

“Getting Started”

A brief guide for the “first-time” Opel owner

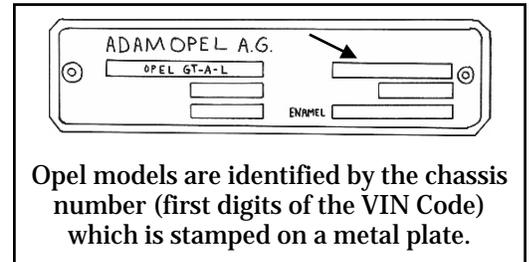
Here at Opel GT Source, we hear many common questions from first-time Opel owners, so we have compiled answers based on our experiences as a guide for your reference.



(1) Identify the Model and Year

The best place to start with any Opel is to identify and verify the actual model type and model year of the car.

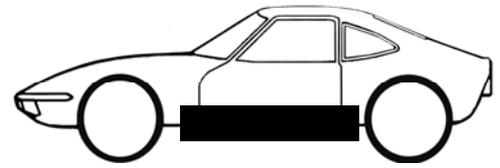
This is best done by checking the chassis VIN plate, which is located on Opels under the hood (and sometimes also on a plate on the dashtop or on a sticker visible on the driver’s side door), then comparing its serial number to data found in the original service books from General Motors (or alternately from online sources). Legally, you also need to verify this number matches the vehicle title.



(2) Chassis Inspection

A critical step is determining if the chassis is acceptable for the vehicle to be a restoration candidate, or if it is better used as a “parts car” donor for another body. Use a magnet to locate hidden body damage and note minor issues often present in these 40-year-old steel cars. Beyond that, check critical chassis and frame areas to make sure that rust has not compromised them.

On a GT you should scrutinize the “rocker panels” (horizontal areas below the doors) as significant rust present there indicates a car that will be difficult and potentially expensive to restore. On the Manta/Ascona series, check the front frame rail on the driver’s side of the car to verify battery acid has not rusted it out.



Critical Opel GT Rust Area

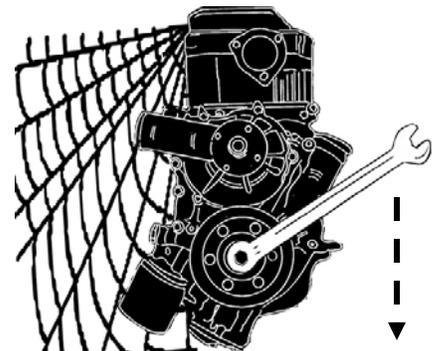
Check the Rocker Panels beneath the doors on a GT.

(3) Drivetrain Issues

Particularly on a vehicle that has been parked or stored for a long time, you can expect to find a few common issues.

Plan to rock and roll the car back and forth a few times if the brakes, tires, or clutch parts are sticking. Use only moderate pressure on the pedals at first if necessary to move the car, and only use a rubber mallet (not a hammer) to strike the brake drums if required to get the rear shoes to retract.

A critical area is the engine. First squirt some engine oil (or a 2-second spray of WD-40) into each cylinder, to help lubricate any s piston rings that may be sticking to the cylinder bores. Then place a 19mm wrench on the front crankshaft pulley bolt and see if it will turn by hand. Repeat this process for hours or even days as needed, before using the starter to turn the engine, so that you don’t cause any internal engine damage to the thin rings.



Engine Evaluation

Always turn by hand with a 19mm wrench, to avoid damage

(4) First Steps

Plan to drain and to replace all the fluids in the car.
This includes fuel, coolant, brake fluid, gear oil and/or auto trans fluid.

Additionally, plan to:

- Clean out the gas tank using B-12 Chemtool, or take it to a local shop.
- Rebuild or replace the carburetor, preferably with a new model.
- Back-flush the cooling system, including the heater core and engine block
- Replace brake system parts as needed including rubber components, then add new Dot 3 or Dot 4 fluid and bleed all air from the system.
- Re-gasket and/or reseal drivetrain components, including transmission or rear axle as needed, and consider engine re-assembly later if warranted.
- Replace the battery cables and fuses, then make a list when engaging the electrical system for the first time, noting areas of non-operation .

(5) Critical Components

Classic Opel GT's in particular have some trouble areas, which need to be inspected before a vehicle is brought into operation. Check out the "tips" section of the Opel GT Source website for information regarding:

-Headlight Wire replacement

(Consult instructions available online on how to rewire your harness with common wires, electrical tape and solder, for about \$10-\$12)

-Fuel Tank Vent Hose/Seal replacement

(Consult our part guides for available replacement parts)

-Ignition Switch operation and replacement

(We offer a new ignition switch as part #5060N)

-Replacement Keys and Blanks

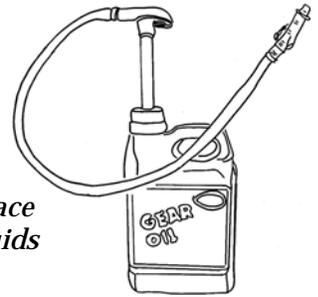
(We offer new replacement key blanks for the GT, which can be used by a local locksmith to make an "impression cut" to fit your existing locks).

