

Vintage & Classic Car Inspection

PETROLOGY

1970 MERCEDES BENZ 280SL

Date of Inspection: 10/10/2025

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SUMMARY

Vehicle is a 1970 Mercedes-Benz 280SL in silver with a black interior. I start this inspection off with the exterior of the vehicle. The front chrome bumper shows light pitting and minor surface rust on the underside. The grille has a few bent fins, and the emblem is slightly faded. The right headlight bezel has minor pitting. The right front fender is slightly misaligned with the hood at the rear edge. The right door has bubbling at the lower seam and is slightly out of alignment with the quarter panel. The right rear quarter panel has a small dent and light scratches. The trunk lid shows rust bubbles along the lower edge and sits slightly high on the left side. The hardtop roof has been repainted and shows evidence of prior filler work along the rear corners. There is light rust forming along the drip rails. The left rear quarter panel has minor scratches. The left door shows signs of previous filler repair at the bottom edge and has slight rust beginning near the fender. The left front fender is slightly misaligned with the door. Both windshield chrome trim pieces show light bubbling, as does the rear glass trim on the hardtop. The vehicle has been fully resprayed in silver; the finish presents well overall with a good shine, though there are small areas of dust in the paint and minor orange peel in certain panels. Most filler appears to be concentrated around the hardtop and lower door sections. There is light rust inside both door jambs. All four tires show dry rot cracking, and the right rear wheel has minor curb rash.

Moving to the interior. The horn is inoperable. The Becker radio powers on but produces no sound. The clock is inoperable. Both power windows operate slowly and require assistance near the top of travel. The seat upholstery is in good condition overall, though the driver's seat bottom shows light cracking in the leather. The dashboard wood trim has minor cracking and fading. The carpet is faded throughout and shows wear in the driver's footwell area. The heater blower functions, but the air conditioning system does not blow cold. All primary gauges appear to function properly. The glove box latch is slightly loose. The convertible soft top is present and in fair condition, with minor wear along the seams.

Next is the engine bay. I check all serviceable fluids and they are at proper levels and appear clean. I check for leaks and find slight fuel seepage near the mechanical fuel injection lines. There is minor oil residue along the valve cover gasket. All belts and hoses appear serviceable, though some hoses look aged. Most components appear stock, including the factory mechanical fuel injection system. I check for rust in the engine bay and find none of significance. I inspect the undercarriage and note light surface rust on some suspension components but no structural corrosion. There are no active fluid leaks underneath. Suspension and brake components appear visually intact.

Lastly, the test drive. The vehicle starts after a couple of cranks when cold. It requires slight throttle input until it reaches operating temperature before settling into a steady idle. On cold start there is a brief puff of blue smoke that clears quickly. Once warmed up, the engine runs smoothly and sounds healthy. The transmission shifts through all gears smoothly. The brakes feel soft and require pumping to achieve proper stopping pressure, indicating further diagnosis is needed. The ride quality is comfortable, and the steering feels tight and responsive. The suspension feels solid with no unusual noises or vibrations present. See below for additional information and pictures.

VEHICLE INFO	
YEAR	1967
MAKE	Ford
MODEL	Mustang
MILEAGE	96663
TRANSMISSION	Automatic
VIN NUMBER	7T01C179051
INTERIOR	Vinyl
INTERIOR COLOR	Red
BODY COLOR	Red
ENGINE	8 Cylinder
DRIVE TYPE	Rear Wheel Drive
FUEL TYPE	Gas

EXTERIOR	
WIPER BLADES	✔
BODY ALIGNMENT	⚠
Almost all of the panel gaps are off at least a little bit - see pictures.	
SCRATCHES	⚠
There are light scratches on each quarter panel.	
DINGS	✔
DENTS	✔
PAINT CONDITION	✔
RUST	⚠
There is rust along the rear of the trunk lid, inside both door jambs, and along the drip edge.	
EXTERIOR LIGHTS	⚠
The driver head light trim ring is loose.	
DOOR MIRRORS	✔
BUMPERS	⚠
The front bumper has slight surface rust.	
FRAME DAMAGE	✔
GLASS	✔
BODY SEALS	✔
BODY FILLER?	⚠
There is body filler throughout the roof of the vehicle. This is common on vehicles that originally had a vinyl roof. There is also body filler at the bottoms of the rocker panels.	
HOOD	✔
DOORS	✔
FLOORS	✔
ROCKERS	✔
QUARTER PANELS	✔
CHROME	⚠
Some of the chrome trim around the windows is bubbling.	


