

Mercedes-Benz R171 series 2004-2011

Mercedes-Benz SLK R171 Series: Comprehensive Reference Manual

A detailed guide covering the 2004-2011 models.

1. INTRODUCTION

This manual serves as a comprehensive historical and technical reference for the Mercedes-Benz SLK R171 series, produced from 2004 to 2011. It provides in-depth information for enthusiasts, owners, and historians interested in the development, specifications, and variations of this iconic roadster. The content is structured to offer a clear understanding of the R171's place within the Mercedes-Benz lineage and its specific characteristics.



MERCEDES-BENZ

SLK R171 series

2004-2011

Brian Long



Image: Front cover of the reference manual, featuring a Mercedes-Benz SLK R171 convertible.

2. GETTING STARTED WITH YOUR REFERENCE

To maximize the utility of this reference manual, begin by familiarizing yourself with its overall structure. The book is organized into thematic sections, progressing from the historical context and development of the R171 to detailed analyses of its production models and technical specifications. It is recommended to read the introduction first to grasp the scope and purpose of the content.

- **Initial Review:** Briefly skim through the chapter titles and section headings to understand the breadth of information covered.
- **Contextual Reading:** Start with the introductory chapters to establish a foundational understanding of the R171 series.
- **Targeted Information:** Use the detailed appendices and indexes (if applicable) to quickly locate specific data points such as engine codes or production figures.

3. NAVIGATING THE MANUAL'S CONTENT

This manual is designed for easy navigation, whether you are reading it cover-to-cover or seeking specific details. Key information is presented in a logical flow, supported by various data points and historical insights. The content includes:

- **Historical Overview:** Tracing the lineage of the SLK and the specific development of the R171.
- **Model Variations:** Detailed descriptions of all R171 production models.
- **Optional Extras:** Comprehensive lists and explanations of available factory options.
- **Year-by-Year Changes:** Specific modifications and updates introduced across different production years.
- **Engine Specifications:** In-depth data on various engine types used in the R171 series.
- **Color and Trim Options:** Information on standard exterior colors and interior trim choices.
- **Production Numbers:** Statistical data on the total units produced for different variants.

4. UNDERSTANDING VEHICLE DATA AND CHANGES

While this manual is a historical reference and not a service guide, it provides crucial data that informs understanding of vehicle characteristics and evolution. The detailed appendices are particularly valuable for identifying specific components or features based on the vehicle's production year or model variant. This includes:

- **Component Identification:** Use engine specifications and production details to identify original components.
- **Feature Evolution:** Track how features and options changed over the R171's production run.
- **Authenticity Verification:** Reference production numbers and trim details for historical accuracy or restoration projects.

5. CONSULTING FOR COMMON VEHICLE INQUIRIES

This manual serves as an excellent first point of reference for many common inquiries regarding the Mercedes-Benz SLK R171. While it does not offer repair instructions, it provides the foundational knowledge necessary to understand the vehicle's design, common configurations, and historical context. For example, if you are researching a specific model year's features or trying to understand the original specifications of a particular R171, this book offers the detailed information required. It helps in understanding *what* was available and *when*, which can be crucial for diagnosing period-specific characteristics or verifying originality.

6. MANUAL SPECIFICATIONS

The physical attributes of this reference manual are as follows:

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Attribute	Detail
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VEHICLE SERIES SPECIFICATIONS OVERVIEW

Detailed specifications for the Mercedes-Benz SLK R171 series, including engine types, dimensions, performance figures, and other technical data, are extensively covered within the pages of this manual. Refer to the relevant chapters and appendices for precise information on specific models and years.

This manual is for informational purposes only and is based on the publication "Mercedes-Benz SLK: – R171 series 2004-2011" by Brian Long.