



It's easy to mistake the 500E for any other middle-of-the-road Mercedes sedan, but the Porsche-massaged V8 in the nose tells a different story.

This is the spiritual successor of the old 6.3 sedan, as if Mercedes-Benz had assembled the same design team and asked them to build a similar car for the 1990s. The designers were free to use the most advanced technology and there was no cost limit. When the car made its debut for the 1992 model year, the price was north of \$80,000.

The company took the most reliable and developed sedan in the Mercedes-Benz lineup at that time, the 300E, and handed it over to a joint design and engineering team from Mercedes-Benz and Porsche. The end product has to be the ultimate sleeper Mercedes-Benz: There is no AMG badging or wild ground effects bodywork to be found on the car, just flared fenders, wide tires and an E500 emblem on the trunk lid.

Those who fall for the sleeper act will be more than surprised by the car's incredible performance, including a quarter-mile time of less than 14 seconds and a top speed that is electronically limited to 155 mph. Add to the equation tremendous handling limits and a ride that is as smooth as any other Mercedes, and what you have is an exotic car that just happens to have four doors. It's the kind of car that Michael Schumacher might take out for a family picnic.

How did Mercedes, a usually subdued company—remember, this car is from the pre-AMG era—create such a creature? As you might have figured, their friends at Porsche had a big hand in the project. The 500E was worked on in the same shop and by the same people who built the 959 supercars. The quality shows through.

Porsche designed, built and assembled all the performance replacement parts for the 500E. The engine was from the 500SL, and Porsche did the work to make it fit. After Porsche had finished their work, they sent the car back to Mercedes-Benz for final assembly and paint. What emerged is the car you see before you. It's a perfect partnership of luxury and performance, and one of the greatest sports sedans ever built.

Like the 300 SEL 6.3, this is a very advanced automobile, so buying a poorly maintained car can easily empty your bank account and run your credit cards to their limit. Look for a car that has all its maintenance records, and as with the rest of the cars discussed here, get a prepurchase inspection done by a qualified Mercedes-Benz technician. If you find a babied model, the cars are pretty much bulletproof with no inherent problems to speak of and little worries about rust.

If you are looking for a true bargain exotic car and need four doors to haul the family around, then an E500 is just the ticket.

Some nice things to think about as you go from 0 to 55 in 5.5 seconds.

Placed front end over wheel archway to increase steering precision.
222 hp V8 DOHC engine with 24 valves, 190 hp at 5200 rpm, 240 lb.-ft. torque at 3200 rpm, electronic fuel injection.
2.8 liter V6 turbo with 172 hp, 222 lb.-ft. torque, 100% torque reserve, 100% torque reserve, 100% torque reserve.
2 hubbers, 100% torque reserve, 100% torque reserve, 100% torque reserve.
2 hubbers, 100% torque reserve, 100% torque reserve, 100% torque reserve.
100% torque reserve, 100% torque reserve, 100% torque reserve.
Structure designed to absorb and dissipate energy in a single direction.

Exterior mirrors, 100% torque reserve, 100% torque reserve, 100% torque reserve.
4 spoke steering wheel, 100% torque reserve, 100% torque reserve, 100% torque reserve.
Power windows, 100% torque reserve, 100% torque reserve, 100% torque reserve.
Power door locks, 100% torque reserve, 100% torque reserve, 100% torque reserve.
Power windows, 100% torque reserve, 100% torque reserve, 100% torque reserve.
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The 500E
PROTECTED LIKE NO OTHER CAR IN THE WORLD.



500E/E500

Years in production: 1992-'94

Chassis number: W124

Engine: V8 DOHC 32v

Horsepower: 320 to 322

Torque: 332 to 347 lb.-ft.

Transmission: four-speed auto

Curb weight: 3855 pounds

Zero-to-60: 5.6 sec.

Original price: \$81,890

Value today: \$15,000 to \$30,000

Five-year price projection: Difficult to tell. These were very expensive cars. They could hold their value if people start to realize what they are, or they could continue to depreciate. Many see them as just used cars, which they aren't.

Production numbers: Not quite 8000