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FACTS & STORY

Maico 400/4 (Germany, 1955)

MICROCARS

scale 1/43

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limited edition 333 Stk.



Two Become Four

The Maico Limited proved prudence as they recognised that also a microcar could be a family car.

Out of that prudence the engineers created a 4-seater based on the existing MC 400/H 2-seater from 1955.

This mattered big constructive changes, as they had to extend the chassis to reach a significant gain of space, especially for the two additionally needed backseats. As a result the wheelbase grew by 270 mm to 2,070 mm in total. The length of the vehicle grew from 3,18 m to 3,42 m.

Especially the rear of the car body needed extensive alternations. They adjusted the rear fenders, roof and the doors with their horizontal slidable windows.

During the entire project they focused on the matter how to fit four occupants into the Maico. Due to that Maico used the old 15 HP Heinkel-engine with 396 cm³ cylinder capacity.

Even with the weight of two more passengers

Maico promised a topspeed of 95 km/h.

The new development was presented as the MC 400/4 at the international Motor Show in 1955. The first cars left the industrial facilities in July 1956.

During presentation and production of the MC 400/4 Maico already introduced the MC 500/4, which was meant to be the replacement. The MC 500/4 had a new 18 HP Heinkel-engine with 452 cm³ cylinder capacity to settle the imbalance between weight and engine performance.

It was not surprising that from now on the demand of the MC 400/4 damped down as most of the interested parties were inclined to wait for the production start of the MC 500/4. The result was a sale of only 21 cars in total. But in October 1956 as the 500series went in production the demand rapidly soared.

The little 4-Seater was built 6.301 times until the end of production in August 1958.

AutoCult GmbH
Äußere Further Straße 3
90530 Wendelstein
Germany

Tel. +49 / 9129 / 296 4280
Fax +49 / 9129 / 296 4281
info@autocult.de

www.autocult.de