

## Opel History 1950-1959

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1950 Reconstruction of the Rüsselsheim plant is completed.



The Opel plant in Rüsselsheim, 1950.



Production facilities in the Rüsselsheim Opel plant, 1950.



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The Opel Olympia, 1950-1951.



The Opel Olympia Cabriolet sedan, 1950-1951.



The Opel Olympia, 1950-1951.



The Opel emblem from the 1930s undergoes minor modifications in the 1950s, signaling a new beginning for the company and dealerships.

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1951 Opel becomes the first German manufacturer to establish on-site proving grounds, at the Rüsselsheim plant.  
Production of the third postwar generation of the Opel Olympia begins on the assembly lines in Rüsselsheim.



Opel proving grounds in Rüsselsheim, 1951.



Hill climb test on the Opel proving grounds, 1951.



The Opel Olympia, 1951-1953.



Opel Olympia, 1951-1953.

1953 The Olympia Rekord, the first Opel with a full-width, or ponton, body shell and the legendary “shark’s mouth” grille design, is presented at the IAA International Motor Show in Frankfurt. The first Opel station wagon is introduced to the market. Annual production once again exceeds 100,000 units. During the same year, the Opel Kapitän reappears with a completely restyled body and new technology.



The 1953 Opel Olympia Rekord undergoes testing on the Opel proving grounds .



The Opel Olympia Rekord at the 1953 IAA Motor Show in Frankfurt.



The Opel Olympia Rekord, 1953.



Ship transport of Opel Olympia Rekord models, 1953.



The Opel Olympia Rekord, 1953.



The Opel Olympia Rekord Caravan on a South American expedition organized by the University of Heidelberg in spring 1954.



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The Opel Kapitän, 1953-1955.



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1956 The two-millionth Opel, a Kapitän, leaves the plant.



On November 9, 1956, the two-millionth Opel vehicle, a commemorative Kapitän with gold-plated fittings, rolls off the assembly lines in Rüsselsheim.



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1957The Opel Olympia Rekord P1 is presented at the IAA International Motor Show in Frankfurt. Around 850,000 units are sold within three years.



The Opel Olympia Rekord P1, 1957–1960.



The Opel Olympia Rekord Station Wagon P1, 1957 – 1960.

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1958A further generation of the Kapitän is introduced. In reference to the distinctive form of its taillights, the P1 model becomes known as the “Keyhole” Kapitän.



The Opel Kapitän P1, 1958–1959.



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The Opel Kapitän P1, 1958–1959.

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1959Production of Frigidaire household refrigerators is ended. Opel introduces a Kapitän with a 2.6-liter engine, soon to become the most successful luxury-class model ever built in Rüsselsheim.



The Opel Kapitän P1, 1958–1959.



The Opel Kapitän plaque, 1959.



Emblem of the Opel Kapitän, 1959