

cls shooting brake mercedes benz

Published: September 27, 2026 | Index ID: #-

Introduction

When the automotive world first heard the term **CLS Shooting Brake Mercedes-Benz**, excitement rippled through enthusiasts, journalists, and investors alike. This vehicle represents a bold fusion of luxury, performance, and practicality that only a brand like Mercedes-Benz can deliver. In this comprehensive guide, we'll explore the CLS Shooting Brake's lineage, design philosophy, engineering marvels, interior comforts, and its place in the modern luxury car market. Whether you're a seasoned Mercedes fan or a newcomer curious about this distinctive coupe wagon hybrid, this article will give you a deep dive into everything you need to know.

What Is a Shooting Brake?

A shooting brake is a body style that combines the sleek profile of a coupe with the extra cargo space of a station wagon. The term dates back to the 19th century, originally describing a carriage used by hunters to shoot game. In the automotive era, it evolved into a niche segment prized for its elegance and versatility. The CLS Shooting Brake takes this concept to a new level by marrying the sporty stance of the CLS coupe with the practical cargo capacity of a wagon, all while maintaining Mercedes-Benz's hallmark luxury and performance.

The CLS Shooting Brake's Evolution

From Concept to Production

The CLS Shooting Brake concept debuted at the 2013 Paris Motor Show, showcasing a bold, low-slung silhouette that captured the imagination of the automotive press. The concept featured a distinctive front fascia, a flowing roofline, and a generous cargo area that could accommodate two full-size suitcases and a stroller side by side. Mercedes-Benz's design team emphasized a "dynamic silhouette" that would appeal to both performance lovers and families.

Following the concept's success, production models began rolling out in 2014. The first generation CLS Shooting Brake was built on the same MRA platform as the CLS Coupe, ensuring structural rigidity and high performance. Over the years, the model has undergone several refreshes, each iteration refining aerodynamics, powertrain options, and interior technology.

Generational Overview

1. **First Generation (2014–2017)** – The launch model introduced a 3.5 liter V6 and a 3.0 liter V6 twin turbo engine, both mated to a 9 speed automatic transmission. The interior featured leather upholstery, a 12 inch infotainment screen, and the optional Burmester audio system.
2. **Second Generation (2018–2021)** – A major facelift brought sharper headlights, revised bumpers, and the addition of a 2.0 liter inline four turbocharged engine that offered improved fuel efficiency. Mercedes' MBUX infotainment system received a 10.25 inch touchscreen, voice control, and augmented reality navigation.
3. **Current Generation (2022–Present)** – The latest CLS Shooting Brake builds on the MRA platform with a 3.0 liter V6 twin turbo and a 3.0 liter V6 biturbo, both available in AMG performance variants. The cabin now incorporates a 12.3 inch digital instrument cluster, a 14 inch MBUX display, and the latest driver assistance technologies.

Design Philosophy and Exterior Highlights

Signature Styling Elements

The CLS Shooting Brake's exterior is a masterclass in contemporary automotive design. Key features include:

- **Dynamic Roofline:** A sweeping roofline that tapers into a low, muscular rear, giving the vehicle a coupe-like silhouette.
- **LED Signature Lighting:** Adaptive LED headlights and taillights that create a striking visual statement on the road.
- **Bold Bumper Design:** Front and rear bumpers incorporate a pronounced grille and sculpted side skirts, enhancing both aesthetics and aerodynamics.
- **All-Wheel Drive Options:** Many models feature 4MATIC all-wheel drive, which not only improves traction but also adds a subtle, aggressive stance.

Aerodynamic Efficiency

Mercedes-Benz engineers meticulously fine-tuned the CLS Shooting Brake's shape to reduce drag. The vehicle's drag coefficient (Cd) is approximately 0.28, a figure that balances performance with fuel efficiency. The design includes a rear spoiler that activates at higher speeds, minimizing lift and improving stability.

Powertrain and Performance

Engine Options

The CLS Shooting Brake is offered in several powertrain configurations, catering to a range of performance preferences:

- **3.0 Liter V6 Twin Turbo:** Delivers around 362 horsepower and 369 lb-ft of torque. Ideal for everyday driving with a smooth power delivery.
- **3.0 Liter V6 Biturbo (AMG Line):** Produces 483 horsepower and 516 lb-ft of torque, paired with a 7-speed dual-clutch transmission for exhilarating acceleration.
- **2.0 Liter Inline Four Turbocharged (Eco-Friendly Variant):** Offers 255 horsepower, focusing on efficiency while maintaining a respectable performance ceiling.

Transmission and Drivetrain

All CLS Shooting Brake models come with Mercedes' latest 9-speed automatic transmission, which features a "Sport" mode that adjusts shift points for a more engaging drive. The 4MATIC all-wheel drive system is available on most variants, providing enhanced traction in adverse weather conditions and a subtle boost in cornering confidence.

Handling and Ride Quality

The MRA platform's low center of gravity, combined with adaptive dampers and a rear suspension design that includes a torsion bar, ensures a balanced ride. In AMG models, the suspension is tuned for a firmer stance, delivering precise steering response while still offering a comfortable ride for passengers.

