

## **C7. Driving pleasure from a construction kit**

### **Michalak Design developed kit-car on the basis of Smart Fortwo production to begin still in 2005**

Mainz/Geneva, March 2005 – Michalak Design is reanimating the idea of legendary kit-cars: That's why the company will present the prototype C7, a kit that will quickly and easily transform a Smart Fortwo into a dynamic sports car, at the Geneva Auto Show. Production is slated to start this year and prices are to begin at under 5 000 Euros.

Every kit consists of a robust fibreglass body that is stretched over a computer-designed and crash-tested tube chassis frame that includes floorboards. Virtually the entire body is produced in one piece. Only the bonnet and doors are added later. Initially, the C7 will be available either as a classic two-seater roadster or as the one-seater open-wheeled Clubsport version. After that, hard and soft-top models are planned as well as the Shooting-Break model – a two-door estate car. Michalak Design has developed instrument panels and door skins unique to every model. Above and beyond that, the C7 can be had with special Recaro seats, aluminium wheels from 6x15" to 9x17" and Xenon headlights.

Under the stainless and fibre reinforced plastic body, Michalak Design incorporates trusted production technology from the Smart Fortwo. Parts such as axles, engine and transmission, seats and instruments are used without any modifications. "This way a used or even crashed micro-car can turn into a new sports car with a few twists of the wrench", says developer Bernd Michalak.

At the same time, assembly of the C7 is quite easy and not a problem even for beginners. This is due to the fact that no special tools are required nor are a vehicle hoist or welding skills necessary. All parts either snap together or are screwed together and can be assembled in the hours after work within about a week. „If you can put together a bedroom dresser from a Swedish furniture store, you'll have no problem assembling the C7“, the developer promises.

Nevertheless, Michalak Design, together with several partner companies in Germany, Great Britain, Canada and Australia will offer professional support during assembly to those requiring expert advice. Customers that don't have the space in their own garage can even have their C7 assembled at a workshop. Here, the manufacturer will carry out a final inspection. In addition, the company will support customers on-location with registration and certification of the vehicles. For instance in Germany a co-operation is planned with the AvD Automobile Club. They will accompany completed C7's along with their owners to Michalak headquarters in Mainz or to one of the other locations, so that TÜV (Association for Technical Inspection) can give its seal of approval.

But the C7 isn't just easy to assemble; it's also easy to drive. The fibre reinforced plastic bodywork drops the kerb weight by 23 percent to 620 kilograms. Even conventional Smart engines starting with the 30 kW/41 HP Diesel right up to the Brabus power plant with 74 kW/101 HP literally have only a light load to push when powering the C7. And just like for other Smart models, Michalak offers a tuning kit. This will increase the power output of the C7 to up to 80 kW/110 HP, with maximum torque peaking at 130 Nm. This kind of power would translate into sub-nine second acceleration times to 100 km/h, and allow for a theoretical top speed of 190 km/h. All of this performance is achieved while maintaining exemplary fuel consumption of just 5,2 litres per 100 kilometres and emissions output distinctly on the clean side of the Euro4-Norm.

More than 50 years after the invention of the Lotus Super Seven, Shelby Cobra and the three-wheeler Morgan, Michalak Design once again opens the doors to fascinating possibilities for sports car enthusiasts and automobile lovers. For little money and with relative ease, you can turn a conventional production automobile into an exclusive and unique sports car that offers more driving pleasure than many factory models do.

With the C7, Michalak Design continues a long tradition of spectacular concept cars. Since 1983, the company that grew by building prototypes for automobile manufacturers such as Opel and Chrysler has caught attention with cars like the Corsaspider and the Conciso, built on a Ferrari chassis. Innovative designs were always given priority and put into practise, such as the retractable hard top back in 1983.

Since 1999 Michalak Design has offered a wide assortment of conversions and accessories for all Smart models at "[www.parts4smarts.de](http://www.parts4smarts.de)". Not only do they offer the first Xenon headlamp conversion kit for the lifestyle mini, but they also offer a comprehensive collection of accessories for the entire Smart spectrum.

Print free of charge.

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