

Home / Auto / Car Models / Classic & Collectible / 1950s / Other Manufacturers

1955 Alfa Romeo Bertone BAT 9

by the Auto Editors of Consumer Guide

[Share](#) 9 [Log In](#) [Tweet](#) 0 [g+1](#) 0

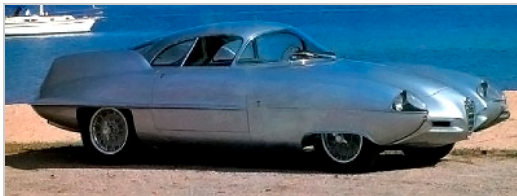
Classic Cars Image Gallery



The 1955 Alfa Romeo Bertone BAT 9 had a futuristic design. See more [classic car pictures](#).
©2007 Publications International, Ltd.



The 1955 Alfa Romeo Bertone BAT 9's body sides were free of air scoops and extractors.
©2007 Publications International, Ltd.



The BAT 9 was brought to the U.S. by S.H. Wacky Arnolt.
©2007 Publications International, Ltd.



Dr. Gary Kaberle bought this car at age 16.
©2007 Publications International, Ltd.

No one who saw the BAT 5 show car in 1953 could ever forget it. It was not just advanced; it was futuristic. But it was also realistic, capable of being driven in everyday traffic and of traveling very fast -- and with good fuel economy.

Classic Cars Image Gallery

Franco Scaglione designed the BAT and Carrozzeria Nuccio Bertone, Turin, Italy, built it on an Alfa Romeo 1900 Sprint chassis. It sported semi-enclosed wheels, huge front-fender air vents, prominent tailfins that curved inward, and a central fin that bisected the rear backlight. BAT stood for "Berlina Aerodinamica Tecnica," or "Aerodynamic Engineering Sedan." Thus the rounded front end and wild fins. With its short two-seat coupe body, it wasn't really a berlina, but the term berlinetta hadn't been coined yet.

Like BATs 1-4, BAT 6 never got past the styling-sketch stage, but a BAT 7 was built in 1954. It took aerodynamics to new extremes by exaggerating the features of BAT 5. The fins, for example, started at the windshield. BAT 8 only existed on paper, but BAT 9 appeared in 1955. This was a less radical design, a more realistic concept for production. It also foreshadowed the Alfa Romeo Giulietta SS, a 1955 Scaglione design.

For BAT 9, again on the 1900 Sprint chassis, the fins lost their inward taper. They started behind the doors, rose sharply, then tapered off parallel with the roof line. The body sides were free of air scoops and extractors, and only the front wheels were enclosed down to hub level, the rear wheels now being almost completely exposed. Also seen on BAT 9 were a severely wrapped windshield and an Alfa grille.

The BAT 9 was brought to the U.S. by S.H. "Wacky" Arnolt, a Chicago foreign-car dealer and Bertone vice-president.

In 1963, the car ended up at a dealership in Greenville, Michigan. A young lad of 16 wanted that car, and somehow he was lucky enough to acquire it. Dr. Gary Kaberle, now a Traverse City, Michigan, dentist, has owned it ever since. It had about 12,000 miles on it when he bought it, but it wasn't running. Even so, the car is still largely original 25 years later. It has now covered 20,000 miles, and boasts the original tires and leather, although the paint has been redone.

All three BATs still exist, and it's possible that all three will be shown together at Pebble Beach this year.

It's impossible to put a price on the one-off BAT 9, but that doesn't matter to Dr. Kaberle. "I'd never sell it," he says. And who can blame him?

For more information on cars, see:

- [Classic Cars](#)
- [Muscle Cars](#)
- [Sports Cars](#)
- [Consumer Guide New Car Search](#)
- [Consumer Guide Used Car Search](#)

Ads by Google

Esplora Corbis Images

Sconto del 20% sul primo acquisto su Corbis. Leggi i dettagli qui. corbisimages.com

Huge Classic Car Dealer

Over \$3M Worth Of Classic Cars. All Show Quality. We Ship Anywhere! justtoysclassiccars.com/Inventory

Remove Flat Warts Safely

Homeopathic Emuaid® Dissolves Flat Warts without burning. emuaid.com/Flat_Warts

Print Citation & Date Feedback

Facebook Share 9 Log In StumbleUpon Tweet 0 G+1 0

Ads by Google

Quattroruote.it

Listini, Prove su Strada e Foto. Scopri le Novità del Mondo Auto. www.quattroruote.it

Bmw X5

SUV in vendita a partire da 7.900 €. Scegli ora! www.autoscout24.it/BMW-X5

Huge Classic Car Dealer

Over \$3M Worth Of Classic Cars. All Show Quality. We Ship Anywhere! justtoysclassiccars.com/Inventory

MORE TO EXPLORE



8 Automobiles That are Forbidden Fruit in America The Cheat Sheet



What were Nikola Tesla's famous inventions?



How does death by hanging work?



Face Washing Dos and Don'ts



8 Vitamins and Herbs To Improve Your Sex Life Naturally



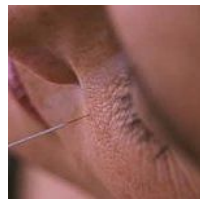
That Infinity Arm We Broke The News Of Is Now Up On Kickstarter Cinescopophilia



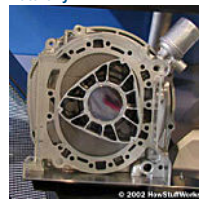
How Flirting Works



How Condoms Work



Menopause Treatment



How Rotary Engines Work

[?]

MORE GREAT LINKS



Top 10 Green Driving Tips



5 Scariest Stunt Car Feats



The Ultimate CarStuff Fan Quiz



5 Warning Signs You Need New Tires



10 Most Expensive Classic Cars

Watch American Chopper videos >>

YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE

1959 Rambler Six Custom Sedan

The 1959 Rambler Six Custom Sedan was the brain child of American Motors President George Romney. It was designed as a smaller sedan option to its larger rivals. Learn more about the 1959 Rambler Six Custom Sedan and see pictures.

GM Motorama Firebirds


The GM Motorama Firebirds generated excitement about General Motors' automotive future. The gas-turbine cars were called Firebird I, II, and III, and were obviously 'cars of the future.' Learn about the GM Motorama Firebirds here.

Popular Articles

- 1954 Hudson Jet-Liner
1958-1960 Rambler American
1952 Henry J Vangabond

Related Ad Categories

- Giulia Alfa Romeo
The Bat
Classic Car Auto Parts


 Also post on Facebook Posting as AM exhibitions lab (Not you?) **Comment**

Facebook social plugin