

1981



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LEO BAR

In 1898, when Louis Renault first introduced his single-cylinder, $\frac{3}{4}$ horsepower *voiturette* (French for "small car") in Paris, little did he realize what the future held in store. The young inventor's revolutionary innovations and intense interest in

LE CAR

competitive performance (a Renault won the first French Grand Prix at Le Mans in 1906) brought him immediate success, and earned for the "Renault Frères" its world famous reputation for engineering excellence. The style and spirit which guided Renault for nearly a half century has proven to be the driving force behind what has become one of the greatest industrial concerns in all the world.

Today, the Renault Group spans the globe with nearly forty different companies and subsidiaries. It builds cars, trucks, vans, bikes, motorcycles, buses, trolleys, tractors, four-wheel drive vehicles, special equipment machinery, even railroad cars. It manufactures high-grade steel, mechanical parts, castings, rubber and plastic products. It produces engines for almost every conceivable need. And is one of the largest machine tool builders in all of Europe. Additionally, Renault embodies dozens of service businesses including engineering and contracting consulting, shipping services, travel agencies, consumer credit, leasing, warehousing, packaging, car rental and finance management companies.

As a car maker, Renault is the seventh largest car company in the world. Incredibly, three of its models are among the ten best selling cars anywhere. Included is the Renault Le Car, which ranks as the fourth best selling car in the world!



To ensure customer satisfaction and parts availability, Renault boasts a network of over 14,000 sales and service outlets worldwide. And by year end, its unique relationship with American Motors promises to make Renault the largest import dealer franchise in America.

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A SUPERIOR EXAMPLE OF SMALL CAR ENGINEERING.



In these times of look-alike, drive-alike small cars, Renault Le Car stands out. It neither looks like nor drives like any other small car in the world. Because from the very beginning, Le Car's engineers had more in mind than merely squeezing every

last mile out of a gallon of gas. Equally important to them were handling, comfort, reliability and style.

To begin with, they gave Le Car a unique shape: aerodynamically sound, esthetically appealing — obviously a design by people who think driving should be a little more adventurous than getting from point A to point B. Front-wheel drive was added for better traction. Michelin steel belted radials offered exceptional stability and skid resistance. Plus rack-and-pinion steering and a fully independent suspension system combined to give Le Car precise handling and control.

A specially-designed 1.4 litre engine was coupled with a fully synchronized 4-speed manual transmission to afford smooth acceleration in addition to spontaneous pick-up power when it was needed most. Powerful, self-adjusting front disc brakes and double-leading shoe rear drum brakes contribute toward reliable, straight-line stops.

Le Car's engineers never lost sight of Renault's commitment to safety and quality manufacturing. They opted for monocoque construction, utilizing almost 10,000 welds to bond major components together. This resulted in a lightweight yet exception-

1981 LE CAR STANDARD FEATURES

31.5 CU. FT. CARGO VOLUME WITH REAR SEAT LOWERED

BIOMECHANICALLY-ENGINEERED BUCKET SEATS

ALL-SYNCHROMESH 4-SPEED MANUAL TRANSMISSION

BREAKERLESS ELECTRONIC IGNITION

CAST IRON BLOCK, ALUMINUM HEAD 1.4 LITRE 4-CYLINDER ENGINE

FRONT-WHEEL DRIVE

UNITIZED MONOCOQUE CONSTRUCTION

THERMOSTATICALLY CONTROLLED ELECTRIC FAN

ENERGY-ABSORBING 5-MPH FIBERGLASS BUMPERS

MICHELIN XZX STEEL-BELTED RADIAL TIRES

FRONT DISC/REAR DRUM BRAKES

RACK-AND-PINION STEERING

FULLY INDEPENDENT TORSION BAR SUSPENSION



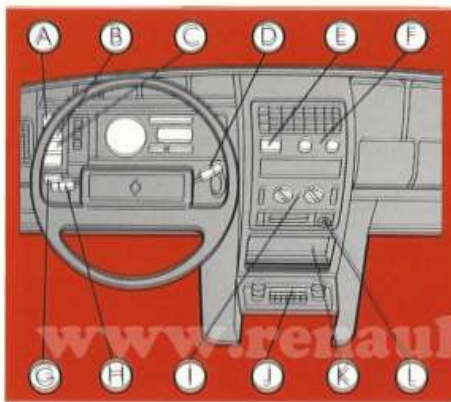
ally strong "unibody". With fewer bolts to work loose, annoying squeaks and rattles were virtually eliminated.

