

Mercedes-Benz Ponton Underbody and Wheel Colors

Prithvi Tagore / 1958 Type 180a / Calcutta, India

prithvitagore@gmail.com

June 1, 2016

Source

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/ponton/conversations/messages/125950>

Introduction

As with the color of the underbody, the factory color of the inner and rear part of the wheel rims don't seem to have been settled conclusively, and I have neither had the chance to see an original untouched underbody nor a wheel of a Ponton with factory paint. I have however gone through tons of photos on the Internet of Pontons and especially 190SLs during the course of my car's restoration, and these photos are of cars that are stated to have factory paint. These colors have been extensively debated on the 190SL Group and owners of 190SLs with factory paint seem to have varying shades! So here's what I've gathered:

Underbody

Most agree that the factory painted the underbody in DB 169 'Steingrau Hell' (Stone Gray-Light). Now, a number of 190SLs restored by 190SL restoration specialists interpret DB-169 as a shade of beige or sandalwood. To me, this doesn't add up because Steingrau Hell is a light shade of gray just like Jim Graham's beautiful 220S, which wears this color. A 180D (or maybe a 190, I forget) Ponton restored by the Classic Center in California has used a shade that is like a light tan, and thus has no resemblance to DB 169. I'm attaching a photo (found on the net) of a 190SL with an untouched underbody and another of a restored 190SL. Both seem to have a shade similar to DB 169.

Having said that, there are IPOG members and 190SL owners with original underbody paint in black too!

Inner Part and Rear of Wheel Rim

Here, owners seem to agree that the factory applied DB 268. But DB 268 is described as 'Blaugrun' or Blue-Green. This is a very unusual and distinctive color. However, 190SL group members with untouched wheels seem to have a completely different shade of green, which is more a light olive or olive drab. I am attaching some photos (again from the net), which show the inner side of untouched 190SL rims from two different cars, and both differ. Also another photo of a NOS rim that was listed on eBay, and the color on this is olive drab.

As has been said, I too think that Daimler-Benz had a ton of unused paint for military/army applications and they applied this to certain unseen areas of 1950s and maybe 1960s cars without

particular concern for an exact color match for every car. Paint shades could have differed from batch to batch of paint, and when they ran out of such paint during assembly, they used black. :)

This is what I've been able to gather but as I said at the start, I've not seen any of these colors first hand. I'm sure the experts on our forum will be able to provide a more accurate insight.



First photo: Underbody of an un-restored 190SL, which appears to be similar to DB 169 Stone-Gray Light (however; above the differential it appears to be sandalwood!).



Second photo: Underbody of a restored 190SL with a close match to DB 169.



Third photo: Inner side of 190SL wheel with factory paint in olive drab (5 inch rim).



Fourth photo: Inner side of 190SL wheel with factory paint, which looks different compared to olive drab (5 inch rim).



Fifth & sixth photos: NOS wheel rim for a 4 cylinder Ponton listed on eBay (4.5 inch rim).

Cheers,

Prithvi Tagore
1958 Type 180a