

Opel History 1980-1989

- 1981 The engineering study Tech 1 demonstrates Opel's pioneering role in the field of aerodynamics: the experimental vehicle achieves a drag coefficient of 0.235, setting a world record.
Opel becomes the first carmaker to use environmentally friendly water-based paints. The Ascona C and the performance-oriented Manta B 400 enter the market.



Opel's Tech 1 study, 1981.



Opel's Tech 1 study, 1981.



The paint shop in Rüsselsheim, 1981.



Automated painting in the Rüsselsheim plant.



Body variants of the Opel Ascona C, 1981-1988.



The Opel Ascona C Luxus, 1981-1988.



The Opel Ascona C Berlina, 1981-1988.



The Opel Manta B 400, 1981-1984.



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The Opel Manta B 400, 1981-1984.

- 1982 A new plant is commissioned in Saragossa, Spain, for the production of the Opel Corsa. The compact model rapidly advances to become the bestselling vehicle in its class. Walter Röhrl and his navigator Christian Geistdörfer prevail over tough four-wheel-drive competitors, piloting their Ascona 400 to victory in the Monte Carlo Rally and winning the Rally World Championship.



The plant in Saragossa, 1982.



Production of the Opel Corsa in the Saragossa plant, 1982.



The Opel Corsa A GSi, 1988-1992.



The Opel Corsa A Swing, 1988-1992.



Opel Corsa A Luxus, 1982–1992



Walter Röhl and Christian Geistdörfer win the Rally World Championship in an Opel Ascona B 400, 1982.



The winners of the Monte Carlo Rally, 1982: Walter Röhl and Christian Geistdörfer in their Opel Ascona B 400.



The Opel Ascona B 400, piloted to victory in the Rally World Championship by Walter Röhl and Christian Geistdörfer, 1982.



The '82 Opel Senator A, 1982–1986.



The '82 Opel Senator A, 1982–1986, (foreground) and '82 Opel Monza A, 1982–1986 (background).



The '82 Opel Monza A, 1982–1986.



The '82 Opel Rekord E Luxus, 1982–1986.



The '82 Opel Rekord E 1982–1986



The '82 Opel Rekord E Luxus diesel, 1982–1986.



The '82 Opel Rekord E GLS diesel, 1982–1986.



The '82 Opel Rekord E GLS station wagon, 1982–1986.

1983 Opel's 20-millionth vehicle, a Senator, leaves the Rüsselsheim production facilities.



On May 25, 1983, the 20-millionth Opel, a Senator, rolls off the Rüsselsheim assembly lines.



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1984 The Kadett E is introduced. The GSi version, with a drag coefficient of 0.30, is the most aerodynamic vehicle in its class worldwide. The Kadett is elected Car of the Year by an international jury.



The Opel Kadett E LS, 1984–



The Opel Kadett E GSi, 1984–



Advertisement for the Opel Kadett

1991.

1991.

E, 1985.

1985 Opel becomes the first German manufacturer to include a vehicle with a catalytic converter in every model line.



The Opel stand at the 985 IAA Motor Show in Frankfurt.

1986 The Opel Omega makes its *début*, boasting the best drag coefficient in its class, at 0.28. The Omega is elected Car of the Year.



The Opel Omega A CD, 1986–1994.



The Opel Omega A CD station wagon, 1986–1994.



The Opel Omega A 3000, 1986–1993.

1987 Opel celebrates its 125-year jubilee. The Senator B is presented to the public.



125jähriges Jubiläum, 1987. Opel's 125-year jubilee, 1987. From right: German Chancellor Dr. Helmut Kohl, Supervisory Board Chairman Ferdinand Beickler, Chairman of the Board of Directors Dr. Horst W. Herke.



Poster marking the 125-year jubilee, 1987.

OPEL 

Corporate logo, 1987–2002.



The Opel Senator B CD, 1987–1993.



The Opel Senator B CD, 1987–1993.



The Opel Senator B, 1987–1993.



The Opel Senator B CD, 1987–1993.

1988 The Opel Vectra is introduced. The mid-size model, available in a choice of two body variants, is an immediate bestseller. The Vectra is characterized by dynamic design and driving comfort combined with technologically advanced drivetrain and chassis solutions. An all-wheel-drive version is available.



The Opel Vectra A GL, 1988–1995.



The Opel Vectra A, 1988–1995 .



The Opel Vectra A GL, 1988–1995.



The Vectra A 2000, 1988–1992.

1989 Opel introduces catalytic converters as standard equipment in all models, the first among European car manufacturers.
 The Opel Calibra is launched, with a world-best drag coefficient of 0.26.
 The 25-millionth Opel rolls off the production line in Rüsselsheim.
 The Adam Opel Prize for outstanding academic performance in engineering is awarded for the first time, in Rüsselsheim, Bochum and Kaiserslautern.



Three-way catalytic converter , 1989.



Three-way catalytic converter , 1989.



The Opel Calibra, 1990–1997.



The Opel Calibra, 1990–1997.



The Opel Calibra, 1990–1997.



Wind-tunnel testing of the Opel Calibra, 1989.



The 25-millionth Opel, an Omega A, leaves the Rüsselsheim plant on February 23, 1989.