(6) Access Reliable Technical Information

Start by getting your copy of the Opel GT Source "Part List/Project Guide" for technical information you can rely on, including the many critical year-to-year part variations which may affect your vehicle.

Then consider obtaining copies of the available Opel service manuals, but be aware that none of these are 100% accurate for classic vehicle operation in modern times. These are best used for general information, particularly when referenced in combination with technical notes that are supplied by Opel GT Source with many of the parts we sell.

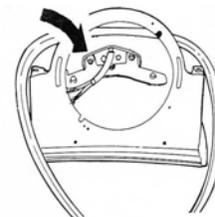
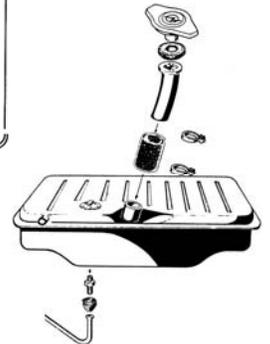
There are other sources of information, but all should be consulted with caution. Factory illustration guides include errors and omissions, and restoration shops may try to up-sell you pricey parts and services. While venues such as social media are ideal for networking, many discussions there also include un-disclosed marketing-based messages, under-informed technical opinions and "personality" based comments. When in doubt, consider sending an email to Opel GT Source and we'll do our best to clarify some of the issues that are often confusing.



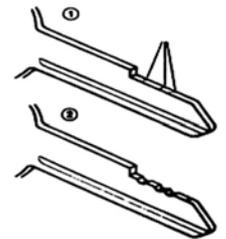
Replace all fluids



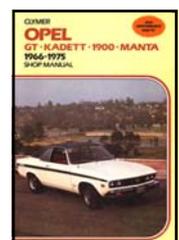
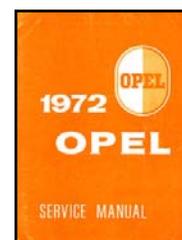
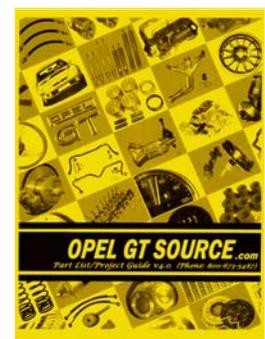
Clean and evaluate all fuel system parts



Check Safety Items & Areas



Have Keys Cut if needed



(7) Stay Local

Limit your first drives to just going down the block or maybe at most to a local store. Often times repeated short trips will reveal problem areas that you can deal with when you return home. Make notes of necessary repairs and consult our part lists and other instructions for additional guidance. Plan on being surprised at least once or twice, so that your initial excitement will extend to performing unanticipated repairs (rather than frustration), and don't take any sort of an extended road trip until your vehicle operation has been proven to be reliable.

Daily and Seasonal operation will also involve:

- Taking measurements and making notes during maintenance checks
- Consulting our tune-up notes and specifications to make adjustments
- Placing a clean cardboard sheet under the car overnight, to spot any fluid leaks.
- Considering upgrading components for your cooling system and heater
- Planning for refurbishment of drivetrain, suspension or braking systems
- Planning on some component service by hired professionals

(8) Money-Saving approaches

There are a few smart moves you can take to maximize the Opel dollars that can go into repairing and upgrading your vehicle, rather than elsewhere.

-Classic Car Insurance

Consult your agent or firms like Hagerty, Grundy, Heacock or others to see if you are eligible for this reduced-cost coverage, which sometimes is less than \$100 per year! When applicable, "non-op" registration in some states can also save you money.

-Smart Purchases

Combining multiple small part buys into single orders with us lowers your shipment costs. Consider savings from buying higher-quality parts, so you don't have to repair an item twice. Consider buying a second "parts car" if one is for sale locally, to save on used part purchases. Carry metric tools and critical parts, like belts, pumps and gaskets, as spares on road trips.

-Hire Professional Services cautiously

Evaluate firms by their reputation with prior clients and how they communicate with you.. Verify their mechanics will actually read any Opel-specific instructions that are provided. Always get estimates in writing in advance (including completion dates), and consider getting a second opinion. Walk away if you feel pressured to make large unplanned purchases

-Consider Do It Yourself Repairs

Most Opel owners use their own time and tools to get the most from their car.

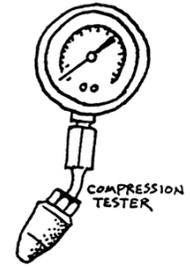
Plan Your Upgrades, for Even More Fun !

