



1903 Curved Dash Oldsmobile



Manufacturing Information

Manufactured By	Olds Motor Works
Assembled At	Lansing or Detroit, Michigan
Model Production	3,924 (this model only in 1903)
Total Production	Over 19,000 between 1901 and 1907
Horsepower	4.5
Weight	850 pounds/385 kilograms
1903 Cost	\$650
Body	Runabout Model R

First Mass-Produced Car

Oldsmobile produced the "Curved Dash" from 1901-1907. Many consider this vehicle to be the first mass-produced gasoline automobile. The affordable Oldsmobile was the most popular vehicle of its time. The driver would start the engine using a crank located on the side of the vehicle. The vehicle featured a two-speed transmission, chain drive, mechanical brake on the transmission and a "tiller" for steering. Owners could purchase options including a buggy top, fenders and a headlight. The first Oldsmobiles were powered by a single-cylinder, 4.5 horsepower engine. Turning at 500 rpm, it was said to emit one chug per telegraph pole. Competitively priced at \$650, the Oldsmobile beat Henry Ford's \$850 Model C.

Innovations

- #1 selling car in America in 1903 and 1904!!
- Reported as cheaper and more dependable than a horse.
- Earliest mass-production automobile.

Other: A car with a theme song - "In My Merry Oldsmobile"
(you may play this music by scanning the QR code on the left).

R.E. Olds Transportation Museum

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