

## DB1 - (2 Litre Sports) - 1950



Reference Number:   AWAW001  
 Make:                 Aston Martin  
 Model:                DB1 - (2 Litre Sports)  
 Year:                 1950  
 Transmission:        Manual  
 Drive Side:          right  
 Odometer reading:   47682  
 Exterior Colour:     Green  
 Interior Colour:     Light Tan  
 Price:                SOLD

### DB1

In production: September 1948 -May 1950  
 Chassis numbers: AMC/48/1 -AMC/50/15 {and Team Car LMA/48/1}.

One of only 13 roadsters produced, the car represents the first confident steps by Aston Martin after the end of the 2nd World War to get back into car production.

### Model History

Gordon Sutherland and Claude Hill (Aston Martin Managing Director and Chief Engineer respectively) had finished building a completely new chassis and body early in 1939. Claude Hill had also been designing a new 2-litre engine. The chassis consisted of rectangular tubes, stiffened by square section bracing tubes, and the frame for the body panels was also formed by tubes, the whole providing a very stiff structure on which to suspend the wheels. Front suspension was independent for the first time on an Aston Martin, consisting of short trailing links and coil springs, but semi-elliptic leaf springs were retained for the rear axle. The layout of the divided track rod provided that the steering geometry is unaffected by cornering and bumps in the road. The wheelbase was 8' 6". Fitted initially with a standard pre-war 2-litre engine and a Cotal automatic gearbox {another sign of things to come), the car, which became known as the "Atom" saloon, {G40/900) was used during the war from 1942 by Gordon Sutherland.

Two or three of Claude Hill's new four cylinder 2-litre engines were completed by 1944, and one was fitted to the "Atom", although it was not announced until towards the end of 1946. The bore of 82 mm and stroke of 92 mm gave a capacity of 1,970 c.c., the compression ratio being a modest 7.25: and power output was given as 90 b.h.p. at 4, 750 r.p.m. The valves were operated by push rods, the unusual head having the inlet valves centred above the pistons and the exhaust valves at an angle in recesses leading to the manifold. Two SU carburettors were fitted.

After the war, Claude Hill started to design a new car, but more capital was needed before a new model could be put into production. Aston Martin Ltd. was bought by David {later Sir David) Brown in February 1947, Sutherland and Hill remaining as directors. At about the same time the Lagonda company also joined the David Brown organisation. With financial support thus secured, design work proceeded, assisted by "Jock" St. John Horsfall. After extensive testing, including road work using an almost bare chassis {probably AMC/48/1), it was decided to give the chassis and engine the ultimate test by entering the 1948 Spa 24 hour Race. With

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little time available, a special body was built to complete the first post-war Aston Martin {LMA/48/1, the only Team DBI). Its brilliant outright win boded well for the new production car, which was announced at the London Motor Show later that year. It was described simply as a "Two Litre Sports", but became known as the DB1 when the DB2 was introduced. The rebuilt Spa car was also shown .on the stand shared by Aston Martin and Lagonda, but there was insufficient interest in the "Spa Replica" {at the price!) to warrant a production run.

The tubular chassis and front suspension of the DB1 are directly related to the chassis of the "Atom", with coil springs, short trailing arms and Armstrong shock absorbers, but with a strong torsion bar in an oil filled transverse tube. Rear suspension, however, is also by coil springs for the first time, the live axle being located transversely by a Panhard rod and fore and aft by parallel linkages. Transmission is through a Borg and Beck single plate clutch to a David Brown four-speed gear box and a hypoid bevel final drive. Overall ratios are 4,1, 5.17, 7.7 and 12:1 {for both first and reverse gears). Girling 12" drum brakes are fitted all round: tyres are 5.75" x 16".

The DB1 body features the first fruits of the coming together of Lagonda's styling provided by Frank Feeley and Aston Martin's chassis and engine. However, David Brown very firmly indicated that he wished to see 6 cylinder engines in all future Aston Martins. As a result, no more that 13 examples of the DB1 were built and the DB2 was borne.

### Ownership

First Registered 15th June 1950 to the Hon JCC Cavendish (later Lord Chesham)

Initial Reg No OPD 53

The car was sold to HWM Motors in January 1957

1958 to 1960 P Palmer (Edgeware)

1968 to 1987 F Picknell

1987 to 1992 J.A. Tony Smith

Acquired by Aston Workshop July 2005

The car comes with its original Registration documents

### Competition History

1951 Eight Clubs Silverstone (Cavendish) 3rd overall

### Restoration

The car was subject to a major restoration

The condition of the car, cosmetically and mechanically, is excellent and it is ready for immediate use. It has been registered as a car of Historic interest.

This car is now SOLD



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