Computer-analyzed crash tests led to the development of Le Car's pre-programmed front and rear "crush zones" that help absorb energy in the event of unavoidable impact.

Specially-designed structural components were integrated within the unibody framework to form a rigid "cage" around occupants for added safety.

Finally, French craftsmanship and pride are an essential ingredient in the construction of each vehicle. Over 1,500 quality control checks are made on Le Car during production. After final assembly, each car is test driven on a 3.8 kilometer circuit which reproduces most road conditions you'll encounter. The cars are then sent to a finishing shop where tightness tests, final touch-ups and adjustments requested by the test driver are carried out prior to shipment to dealers.





Le Car's instrument panel safely positions all controls and switches within easy access and visibility of the driver. A: Ignition lights, B: Rear window defogger, C: Heater fan, D: 2-speed electric windshield wipers, E: Rear window washer/wiper, F: Air conditioning, G: Headlights, Headlight flasher, High Beams and horn, H: Right and left turn indicators, I: Heating controls, J: Radio console, K: Convenient tray for coins, etc., L: Cigarette lighter.

Renault Le Car is an immensely practical machine. Yet born into a tradition of competitive racing, it offers unprecedented maneuverability.

Le Car's 1.4 liter engine combines a cast iron block for durability with a lightweight aluminum head for optimum performance. The all-synchromesh 4-speed manual transmission provides steady acceleration and precise driving control. While responsive rack-and-pinion steering awaits your every command.

Thanks to its 95.2-inch wheelbase, front-wheel drive and standard Michelin steel-belted radials, Le Car offers exceptional traction and stability, whether driving in rain, mud, ice or snow. Powerful disc brakes up front (power assisted on Deluxe) and rear drum brakes provide sure, safe stops.

And its innovative four-wheel independent suspension system soaks up bumps and potholes like no other small car on the road.

Le Car is available in a Base model and a smart looking Deluxe. For extra sportiness you can order the Black Beauty package (top right) featuring black clearcoat paint, custom decal pinstriping, a leather-wrapped sport steering wheel, tachometer, AM/FM/cassette stereo radio, fog lamps, aluminum wheels and more.



**WHO SAYS PRACTICALITY
HAS TO BE DULL?**



NO ONE SAYS A SMALL CAR ON THE OUTSIDE CAN'T BE BIG ON THE INSIDE.

Renault designed Le Car's interior for maximum comfort and roominess. Handsome grained vinyl bucket seats that lift and tilt forward for con-

venient rear seat access are standard on Le Car. Or, if you prefer, you can order fully reclining bucket seats in cloth upholstery on the Deluxe.

Le Car's low-back front and rear seats were biomechanically engineered to decrease driving fatigue and maximize driver and passenger comfort. Different types of padding, each with different compression characteristics, are used on seat backs and cushions. The result is comfort you'll find hard to beat in any size car.

For roominess, Le Car is in a small car league of its own. Thanks to

front-wheel drive, there's no hump to jump over, so there's plenty of room for plenty long legs. Four adults can easily ride in absolute comfort.

Le Car's huge rear hatch lifts from the bumper, supplying 9.1 cubic feet of cargo space. Its convenient low liftgate provides easy access for loading and unloading. And by flipping down the back seat, you more than triple its capacity to 31.5 cubic feet.

Special sealants applied to fenders, quarter panels and wheel housing plus factory undercoating and rust-resistant coating help keep Le Car's body looking new.



Other standards like dent-resistant fiberglass bumpers, electronic ignition, a thermostatically controlled engine cooling fan and electric rear window defogger set it apart from the competition.

Finishing touches on the Deluxe include a color-keyed rally stripe, body side protective moldings, full carpeting, swing-out quarter windows, chrome wheel trim rings and extra quiet insulation, to name a few.

Whether you choose the basic Le Car or the fully optioned Deluxe, a short test drive will prove why it has become a worldwide sales success.



