention, you see plenty of little tricks that French cars excelled at in those days. For instance, the holder for a spare dose of engine oil is located where you would expect it: in the engine compartment. And then there is the wooden block, which is stowed behind the left headlight and prevents the car from rolling away on a slope.

Even more impressive is the flexible interior. You can flip the rear seats over, fold them forward and even take them out. And all in mere seconds.

The bench is not heavy, so you can easily lift it on your own. Once the bench is out, it creates a flat loading floor. The steel smiles at you, there is not a speck of dust or piece of plastic covering it. Even the protrusion of the shock absorbers is missing, so you can use the full width between the wheel arches.

That's variability: the rear seat can be used flexibly.

That's variability: the rear seat folds down \sim in seconds!

That's variability: the rear seat can be folded forward \sim in seconds!

That's variability: the rear seat can be removed \sim in seconds!



Spare Wheel? Under the Bonnet

And so there are many more advantages. If needed, you could take a third person in the front. The full-size spare wheel is housed in the engine compartment. The smart door handles are easy to find even when it is completely dark. The large round release button in the centre can be operated without fumbling. So you can quickly let your passengers in. Central locking? No need ~ everything is within reach.

A number of innovations are hidden under the aluminium. The front disc brakes placed against the engine block have an extra claw for the handbrake and are supplied with cool air each time by the fan for better cooling.

This Ami Super was built in November 1975. Here and there the paint needed touching up in the interim, but there was no need for welding yet. There are no rust problems.

And well, those little flaws,

Instead of crawling along with 24kW and two cylinders, the Ami Super relies on 40kW and four cylinders ~ making the Frenchman quite fast on the road. There is a wooden wedge in the front of the engine compartment.

Wooden wedge? It is so that the car doesn't roll away on a hill. Such simple solutions are the hallmark of the Ami

advertise-

Ami Super. The one on this page is French and the text has been translated for publication. That on the facing page is from

the United

Kingdom. In

both, and in the example on page 63

the copy has

been re-set

in order to

enhance its

ity whilst at-

tempting to

retain their

original lay-

out.

readabil-

Making Friends with the Ami Super

don't they make the car actually tres charmant? The sagging seats indicate that this car has been lived in. And the Ami can take it. The Ami 6 and 8 are not high-value classics, but they ac-

tually deserve better because they are equipped with so many handy features and offer a lot of driving pleasure. In any case, we have become friends with the Ami



Ami Super The power you need, when you need it. (6 CV, 4 cylinders, 1015 cm³, 140 km/h)

61 hp. SAE under foot. To overtake very quickly.

Yes, to overtake, it's better to have the power you need when you need it.

That's why the Ami Super has a powerful engine. A 4-cylinder engine of 1015 cm³. With 61 hp. SAE under your foot, you accelerate, you pass. That's all there is to it.

And on the motorway, the Ami Super effortlessly reaches speeds of up to 140 More than just a new motor...

The Ami Super has a floor-mounted gearlever. And a suspension, braking and steering system to match its performance. And soft, contoured seats designed for long journeys. And fanforced heating, etc.

All this is worth a test drive. Sedan or estate. The Ami Super is available from your Citroën dealer. Get behind the wheel. 84.400 F + VAT

360 dealers and agents at your service.

CITROEN

This article, written by Thorsten Elbriggmann, first appeared in the German edition of 'Classic Cars' in December, 2013. The accompanying images were taken by Daniela Loof. Permission to reprint this article was given by the editor of the Dutch edition of 'Classic Cars' on whose website your editor found the article. Translated with www.DeepL. com/Translator (free version)



Florence Thomson: Pioneer Driver

A Lady Motorist Drives from Adelaide to Melbourne

rs B Thomson, the wife of an Adelaide dentist, last week achieved the distinction of being the first woman to drive a motor car from Adelaide to Melbourne. Last May her husband, who is also a motoring enthusiast, made his first successful run between the two cities in a de Dion motor. The journey was

This 2CV Dolly was one of the participants in the 2022 Florence Thomson Tour. Other participating vehicles included at least six Morris Minors. So while there were a number of vintage cars amongst the 61 participants cars of that age are not an essential requirement to participate.

accomplished with great difficulty, as there are sandy stretches along the road which only a light flying car can traverse. Mrs Thomson, whose previous experience had been restricted to a few spins in the vicinity of Adelaide, decided to attempt the trip on a Beeston Hunberette car, of five horse power, and weighing about five hundredweight. She was her own chauffeur, and was dressed for the part in leather overalls, peaked cap, ear-flaps, mask and goggles. Thus attired, Mrs Thomson might have sat for her portrait as an Esquimaux squaw, and the impression which her appearance made on village hotel-keepers along the road rendered it difficult at times to oband the mechanic who accom-



panied her. But a keen sense of humour and the consciousness of being a pioneer among lady motorists enabled her to surmount these petty obstacles.

