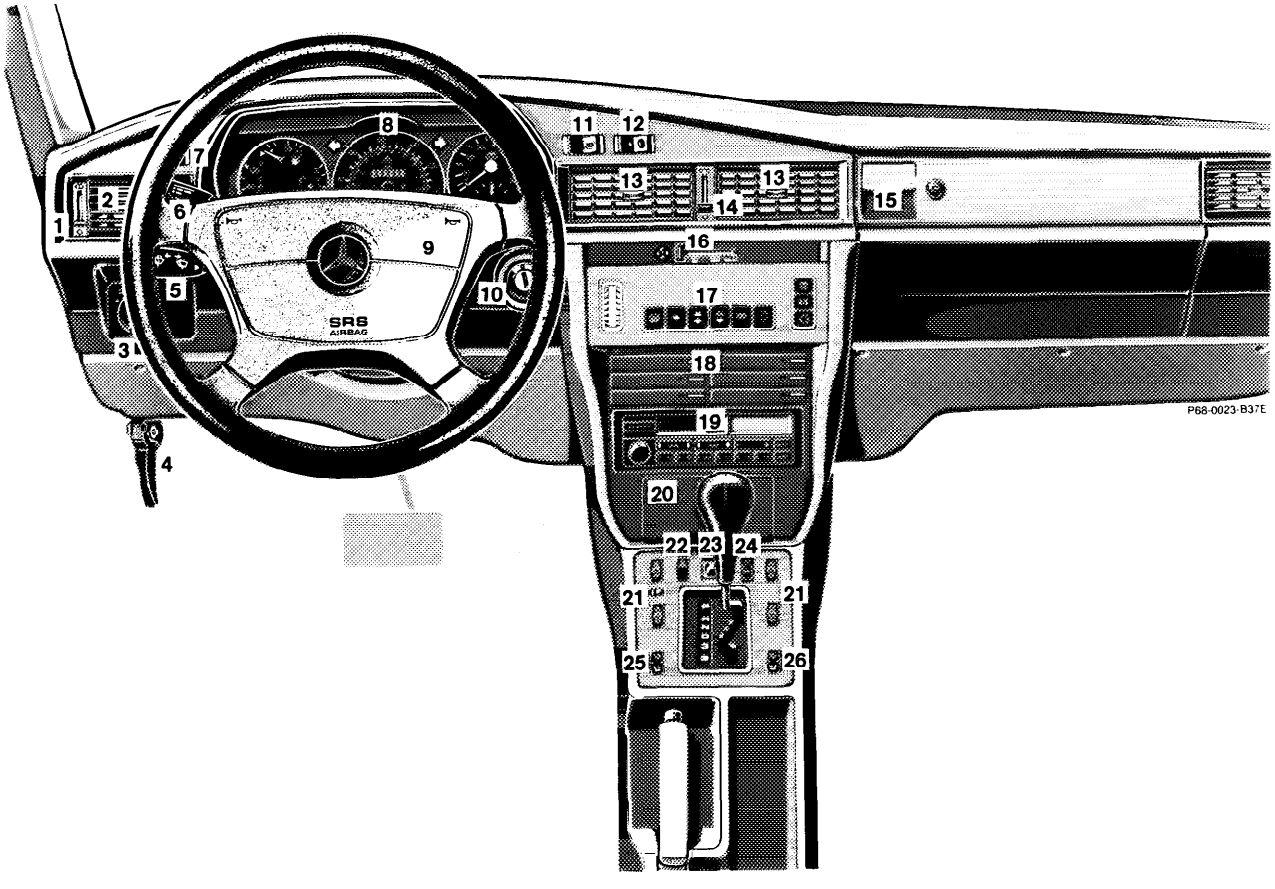
Instruments and Controls
Starting the Engine, Driving Instructions

EXIT

Instruments and Controls

For more detailed descriptions see Index.