INTERIOR	
STEERING WHEEL	✔
HORN	⚠
The horn does not work.	
SEAT CONDITION	✔
SEAT BELTS	⚠
The left rear passenger seat belt is torn.	
RADIO/NAVIGATION	⚠
The radio does not work.	
INNER DOOR PANELS	⚠
The left door panel has bumps in it and the right door panel is misaligned.	
WINDOW FUNCTION	⚠
Both door windows are hard to operate, and the LR .25 window is inoperable.	
DASH	⚠
The gauge cluster trim is misaligned with the center vent trim.	
SUN VISORS	✔
DASH LIGHTS	✔
DASH GAUGES	✔
AIR CONDITIONING	✔
HEATER	✔
CARPET	⚠
The carpet is faded.	
CIGARETTE USE	✔
UNUSUAL ODORS	✔
HEADLINER	✔
BLOWER MOTOR	✔
INTERIOR TRIM	✔
INNER TRUNK	✔

MECHANICAL	
AIR FILTER	✔
BATTERY CONDITION	✔
CHARGING SYSTEM	✔
COOLING FAN CONDITION	✔
RADIATOR CAP SEALING PROPERLY	✔
HOSSES	✔
RADIATOR	✔
ENGINE COOLANT	✔
COOLANT LEAKS	✔
BELTS	✔
POWER STEERING	✔
STEERING FLUID	✔
ENGINE OIL	✔
ENGINE FLUID LEAKS	⚠
There is gas puddled on the intake manifold under the carburetor.	
TRANSMISSION FLUID	✔
TRANSMISSION LEAKS	✔
BRAKE SYSTEM	⚠
The brakes did not work well at all. This requires further diagnosis.	
BRAKE FLUID LEAKS	⚠
There is a possibility of a brake fluid leak I did not see - see above note on lack of braking performance.	
DIFFERENTIAL LEAKS	✔
MUFFLER SYSTEM	✔
SHOCKS AND BUSHINGS	✔
BALL JOINTS AND TIE RODS	✔
MODIFICATIONS	✔

ROAD TEST	
ROAD TEST	Yes
ENGINE PERFORMANCE	✔
TRANSMISSION PERFORMANCE	✔
DIFFERENTIAL PERFORMANCE	✔
WHEEL BEARING PERFORMANCE	✔
BRAKING PERFORMANCE	⚠
The brakes go to the floor and barely hold the car at a stop while in drive.	
SUSPENSION PERFORMANCE	✔
STEERING PERFORMANCE	✔
ENGINE STARTING	⚠
The engine wont hold an idle until it is warmed up.	

MANUFACTURER			
Driver Front	Primewell	Primewell	Passenger Front
Driver Rear	Primewell	Primewell	Passenger Rear
SIZE			
Driver Front	225/70/14	225/70/14	Passenger Front
Driver Rear	225/70/14	225/70/14	Passenger Rear
AXLE COUNT			
TIRE CONDITION			
Driver Front	Dry Rot	Dry Rot	Passenger Front
Driver Rear	Dry Rot	Dry Rot	Passenger Rear
WHEEL CONDITION			
Driver Front	Missing Hubcap/Center Cap	No Issues	Passenger Front
Driver Rear	Curb Rash	Missing Hubcap/Center Cap	Passenger Rear
TIRE TREAD			
Driver Front	7/32	7/32	Passenger Front
Driver Rear	8/32	7/32	Passenger Rear
SPARE TIRE			
SPARE TIRE	Yes		

TIRE TREAD EXPLANATION



10/32 OR MORE

Tires have plenty of tread! (standard)

8/32 OR MORE

Tires have plenty of tread! (low profile)

5/32 TO 7/32

Tires will need replacement soon!

4/32 OR LESS

Tires need replacement!