

AUSTIN CHAMP

- YEAR:
- MODEL: "Truck, 1/4 ton, CT, 4x4, Cargo & FFW, Austin Mk.1" Champ WN1
- COUNTRY: USA
- ENGINE: 80 HP, 2,828cc, Rolls Royce B40 – 4 Cylinder petrol -
- ITEM NUMBER: 236
- DONATED BY: Mr Ian & Murray Pearse

Engine: Rolls-Royce B40 2,838cc inline Inlet Over Exhaust crossflow four cylinder petrol/gasoline producing 80bhp @ 3,750rpm.

Transmission: Five speed all synchromesh manual gearbox with mechanically actuated Borg and Beck clutch. Rear mounted transfer box with reversing gear and differential as an integrated unit. This provided 5 speeds both forwards and in reverse. The civilian version had optional provision for a power take-off from the transfer box.

Brakes: Girling drum brakes with single hydraulic circuit.

Steering: Rack and Pinion

Chassis and Body: Cruciform box steel chassis, steel four seater body with stress sharing between body and chassis. Length 12' (3.66 meters), width 5' 5" (1.65 meters), Height 6' 8 1/2" (1.87 meters).

Suspension: Independent all around with double "A" arms (wishbones) front and rear. Longitudinally mounted torsion bars.

The Austin Champ was all it was designed to be but turned out to be expensive, and not to have the absolute bullet proof reliability that had been hoped for it. It was and still is a superb cross country vehicle and probably holds the world speed record for a standard production vehicle in reverse gear. The Champ has acquired a dedicated following by owners who appreciate the vehicle's qualities and so there are significant numbers of Champs which are well looked after. It was a great attempt by Britain to build the perfect "Jeep", but like so many human efforts at creating perfection, it didn't quite live up to the high expectations people had for it.

The Austin Champ was also fitted out for armaments in much the same way as the American Jeep. Armaments could range from a .303 Bren Light Machine Gun, .303 Vickers Water Cooled Heavy Machine Gun, 7.62mm NATO Browning machine gun, or for an adversary who was being particularly troublesome an ATGM (Anti Tank Guided Missile).

Est 1981

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