

Autochasis 853

This new series of articles will show you one of the most famous lines of Technic sets.

Text by arvo

Images from Blackbird's Technicopedia

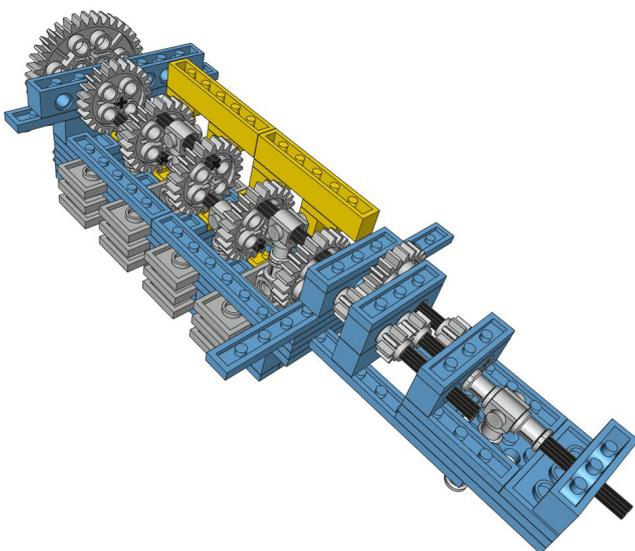
In 1977 one of the most popular and coveted lines began, a collection of sets that lasted for more than thirty years: the "SuperCars." The **SET 853 Auto Chassis** was the first car in this series.

It could seem a rather primitive construction today, but in 1977 it was a revolution whose primary goal was to teach us (playing) the functioning and mechanisms of a car. Designed on a scale that has not been abandoned since then, making it possible to include the most important details.



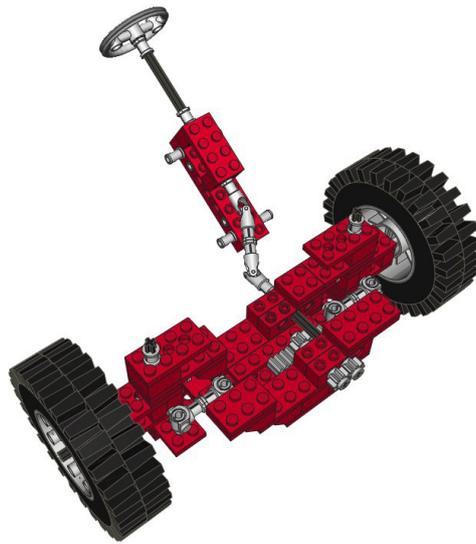
It had no bodywork, no electric windows, nor a pyrolytic ashtray ... and yet it had everything.

This model had a front engine with four pistons sliding vertically, that "danced" thanks to a transmission that connected them to the rear axle. It must have been fantastic to a 1977 child to have a SET of this calibre. And that's because the "mother company" always had a clear notion of something very simple: the tremendous fascination cars produce in two-legged humans.



The number of gears, shafts, pins, connectors or technic bricks made it a true heavyweight of the era, probably the king of its "promotion". It must have been difficult to imagine what else was needed to build everything one could wish for. The construction is very sketchy. So simple as to allow the hands of a child to build it, but sufficiently detailed to answer any questions.

The steering mechanism was one of its strengths. Probably the greatest, after all the steering of the car is the action that manages connect “player and toy”. The rack and pinion steering included some of the most technical parts of the SET. We are not referring only to the “rack plate”, but to the pair of “Technic Universal Joints” that allow you to see and understand how it is possible to transmit rotation on an axle that changes direction. Every bit as fascinating as fragile.



Personally we only find a downside to the system. The excessive length of the steering wheel axle. It is more than a “cosmetic” problem, without going into details ... the wheel, shaft and connectors suffer more than an AFOL would be willing to support without dropping, at least, one tear of pain.

Although ... with that pair! ... “Who could even look at axes, joins, pins or studs???”

The “Technic Wheels 43x24”, which LEGO® released for this set, are as mythical as the design itself. It’s something that has occurred over time; certain parts mark an era and, today, it is almost impossible to think of these wheels and not imagine a child playing on the floor ... a shirt with pointy collar and a round haircut!



But the surprises that were in store in this model did not end here. The seats in a perfectly chosen colour, could be regulated, advancing or inclining them to the liking of the consumer.

This skinny “Automobile”, cold, distant and even austere, was well compensated with a colour palette so “cool” that it made you think as you left the shop:

- “Dude ... that was the purchase of the century!”

Red, blue and... yellow ... Kieslowski could have done better. How many times have we cursed and despised the child in the picture? Very few lucky ones enjoyed this monster in its day, live, in first person.

... it’s what was lacking in our collection of “virtues,” to envy a child on a cardboard box! ... It fits us.

Ah !!!...we would not know the differential and suspension until 3 years later, with its evolution, the 8860 Auto Chassis set.

Thanks to Eric Albrecht for the artwork.

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