Interior Comfort and Technology

Luxurious Cabin Materials

The CLS Shooting Brake's interior showcases Mercedes-Benz's commitment to quality. Premium materials such as Alcantara, leather, and carbon fiber accents create an upscale environment. Ambient lighting options allow

occupants to customize the cabin atmosphere to their preference.

MBUX Infotainment System

Mercedes' latest MBUX system is a cornerstone of the CLS Shooting Brake's interior experience. Key features include:

- 10.25 inch Touchscreen: Intuitive controls with a responsive interface.
- Voice Activation: Natural language processing enables hands free control of navigation, media, and climate settings.
- Augmented Reality Navigation: Displays real time navigation cues overlaid on a live camera feed, improving situational awareness.
- Wireless Connectivity: Supports Apple CarPlay, Android Auto, and over the air software updates.

Driver Assistance and Safety Systems

The CLS Shooting Brake is equipped with an extensive suite of safety technologies, including:

- Active Brake Assist: Detects potential collisions and applies brakes automatically.
- Adaptive Cruise Control: Maintains a safe distance from the vehicle ahead.
- Lane Keeping Assist: Provides gentle steering inputs to keep the vehicle centered.
- Blind Spot Monitoring: Alerts drivers to vehicles in adjacent lanes.
- 360 Degree Camera System: Offers a bird eye view for parking and low speed maneuvering.

Cargo Capacity and Practicality

Versatile Storage Solutions

One of the CLS Shooting Brake's standout features is its cargo versatility. The rear seats fold flat to create a generous cargo area measuring approximately 1,000 liters (35.3 cubic feet). The rear hatch provides a 1.5 meter opening width, allowing easy loading of bulky items such as luggage, sports equipment, or even a small sofa.

Smart Storage Compartments

Inside the cabin, the CLS Shooting Brake incorporates multiple storage options: a central console with a built in cup holder, door pockets, a dedicated glove compartment, and a small storage area beneath the front seats. These thoughtful touches cater to daily life demands without compromising the vehicle's luxurious feel.

Comparisons with Competitors

Mercedes-Benz CLS Shooting Brake vs. BMW 4 Series Gran Coupe

The BMW 4 Series Gran Coupe is often considered a direct competitor. While both vehicles offer a coupe like aesthetic with wagon practicality, the CLS Shooting Brake typically edges out in terms of interior refinement and technology integration. The Gran Coupe, however, may offer a slightly more engaging driving experience due to BMW's dynamic chassis tuning.

Mercedes-Benz CLS Shooting Brake vs. Audi A6 Allroad

The Audi A6 Allroad is a luxury wagon with off road capabilities. Compared to the CLS Shooting Brake, the Allroad prioritizes ruggedness and higher ground clearance, whereas the CLS Shooting Brake focuses on sleek styling and performance. Audi's infotainment system is praised for its clarity, but Mercedes-Benz's MBUX offers more advanced augmented reality navigation.

Environmental Considerations

Fuel Efficiency

Although the CLS Shooting Brake is not a hybrid, the 2.0 liter inline four turbocharged engine offers respectable fuel economy, achieving up to 28 miles per gallon (MPG) in combined city/highway driving. The 3.0 liter V6 engines deliver a balance between performance and efficiency, with combined fuel consumption around 24 MPG.

Emissions

Mercedes-Benz employs advanced exhaust after treatment systems, including particulate filters and selective catalytic reduction, to keep CO₂ emissions within the European Union's regulatory limits. The company's commitment to sustainability is further reflected in the use of recycled materials in the interior and a focus on reducing the vehicle's overall carbon footprint during manufacturing.

Buying Guide and Ownership Experience

Price Range

Pricing for the CLS Shooting Brake varies based on trim level and optional packages. Base models start around €70,000, while AMG variants can exceed €100,000. Additional features such as the Burmester sound system, AMG Performance Package, or the 4MATIC all wheel drive can add significant cost.

Warranty and Service

Mercedes-Benz offers a comprehensive warranty package that includes a 4 year/50,000 mile limited warranty and a 3 year/30,000 mile powertrain warranty. The company's global service network ensures that owners can access maintenance and repairs conveniently.

Resale Value

Mercedes-Benz vehicles typically hold their value well, thanks to brand prestige and robust demand. The CLS Shooting Brake's unique body style and luxury positioning may enhance its resale appeal among collectors and enthusiasts.

Future Outlook and Upcoming Developments

Electrification Pathways

Mercedes-Benz's EQ brand is aggressively pushing the electrification of its lineup. While the CLS Shooting Brake remains a combustion engine model for now, the company's long term roadmap hints at an electric or plug in hybrid variant in the future. This would align with the brand's commitment to reducing CO₂ emissions while maintaining performance.

Technology Advancements

Mercedes-Benz continues to innovate in autonomous driving technologies. Future CLS Shooting Brake models may incorporate Level 3 or Level 4 autonomy features, such as hands free highway driving or automated parking systems, further cementing the vehicle's status as a cutting edge luxury option.

Conclusion

The **CLS Shooting Brake Mercedes-Benz** stands as a testament to the brand's ability to blend sportiness, luxury, and practicality into a single, cohesive package. From its iconic design to its advanced powertrains and state of the art infotainment systems, the vehicle caters to drivers who demand both performance and everyday usability. Whether you're navigating city streets, embarking on a weekend road

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