

# From The 190c To The 230 And Ima Universal: The Evolution Of Mercedes-Benz



**Mercedes-Benz, The 1960s, W110 Fintail with buyer's guide and chassis number, data card explanation: From the 190c to the 230 and IMA Universal Mercedes-Benz**

by Bernd S. Koehling

 5 out of 5

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## The 190c: A Revolutionary Compact

In the early 1980s, Mercedes-Benz sought to redefine the compact car segment with the 190c. This bold move marked a departure from the automaker's traditional focus on larger, more luxurious vehicles. The 190c was designed to be a compact and affordable Mercedes that retained the brand's core values of quality, performance, and safety.



The 190c was an instant success, quickly becoming one of the best-selling Mercedes models in history. It was praised for its advanced engineering, sporty handling, and spacious interior. The 190c also played a significant role in expanding the Mercedes-Benz brand to a wider audience, particularly young professionals and families.

### **The 230: A Luxurious Sedan**

In 1983, Mercedes-Benz introduced the 230 as a more luxurious and spacious alternative to the 190c. Positioned between the compact 190c and the flagship S-Class, the 230 offered a refined blend of performance, comfort, and prestige. It was powered by a powerful 2.3-liter engine and featured an abundance of standard amenities, including leather upholstery, power windows, and air conditioning.



The Luxurious Mercedes-Benz 230

The 230 was a critical and commercial success, solidifying Mercedes-Benz's reputation for producing premium sedans. It was particularly popular in North America, where it became a popular choice for discerning drivers who demanded both luxury and practicality.

### **The Ima Universal: A Versatile Van**

In 1985, Mercedes-Benz ventured into the van segment with the Ima Universal. This versatile vehicle was designed to meet the diverse needs of families, businesses, and commercial users. The Ima Universal offered a spacious and configurable cargo area, along with a comfortable and well-equipped cabin. It was available in a variety of configurations, including a passenger van, cargo van, and camper van.



The Ima Universal quickly became a popular choice for those who required a reliable and versatile vehicle. Its durable construction, efficient engines, and spacious interior made it an ideal choice for families, businesses, and outdoor enthusiasts.

The 190c, 230, and Ima Universal represent key milestones in the evolution of Mercedes-Benz. These vehicles showcased the automaker's commitment to innovation, quality, and versatility. They helped to expand the Mercedes-Benz brand to new audiences and solidify its position as a global leader in the automotive industry.

Today, the legacy of these iconic models lives on in the current Mercedes-Benz lineup. The A-Class carries the torch of the 190c as a compact and sporty Mercedes, while the E-Class continues the tradition of the 230 as a luxurious and sophisticated sedan. The Vito van traces its roots to the Ima Universal, offering a versatile and practical solution for businesses and families.

As Mercedes-Benz continues to innovate and push the boundaries of automotive engineering, the 190c, 230, and Ima Universal serve as enduring examples of the brand's passion for excellence.

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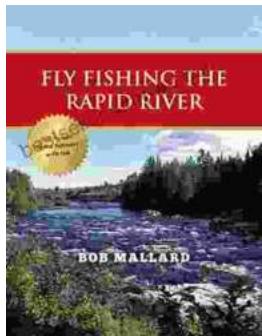


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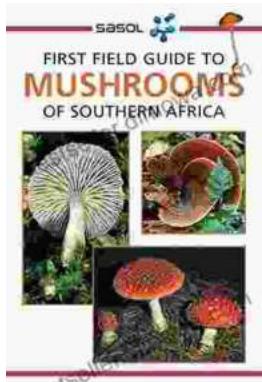
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