Mrs Thomson left Adelaide eight days ago. Her first day's journey brought her to Meningie, after a run of 115miles. Here she expected to get a fresh supply of petrol. Through some mistake, however, the oil had not been sent on, and Mrs Thomson was obliged to wait a day before the fuel arrived. On Sunday she travelled from Meningie to Kingston, the next stage stages being from Kingston to Mount Gambier, Mount Gambier to Camperdown and Camperdon to Geelong. Outside Geelong one of the tyres punctured, and shortly afterwards the excessive vibration caused a leak to start on the radiators.

Hasty repairs were effected at Geelong, and yesterday morning Mrs Thomson telegraphed to the Automobile Club that she was starting on the last section of her journey. The vicepresident [Mr T Rand], accompanied by Mr HB lames and several other enthusiasts, set out on automobiles along the Geelong road to meet her. The meeting took place on a dusty stretch of road on the Werribee plains, and could not have been exceeded in enthusiasm. The sight of the pass of smoke lying

Adelaide to Melbourne was not Florence's sole motoring claim to fame. In 1905 she was the sole female entrant in the Dunlop Reliability Motor contest from Sydney to Melbourne, successfully completing the five day trial in a six horsepower Wolseley.



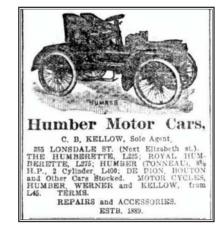
Florence Thomson: Pioneer Driver

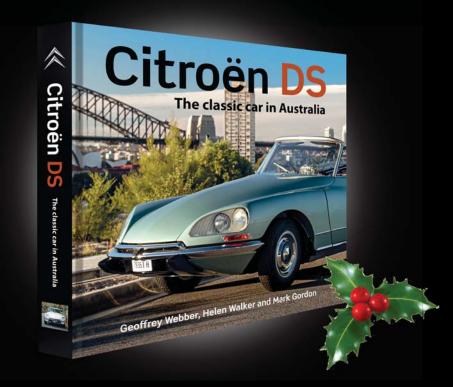
over Melbourne put fresh heart into the pluck motorist, whose arms were numbed by the continual vibration of the steeringwheel. The next 25miles, however, were destined to prove more troublesome than even the sandy deserts of Coorong. The water-tank began leaking badly, and several halts had to be made to refill the reservoir before the journey was completed. Mrs Thomson stuck to her work bravely, and had the satisfaction of steering her motor to its destination. She was in charge of the machine throughout the tour, and her performance is one of which any motorist would be proud.

Mrs Thomson says she thoroughly enjoyed the trip, and adds. 'I steered the car the whole way. Of course there is a certain amount of vibration, and my arms are a bit stiff, and the muscles rather contracted, by driving such a long distance. But I must say that there is not much vibration on my car, and with the exception of the leakage of the tank, it behaved admirably. I used about 15gallons of petrol on the journey. The petrol I had was very good, and there was no smoke or smell from it. I cannot say that there were any sensational incidents connected with the trip. When nearing Casterton in the dusk the car frightened a number of horses, which were being driven along the road, and they managed to get away from the young man who was driving them. At a Casterton hotel they told me that they were full, and I had to go somewhere else for accommodation. I didn't know whether the motorist dress of leather overalls, ear-flaps, mask and goggles frightened them. At Geelong also I was told at three hotels that they were full. But, as I said before, I thoroughly enjoyed the trip'.

This report on Florence Thomson's trip first appeared in 'The Weekly Times' of Saturday, 2 April, 1904.

Each year to commemorate this achievement the AOMC, in conjunction with the RACV runs the Florence Thomson Tour. The Tour celebrates the pioneering spirit and contribution of Women to Australian motoring. So, ladies, please put the date in your diary so you don't miss out.





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