OPTIONS AND AMENITIES

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A complete selection of optional equipment and accessories is available to complement your lifestyle. Swing-out quarter windows (A) and chrome wheel trim rings (B) are standard on Le Car

Deluxe. Popular options include: (C) a jumbo sun roof — a simple flip of a lever, a fold backwards, and you almost have a convertible; (D) AM/FM stereo radio; (E) deluxe luggage rack; (F) air con-

ditioning; (G) rear window washer/wiper; (H) fog lamps. Several additional items to enhance the appearance, comfort and convenience of your new Le Car include: aluminum wheels (Std. on Black

Beauty), leather-wrapped sport steering wheel, AM/FM/cassette stereo radio, tinted glass, digital clock, door edge guards, tachometer, and more. See your Renault dealer for these and other extras.



RENAULT LE CAR TECHNICAL DATA

MODELS, DIMENSIONS, CAPACITIES

Renault Le Car is a 3-door hatchback, available in a Base and Deluxe model. Wheelbase: 95.2 in. (2419 mm) Length: 142.5 in. (3621 mm) Width: 60.0 in. (1525 mm) Height: 55.0 in. (1398 mm) Leg room, front/rear: 39.4/33.5 in. (1001/851 mm) Head room, front/rear: 37.0/36.2 in. (940/920 mm) Hip room, front/rear: 45.7/48.0 in. (1161/1220 mm) Shoulder room, front/rear: 48.6/47.6 in. (1235/1210 mm) Ground clearance (loaded): 5.5 in. (140 mm) Luggage compartment: 9.1 cu. ft. (31.5 cu. ft. with rear seat folded) Fuel tank: 10 gallons (38 liters) Curb weight: 1820 lbs. (825 kg)

SPECIFICATIONS

Engine: 1.4 liter, 85.25 CID (1397 cc) cast iron block, aluminum head, overhead valve, 4-cylinder in line
Compression ratio: 8.8:1

Electrical system: 12 volt, negative ground

Battery: 45 amp. hrs./alternator

Ignition: Breakerless electronic

Drivetrain: Front-wheel drive

Transmission: Fully synchronized 4-speed manual transaxle

Final drive ratio: 3.63:1

Chassis: Unitized monocoque body with undercoating and rust-resistant coating

Suspension, front: Independent, unequal length control arms, torsion bars, double-acting hydraulic telescopic shock absorbers, stabilizer bar

Suspension, rear: Independent, pure trailing arms, torsion bars, double-acting hydraulic telescopic shock absorbers, stabilizer bar

Steering: Rack-and-pinion; 21.75:1 ratio

Turning circle: 32.0 ft. (9.74 m) curb to curb

Brakes: Self-adjusting front disc brakes; rear drum brakes with load sensitive pressure limiting valve. Le Car Deluxe features Bendix vacuum power booster, dual hydraulic front disc brakes

Emission controls: Conventional oxidizing catalytic converter (49 States); three-way catalytic converter (California); exhaust gas recirculating system; fuel return line; fuel tank vapor emission control system; secondary air system; positive crankcase ventilation

Tires: 145SR x 13 Michelin XZX steel-belted radials

EQUIPMENT

Standard Features on Le Car Base and Deluxe:

1.4 liter OHV 4-cylinder engine Electronic ignition 4-speed manual transmission Front-wheel drive 145SR x 13 BSW Michelin steel-belted radial tires Front disc/rear drum brakes Four-wheel fully independent suspension system Rack-and-pinion steering Thermostatically controlled electric engine cooling fan Rear window defogger Column-mounted controls: washer/wiper, lights, horn, turn indicators "Tilt-away" bucket seats in grained vinyl 4.5" semi-styled wheels Flow-through ventilation Side window defoggers Unitized monocoque body/chassis construction Undercoating Rust-resistant coating Fold down rear seat Front door armrests with integral

map pockets Radio console and mini console Vinyl floor covering Passenger side visor vanity mirror Bright drip rail and rocker panel moldings Rectangular headlamps 5-mph black fiberglass bumpers Inside hood release Two courtesy lights Ignition key reminder light Passenger side rear seat ashtray Black rally stripes with integral "Le Car" name

Standard Features on Le Car Deluxe:

Power front disc/rear drum brakes Extra quiet insulation package Reclining bucket seats in cloth or grained vinyl upholstery Swing-out quarter windows Full carpeting Removable carpeted rear parcel shelf Soft feel steering wheel Soft instrument panel overlay Day/night mirror Cigar lighter Grained vinyl gear shift boot Passenger assist handles with coat hooks Below dash parcel shelf Bright grille moldings Back light molding Bodyside scuff moldings Deluxe chrome wheel trim rings Deluxe rally stripes

