

Car Culture Series



Car Anecdotes

- Famous car brands' legends

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Fig. 2.2-5 Citroen DS19 that once set the world on fire

On Paris Motor Show in 1955, Citroen DS19 wowed the public once again relying on its proud four-wheel hydro-pneumatic suspension system and body height adjustment system. It adopted the combination of hydraulic oil and nitrogen instead of spring, which could automatically adjust the hydraulic oil level of the damper. No matter how much did the car carry, it could keep a certain height, and thus reached a comfortable driving effect. This hydro-pneumatic suspension system integrating driving safety and comfort, after being widely applied by various Citroen car series for a long time, was proved by to be peculiar. The UK's Rolls-Royce honored in the field of world cars purchased this patent from Citroen in 1982 and applied it to Rolls-Royce car series, skillfully matching the romantic spirit of France with the elegance of the UK. The beautiful lines and brilliant coating of DS19, together with its advanced technology in easy change of each body part and hydraulically assisted steering, braking and speed change systems, as well as the hydraulic control for the beam angles of headlights, made DS19 a hot spot in the world as a template for car manufacturing later on. Its streamline appearance and advanced technical equipment marked the beginning of a new car era, while its good performance involving production and sales of 1,455,746 vehicles further proved the unique and state-of-the-art car manufacturing art of Citroen, with extensive consumers' recognition and support.

For quicker development, Citroen purchased Panhard Auto Factory stage by stage. In 1965, Citroen fully possessed Panhard and took its factory as a manufacturing site for Citroen cars.

Panhard Auto Factory had a very long history. As early as in 1873, Mr. Panhard bought a land at Lot 17 and 19 along the Ivory Avenue and did business together with Emile Levassor. Maybe the two guys themselves initially had never thought of being a pioneer in the car industry of France and even the world. Soon after their company was founded, a German presented himself to Panhard and Levassor with a pile of papers concerning a kind of "novel" design. The two French were moved by the sincerity and decision of the German, so they bought the design and attempted to manufacture the earliest and also the most successful motor engine. That German was unknown to the public at that time and even could not find a sponsor for his design in his own country. But now, almost all drivers know his name, Gottlieb Daimler, the well-known "father of car".