



1950 Mercedes-Benz 170S Cabriolet Convertible

POA

Overview

Mileage	50,000 km
Fuel Type	Petrol
Engine Size	1.8 l
Bodystyle	Convertible
Transmission	Manual
Exterior Colour	Beige
Previous Owners	1
Registration	C25788



Description

The 1950 Mercedes-Benz 170S Cabriolet occupies a special place in automotive history because it helped re-establish Mercedes-Benz as a maker of luxury automobiles after the devastation of World War II. While it lacks the glamour of later Mercedes sports cars like the Mercedes-Benz 300 SL, the 170S was arguably more important to the company's survival and recovery.

A Company Rebuilding After War

At the end of World War II, much of Germany's industrial infrastructure had been damaged, including the factories of Mercedes-Benz. Production of luxury automobiles had essentially stopped, and the company needed a practical way to restart operations.

Mercedes initially revived the pre-war Mercedes-Benz 170 V, a reliable model first introduced in 1936. As conditions improved, engineers developed a more refined and luxurious version: the 170S, introduced in 1949.

The "S" stood for Sonderklasse ("special class"), signaling that this was intended as a premium automobile rather than basic transportation.

The 170S: Luxury Returns

The 170S featured:

- A larger and more comfortable body than the 170V
- Improved suspension for a smoother ride
- Higher-quality interior materials
- More elegant styling with flowing fenders and abundant chrome trim

A 1.8-liter four-cylinder engine producing approximately 52 horsepower

Although 52 horsepower sounds modest today, postwar European roads and fuel availability made efficiency and reliability just as important as outright speed.

The car was designed for professionals, business owners, and affluent customers who wanted prestige and comfort during a period of economic reconstruction.

The Cabriolet Versions

The most desirable versions of the 170S were the cabriolets.

Mercedes offered several body styles:

Sedan (Limousine)

Cabriolet A

Cabriolet B

Cabriolet A

The Cabriolet A was the sportier and rarer two-seat version. It featured:

Two doors

Two seats

Elegant proportions

Luxurious interior appointments

It was aimed at wealthy private owners who wanted a stylish touring car.

Cabriolet B

The Cabriolet B was more practical:

Four seats

Additional rear passenger room

Greater touring capability

Many surviving 170S cabriolets today are Cabriolet Bs, though both variants are highly collectible.

Handcrafted Luxury

One reason collectors prize the 170S Cabriolet is that these cars were largely hand-built.

Unlike modern mass-production vehicles, construction involved significant manual craftsmanship:

Hand-fitted body panels

Extensive wood framing within the body structure

Leather upholstery

Carefully finished chrome work

Custom tailoring to customer specifications

The result was a vehicle that felt more like a coachbuilt luxury carriage than a modern automobile.

A Bridge Between Eras

The 170S is historically important because it links two distinct Mercedes-Benz periods:

The elegant pre-war luxury cars of the 1930s.

The modern Mercedes-Benz luxury vehicles that emerged in the 1950s and beyond.

Its styling retained classic pre-war elements:

Separate fenders

Tall grille

Upright driving position

Yet its engineering pointed toward the future, helping Mercedes regain its reputation for quality and durability.

Rarity Today

The Cabriolet versions were expensive even when new and were built in relatively small numbers.

As a result, surviving examples are rare and highly valued. Restored cars regularly appear at prestigious events such as the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance and the Villa d'Este Concours d'Elegance.

Collectors appreciate them not for speed but for:

Historical significance

Exceptional craftsmanship

Elegance

Postwar Mercedes heritage

Why the 1950 170S Cabriolet Matters

The 1950 Mercedes-Benz 170S Cabriolet represents something larger than a luxury car. It symbolizes the rebirth of German automotive engineering after World War II and the return of Mercedes-Benz to the world stage as a manufacturer of refined, prestigious automobiles.

Without cars like the 170S helping rebuild the company's reputation and finances, later icons such as the Mercedes-Benz 300 SL, Mercedes-Benz 600, and the modern Mercedes-Benz S-Class might never have existed. It was, in many ways, the elegant foundation upon which Mercedes-Benz rebuilt its postwar

Location

Classicmobilia

Braystone House, Salford Road, Aspley Giuse, Milton Keynes,
MK17 8HY

Monday Appointment only Tuesday Appointment only

Wednesday Appointment only Thursday Appointment only

Friday Appointment only Saturday Appointment only

Sunday Appointment only

07889 805432