Once you have a reliable classic Opel, then the real fun begins!

Have a closer look at available upgrades, including Opel GT Source's selection of engine, suspension, braking, and other higher-performance parts, and make your plans for additional projects that will enhance your enjoyment of your vehicle. Make notes of specific identification marks and styles of your drivetrain components, so you can verify fitment of critical required parts when you place orders with us.

Also have a look at other classic Opels, including online or at specialty car shows, to get ideas on how you would like any interior or body/paint upgrades to appear.

See our other "tips" on the Opel GT Source website for additional information.



Purchase of a few basic diagnostic tools, will pay for itself many times over during the life of your classic car



Exercise caution when hiring service



Doing your own repairs will help you build confidence with yourself, as well as with your vehicle.

Opel GT Source: Ordering Notes

HOW TO PLACE YOUR ORDER

ONLINE ORDERS:

To view parts or to place an order online is a simple and efficient process. Place your order online 24 hours / 7 days a week

*Online Search:

You can search for a specific product in the search toolbar by typing the product name or OGTS part numbers that are identified in our printed and downloadable digital catalogs.

(Note: Some part numbers require entry twice).

Or, you can search by using our provided Categories and Sub-Categories:

For example:

Category: suspension

Sub-categories

Bushings

Ball Joints

Note: If you have a question about a part, such as one that is listed as being (temporarily) out of stock, you can email us (see next page).

* Signing Up:

If you plan to place an order, you need to sign up.

The Sign Up process quick & simple.

Enter your email address and password, and complete all contact information fields provided, and our process will enable you to sign into our online store, check your order status, and view your order history. We value your trust above all, so Opel GT Source will always keep your information safe and secure.

*Online Order Confirmation

After your submission, you will receive an E-mail confirmation with specific details about your order. We will contact you if there are any problems or to acquire about your billing information.

*Payment

For online orders from first-time customers, we will contact you for your payment information, as at this time we do not accept credit card information online for security reasons. (For repeat customers, we refer to billing information that is in our files, unless instructed otherwise).

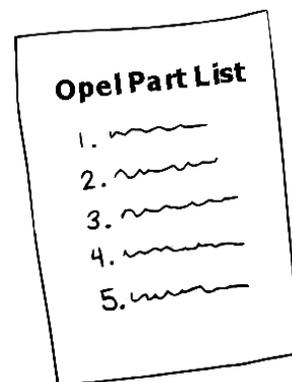
We accept VISA, Mastercard, American Express and Discover cards. In some instances, we can also arrange for payment via PayPal or a US Postal Money Order. Amounts quoted are all in US Dollars.

(Notes: Prices are subject to change; We are not responsible for typographical errors—Additional sales terms are provided in our print-version catalogs).

**Please provide complete shipping and billing information.*



Website Online:
www.OpelGTSource.com



Opel GT Source: Ordering Notes

HOW TO PLACE YOUR ORDER (Continued)

PHONE ORDERS:

We are open 8AM to 5PM California, USA time, Monday through Friday, excepting selected holidays. *For best results, plan ahead and have a list of part numbers and quantities ready to order.*

EMAIL INQUIRIES:

If you have a question about a part request, or a technical question, we may ask you to email us a photo (for better identification of an issue). *Special requests, including some used parts, may be affected by variations in our inventory, so some inquiries may take a day or longer for us to reply.*

SHIPMENT METHODS:

When we receive orders before 12:00 noon California time, most often they will be shipped the same day. Larger orders may be shipped the next day (based on amount of labor involved in packaging, and if parts ordered are in stock). Note: Ship quotes vary based on size, weight & delivery distance of the package.

*Federal Express

There are two levels of service: Express (typically a 2-day service for smaller orders), and Ground (which is 3 to 7 days for larger orders, based on distance).

*Federal Express International

We often use Federal Express International service to Canada, Europe, and some other locations. Delivery is often within a week.

*United Parcel Service

Larger orders often are sent via UPS Ground service. In some cases, UPS Second Day Air and UPS Three Day Select are options.

*US Postal Service

We utilize Postal Priority Mail and First Class Mail services nationwide, as well to some international destinations.

*US/Hawaii and Alaska

US Priority Mail, UPS Air Service, or Federal Express shipping is available.

*Canada

We ship to Canada via International Priority Mail, First Class Mail, or by Federal Express. Shipment via UPS is available, but may require additional fees.

*Europe

We ship to many locations in Europe via International Priority Mail, First Class Mail, or Federal Express.

*Other

For other delivery locations, inquire with us via email.

DELIVERY NOTES:

Service delivery times may be variable, when affected by external events, or local customs practices. UPS and Federal Express cannot deliver to a P.O. box, so please have an address for us to ship to. When some products are too large to be shipped by UPS, a freight company may be used instead.



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