Safety Features

Single unit, monocoque body construction Electronic ignition Guard-rail doors Energy-absorbing steering column and steering wheel Penetration resistant windshield glass Tempered rear and side glass Formed ceiling headliner Padded sun visors Safety styled instrument panel Safety shaped armrests Non-glare finish on interior parts Double safety warning flashers Certified flame retardant fabrics Safety rim wheels Energy-absorbing bumpers Column-mounted controls for windshield washers and wipers, lights, horn and turn indicators Anti-theft ignition, steering and transmission lock High-strength door latches Safety shaped door handles Front seat-back locks Inside hood release Three-point lap/shoulder belts for front seats Three-point lap belts for designated rear seat positions Two front seat movable head restraints 4-way hazard warning signals Automatic back-up lights Side-of-car safety marker lights Hi-intensity headlamps Inside day/night rear view mirror (Deluxe) Left side breakaway rear view mirror 2-speed electric windshield wipers Electric windshield washers Windshield defroster (heater) Side window defogging outlets Rear window defogger

Options

Factory Installed: Sun Roof Air conditioning system* Rear window washer/wiper* Tinted glass Metallic clearcoat paint*

Port Installed: Black Beauty package*: leather-wrapped sport steering wheel, tachometer, AM/FM/cassette stereo radio, aluminum wheels, fog lights, chromed tailpipe extension, black clearcoat paint and custom decal pinstriping Aluminum wheels* Leather-wrapped sport steering wheel* AM/FM stereo radio* AM/FM/cassette stereo radio* Floor mats Front license plate bracket

*Available only on Deluxe

COLORS

Left to right: Black Clearcoat Monte Carlo White Rally Red Beige Blue Metallic Clearcoat Silver Metallic Clearcoat Dark Green Metallic Clearcoat

LIMITED WARRANTY

American Motors Sales Corporation (AMSC)* warrants to the original purchaser and each subsequent owner of a Renault vehicle that the vehicle (except for tires) is free from defects in material and workmanship under normal use and service for the earlier of 12 months or 12,000 miles (19,200 km) from the date of delivery or first use, whichever comes first.

If the vehicle becomes defective under normal use and service, AMSC's obligation under this warranty will be limited to having any authorized Renault Dealer in the United States or Canada repair or replace, without charge, any part found defective with a new or factory reconditioned part, at the Dealer's place of business within a reasonable time after delivery of the vehicle to the Dealer.

Except for other written warranties issued by AMSC applicable to new Renault vehicles or parts, no other express warranty is given or authorized by AMSC. No authorized Renault Dealer has authority to change or modify this warranty in any respect. AMSC disclaims any implied warranty of MERCHANTABILITY or FITNESS for a particular purpose for any period beyond this express warranty, and, except as may be provided below, shall not be liable for loss of use of vehicle, loss of time, inconvenience, towing, rental or substitute transportation, lodging, loss of business or any other incidental or consequential damages. Some states and provinces do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages or limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts, so the above exclusion and limitation may not apply to you. This warranty gives you specific legal rights and you may also have other legal rights which vary from state to state or province to province.

*In Canada: American Motors (Canada) Limited

Complete details of the 1981 AMSC Renault Warranty and associated coverages are contained in the Warranty and Maintenance Guide booklet located in each Renault vehicle. Related features include:

Trip Interruption Protection
 Three (3) year Perforation from Corrosion Limited Warranty
 Optional Service Security Plan for added service protection up to 36 months/50,000 miles

Certain equipment items and features illustrated or described in this catalog are optional at extra cost unless otherwise specified. Certain equipment items and features may not be available for all models. This catalog contains information that is correct at time of printing, however, Renault reserves the right to discontinue or change specifications, models, equipment or prices at any time without incurring obligation. Renault vehicles incorporate thousands of different components produced by Renault, affiliated companies and various independent suppliers. From time to time during the manufacturing process, it may be necessary to produce Renault vehicles with different components or differently sourced components than initially scheduled. All components must meet the standards of Renault and will provide the performance expected from Renault vehicles.

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