

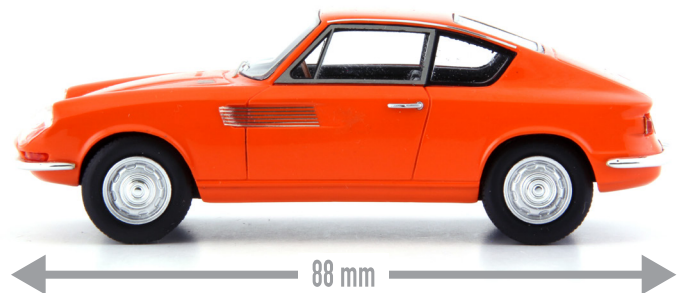
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The discarded Idea

Malicious gossip would have it that the Dutch manufacturer DAF stuck to the image of being outdated and lacking sportiness since the beginning of its passenger car production in 1958. It was clear that the typical DAF customer was not a young, trendy guy, but could be rather found in a more conservative age group, which focussed more on ruggedness and reliability than on design and visual finesse.

The Dutch car manufacturer consolidated this reputation during the 1960s. Nevertheless there was at least one attempt also to win sporty drivers as customers. This idea was anything but a short-dated fantasy and was seriously pursued. The management contacted the designer Giovanni Michelotti from Italy, who already did the facelift of the DAF 44. He got the order to design the new sports car. The guideline of DAF was to design a sports car that stands out from its competitors to establish itself within the small but profitable market. This order

was most probably of interest for Giovanni Michelotti and he did an excellent job. The car body had a touch of a BMW, Porsche, a little bit of a Ferrari and one or two nuances of other competitors. Overall the Italian created a visually balanced and harmonic silhouette. Even the type designation was already settled; the car should bear the name 40 GT.

Unfortunately, almost no information about the 40 GT leaked to the outside. Although one prototype, which is part (without a fitted engine) of the exhibition at the DAF museum today, was set on its wheels in 1965, there is only less known about the car until now.

AutoCult GmbH
Äußere Further Straße 3
90530 Wendelstein
Germany

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

www.autocult-models.de