1 Air volume control lever for side air outlets
2 Adjustable side air outlets
3 Exterior lamp switch
4 Hood lock release
5 Combination switch
6 Cruise control
7 Rear passenger compartment lamp switch
8 Instrument cluster
9 Horn, airbag
10 Steering lock with ignition/starter switch
11 Rear window defroster switch
12 Snow chain switch
13 Adjustable center air outlets
14 Air volume control lever for center air outlets
15 Glove box, illuminated (only with key in steering lock positions 1 or 2)
16 Fan speed control lever
17 Tempmatic climate control
18 Cassette box
19 Radio
20 Ashtray with lighter
21 Power window switch group
22 Hazard warning flasher switch
23 Adjusting switch for exterior mirror on front passenger side
24 Loudspeaker front to rear fader control
25 Left front seat heater switch
26 Right front seat heater switch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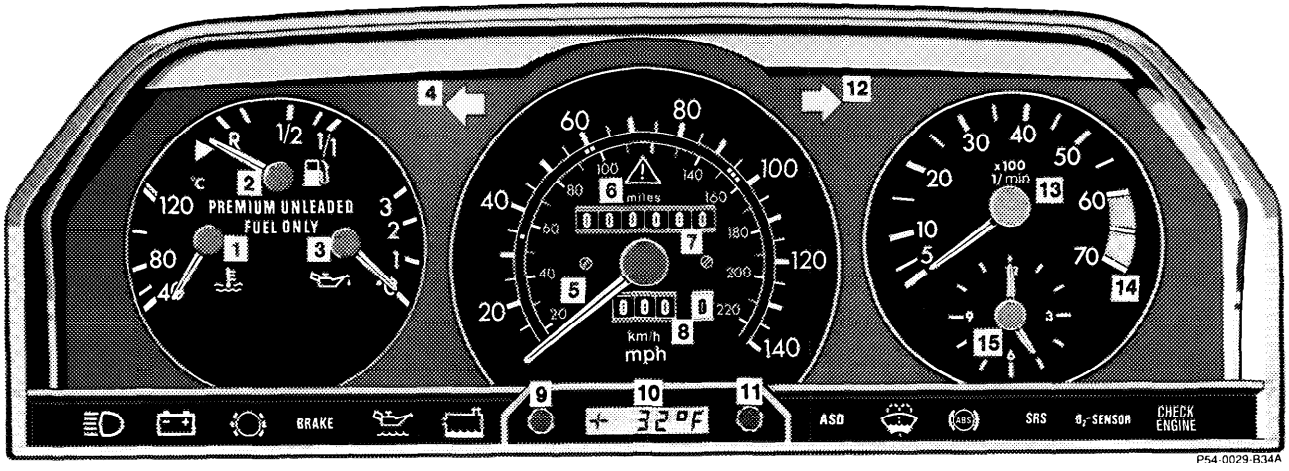
SRS
AIRBAG
P68-0023-B37E



Instrument Cluster

1 Coolant temperature gauge. See Index

2 Fuel gauge with reserve warning lamp (yellow). See Index

3 Engine oil pressure gauge (bar). See Index

4 Turn signal indicator lamp, left (green)

5 Speedometer

6 ASR function indicator lamp (yellow). See Index

ASD function indicator lamp (yellow). See Index

7 Main odometer

8 Trip odometer

9 Knob for instrument lamps and trip odometer
Rotate knob: to vary intensity of instrument lamps
Depress knob: to reset trip odometer

10 Outside temperature indicator. See Index

11 Knob for clock adjustment (press in and rotate for adjustments)

12 Turn signal indicator lamp, right (green)

13 Tachometer

14 Red marking on tachometer: Excessive engine speed

15 Electric clock

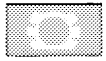
Indicator Lamp Symbols

Function Indicator Lamp


High beam

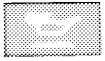
Warning Lamps
(should go out with the engine running unless)

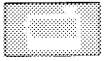

Battery not being charged.
See Index

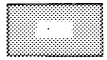

Brake pads worn down.
See Index

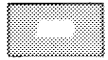
Brake fluid low (except Canada).
Parking brake engaged.
See Index

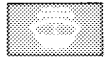

Brake fluid low (Canada only).
Parking brake engaged.
See Index

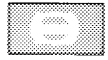

Engine oil level low. See Index


Coolant level low. See Index


ASR malfunction. See Index


ASD malfunction. See Index


Fluid level for windshield and headlamp washer system low.
See Index


ABS malfunction. See Index

SRS malfunction. See Index

190 E 2.3 (California version only)
Oxygen sensor replacement indicator lamp: When the indicator lamp comes on, the oxygen sensor must be checked and, if necessary, replaced.

