

1962 Citroen 2CV Very Original Example

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Offered today is a 2 owner, extremely original 1962 Citroen 2CV. This unusual French "Ugly Duckling" is serial #8531366. Today, as I inspected and photographed it, the little car fired right up and drove just fine. The 4 forward gears and 1 reverse gear shifted smoothly with it's "thru the dash" shifter.

There was ample room for 4 people with tons of head room in the back and decent cargo space as well. This car comes with it's original owners manual (in French) along with numerous books, magazines, parts catalogs etc. Finished in it's original green/gray color with blue striped material seating and canvas top, this 2CV is as strange as they come.

The car was originally used in the Alps of Europe before the original owner brought the car to Florida. It was purchased approx. 16 years ago by it's current owner who is only the second owner of the car. He bought it primarily for the novelty and has not put many miles on it at all but has kept it maintained. He had all fluids changed as well as brakes adjusted in 2004 (\$315 receipt). The odometer shows 69,633 and the mileage is believed to be correct. Be sure to also notice the very cool Jaeger (fine watch maker) instrumentation.

Every French man bears some nostalgia for this small and ugly car which very often was his first automobile.

The program, drawn by Pierre Boulanger, was very simple – four wheels under an umbrella. The car was first designed for country people – farmers. Economy-minded and able to be driven on any type. of road but strong enough to carry cargo, this car was perfect. Pierre Boulanger stressed the goal of driving the 2 CV through a rough field with a basket of eggs without breaking any.

The engine was a flat twin and air cooled which overhung the front wheels. The first cars designed with a 375-cc, eight-horsepower engine were sluggish. For sake of economy, CV joints were omitted causing a deep jerking when turning the steering wheel.

The car was inexpensive, indestructible and easy to maintain. Citroen cars benefitted from great handling without forgetting its appetite (or lack of it) – 50 miles per gallon! Several models succeeded with improved power and the same traditional qualities of simplicity, robustness and economy.

The first 2CVs, designated 'A' series, had a 375cc engine and were rated at two horsepower on the French fiscal rating (hence its name 2CV or 'two horses'). It had such features as a canvas roof, running from the windshield to the rear bumper (forming the trunklid as well as the roof) and just two instruments: a speedometer and an ammeter. It was available in only one color, an aluminum grey.

Over the years, the 2CV slowly evolved to its present-day form. In 1954 it got the 425cc engine, in 1957 the metal trunk lid, in 1959 it offered a wider range of body colors, and received a third side window in 1965. The changes were hardly distinguishable from one year to the next. But a comparison between a 1989 2CV with its forty-year-old predecessor makes the newer 2CV seem almost luxurious. Fortunately, the 2CV hasn't lost any of its character and appeal along the way.

These unusual vehicles were built by the millions but when was the last time that you saw one driving down the street? They seem to be very rare indeed in the US.

Everything seemed to work today during my inspection i.e lights, horn, wipers, etc. The owner noted that the brake fluid needs to be bled and re-filled. The floor seems to be solid and there is a picture below which shows the mat pulled back with the floor exposed. Also, you can see pictures of the underside below. It appears to be a very solid little car. Michelin tires are also in good shape with approx. 50% tread remaining with spare tire included.

I have shipped many classic American and German cars to Europe. It is very possible that this vintage French Citroen will find its way back to France or other European country. I welcome European interest and will be very glad to assist in making arrangements to have this car shipped safely across the ocean.

Vehicle Condition – – I have personally inspected and photographed this vintage Citroen. In my opinion, it is in very nice original condition both mechanically and cosmetically. It is by NO means a restored show quality example but instead, a nice running time capsule back to 1962.

Since the car is in original/unrestored condition, I would highly recommend that any interested party either inspect the car personally or hire an inspection service to prepare a pre-purchase report. I noted some wrinkles in the body and general wear and tear in the interior but overall, very nice original condition.

I invite anyone to inspect this car in Naperville, Illinois and determine for yourself that this car is truly in nice/original and running condition. Seeing is really believing.

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