Engine malfunction indicator lamp (California version only)
If the lamp comes on when the engine is running, it indicates a malfunction in the fuel injection system or emission control system. In either case, we recommend that you have the malfunction checked as soon as possible.
See Index

Catalytic Converter

Your Mercedes-Benz is equipped with monolithic catalytic converters, an important element in conjunction with the oxygen sensor to achieve substantial control of the pollutants in the exhaust emissions. Keep your vehicle in proper operating condition by following our recommended maintenance instructions as outlined in your maintenance booklet.

Caution!

To prevent damage to the catalytic converters, use only premium unleaded gasoline in this vehicle. Any noticeable irregularities in engine operation should be repaired promptly. Otherwise excessive unburned fuel may reach the converter causing it to overheat.

Warning!

As with any vehicle, do not idle, park, or operate this vehicle in areas where combustible materials such as grass, hay or leaves can come into contact with the hot exhaust system, as these materials could be ignited.

Starting and Turning Off the Engine

Before Starting

Engage parking brake and ensure gearshift lever is in neutral (selector lever position "P" or "N" on automatic transmissions). Turn key in steering lock to position 2. The charge indicator lamp should come on.

Cold Engine

Do not depress accelerator. Turn key in steering lock clockwise to the stop. Release key only when the engine is firing regularly.

Hot Engine

Do not depress accelerator. Turn key in steering lock clockwise to the stop. If the engine has not fired after approx. 4 seconds, depress accelerator and continue cranking until the engine is firing regularly. Release key and back off accelerator.

At very high coolant temperatures the engine starting time can be shortened if the accelerator is depressed slowly at the beginning of the starting process.

Turning off

Turn the key in the steering lock to position 0 to stop the engine.

Note:

Vehicles with automatic transmission: the key can only be removed with the selector lever in position "P".

If the coolant temperature is very high (e. g. after hard driving on mountain roads), do not shut off the engine immediately, but allow it to run for 1 – 2 minutes at increased idle speed with selector lever in neutral or position "P".

Important!

Due to the installed starter non-repeat feature, the key must be turned completely to the left before attempting to start the engine again.

Observe the oil pressure gauge immediately after starting the engine. In a very cold engine the oil pressure will rise slowly after the engine has started. Do not speed up the engine before pressure is registered on the pressure gauge. If you do not see the gauge register oil pressure, stop the engine and have it checked.

The charge indicator lamp should go out as soon as the engine has started.

In areas where temperatures frequently drop below -13°F (–25°C), we recommend that an engine block heater be installed. Your authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer will advise you on this subject.

Power assistance

Warning!

When the engine is not running, the brake and steering systems are without power assistance. Under these circumstances, a much greater effort is necessary to stop or steer the vehicle.

Brakes

Caution!

When driving down long and steep grades, relieve the load on the brakes by shifting into a lower gear (selector lever position “3” or “2” in the case of automatic transmission). This helps prevent overheating of the brakes and reduces brake pad wear. Do not exceed engine speed limits (see Index).

After hard braking it is advisable to drive on for some time so the air stream will cool down the brakes faster.

Warning!

After driving in heavy rain for some time without applying the brakes or through water deep enough to wet brake components, the first braking action may be somewhat reduced and increased pedal pressure may be necessary. Be sure to maintain a safe distance from vehicles in front.

The condition of the parking brake system is checked each time the car is in the shop for the required maintenance.

Between maintenance checks, it is a good practice to apply the parking brake once or twice while driving at approximately 30 mph (50 km/h) on a dry straight road. Raise parking brake lever lightly while holding the release button in until a slight drag on the wheels is felt. Keep applying brake for about 10 seconds while holding the release button in before releasing the parking brake completely. This practice will keep the parking brake at maximum efficiency.

Warning!

The stop lamps will not come on when applying the parking brake only. Perform the procedure in the previous paragraph only when the road is clear of other traffic.

Resting your foot on the brake pedal will cause excessive and premature wear of the brake pads.

It can also result in the brakes overheating thereby significantly reducing their effectiveness. It may not be possible to stop the car in sufficient time to avoid an accident.

All checks and maintenance work on the brake system should be carried out by an authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer.

If the parking brake is released and the brake warning lamp in the instrument cluster stays on, the brake fluid level in the reservoir is too low.

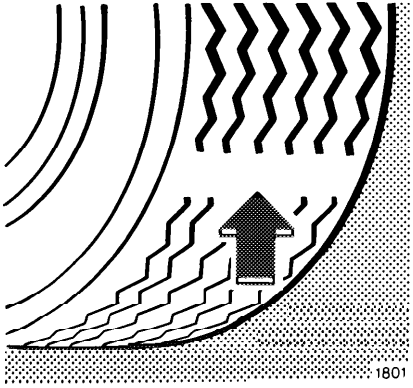
Brake pad wear or a leak in the system may be the reason for low brake fluid in the reservoir.

Have the brake system inspected at an authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer immediately.

Install only brake pads and brake fluid recommended by Mercedes-Benz.

Warning!

If other than recommended brake pads are installed, the braking properties of the vehicle can be affected to an extent that safe braking is substantially impaired.



Tires

Tread wear indicators (TWI) are required by law. These indicators are located in six places on the tread circumference and become visible at a depth of approximately 1/16 in (2 mm), at which point the tire is considered worn and should be replaced.

The tread wear indicator appears as a solid band across the tread.

Warning!

Do not allow your tires to wear down too far. With less than 1/8 in (3 mm) of tread, the adhesion properties on a wet road fall off sharply.

Depending upon the weather and/or road surface (conditions), the traction varies widely.

Specified tire pressure must be maintained. This applies particularly if the tires are subjected to high loads (e. g. high speeds, heavy loads, high ambient temperatures).

Warning!

Do not drive with a flat tire. A flat tire affects the ability to steer or brake the vehicle. You may lose control of the car. Continued driving with a flat tire or driving at high speed with a flat tire will cause excessive heat build-up and possibly a fire.

Aquaplaning

Depending on the depth of the water layer on the road, aquaplaning may occur, even at low speeds and with new tires. Avoid track grooves in the road and apply brakes cautiously in the rain.

Tire traction

The safe speed on a wet, snow covered or icy road is always lower than on a dry road.

You' should pay particular attention to the condition of the road as soon as the prevailing temperatures fall close to the freezing point.

Warning!

If ice has formed on the road, tire traction will be substantially reduced. Under such weather conditions, drive, steer and brake with extreme caution.

We recommend M + S radial-ply tires for the winter season for all four wheels to insure normal balanced handling characteristics.

On packed snow, they can reduce your stopping distance as compared with summer tires. Stopping distance, however, is still considerably greater than when the road is wet or dry.

Parking

Warning!

To reduce the risk of personal injury as a result of vehicle movement, before turning off the engine and leaving the vehicle always:

1. **Keep foot on brake pedal.**
2. **Pull up parking brake lever.**
3. **Engage first or reverse gear (selector lever position "P" in the case of automatic transmissions).**
4. **Slowly release brake pedal.**
5. **Turn front wheels towards the road curb.**
6. **Turn the key to steering lock position 0 and remove.**

Important!

It is advisable to set the parking brake whenever parking or leaving the vehicle. In addition, engage first or reverse gear (selector lever position "P").

When parking on hills, always apply the parking brake.

Clutch

Caution!

Resting your foot on the clutch pedal will cause excessive and premature wear of the clutch disc.

Winter Driving Instructions

The most important rule for slippery or icy roads is to drive sensibly and to avoid abrupt acceleration, braking and steering action. Do not use the cruise control system under such conditions.

When the vehicle is in danger of skidding, declutch, or in case of an automatic transmission move selector lever to position “N”. Try to keep the vehicle under control by corrective steering action.

Road salts and chemicals can adversely affect braking efficiency. Increased pedal force may become necessary to produce the normal brake effect. We therefore recommend depressing the brake pedal periodically when traveling at length on salt-strewn roads. This can bring road salt impaired braking efficiency back to normal. A prerequisite is, however, that this is done without endangering other drivers on the road.

If the vehicle is parked after being driven on salt treated roads, the braking efficiency should be tested as soon as possible after driving is resumed while observing the safety rules in the previous paragraph.

Warning!

If the vehicle becomes stuck in snow, make sure that snow is kept clear of the exhaust pipe and from around the vehicle with engine running. Otherwise, deadly carbon monoxide (CO) gases may enter vehicle interior resulting in unconsciousness and death.

To assure sufficient fresh air ventilation, open a window slightly on the side of the car that is out of the wind.