

Type: Vehicle, Utility Nomenclature: Truck, Utility, 1/4-ton, 4x4, M38A1

Country: USA Date of Introduction: 1952

Physical Data:

Weight Empty 2,660 lb (1208 kg)
Weight Loaded (max) 3,860 lb (1752 kg)
Length (OA) 139 in (3531 mm)
Width (OA) 61.5 in (1562 mm)
Height (top down) 55.5 in (1410 mm)
Ground Clearance 9 in (229 mm)
Wheel Base 81 in (2057 mm)
Wheel Tread 49 in (1245 mm)
Drive 4x4
Armor n/a
NBC Protection Individual

Armament:

Main – Cal .30 cal/7.62mm LMG or
.50 cal/12.7mm HMG
Elevation & traverse Manual
Fire Control Optical
Aux wpn – Cal Crew weapons

Capacity:

Fuel Gasoline 17.5 gals
(66 liters)
Ammo/Qty Per wpons carried.
Crew/Passengers 1/3
Cargo Volume (max) 1200 lb (545 kg)

Engine:

Type Gasoline
HP at Rev/Min 72 hp (53 kW)
@ 4000 rpm
Model F-head.
Mfr Willys
No. of Cyls 4
Location Front
Cooling Liquid

Transmission:

Type Manual
Speeds Fwd/Rev 3/1 w/2-spd transfer
Model Synchronesh
Mfr Willys

Suspension System:

Type Leaf spring
Wheels Steerable Front pair
Turning Radius 18 ft 11.5 in (5.8 m)
left and 19 ft 9.5 in
(6 m) right
No of wheels 4
Tire Size 7.00x16

General Data:

Elec Voltage 24 Volt
Radio As fitted by user

Night Vision Devices: As supplied by user.

Performance:

Speed/Land 60 mph (97 k/ph)
Speed/Water n/a
Range 364 mi (586 km)
Fording Depth 79.5 in (2019 mm)
w/wading gear
Max Grade 60%



Remarks: In 1952, Willys introduced the M38A1 and the flat fenders of the M38 would be seen in declining numbers from then on. Interestingly, the suffix -A1, etc., usually denoted a minor revision to an already existing model. But the M38A1 was a completely new vehicle. The body was different, easier to fabricate and stronger; the engine was the new Hurricane overhead valve four-cylinder, and the Spicer axles were heavy-duty model 25s in the front and 44s in the rear. It also had a stronger frame, reversed shackles, and a 24-volt electrical system. The ambulance version was the M170, (the basis for the CJ-6) and was able to carry three stretcher or six seated patients.

Above: Top, M38A1 as received at Detroit Arsenal in 1952. Lower, Late production M38A1 with .30 caliber LMG in West Germany.

Usage: The M38A1 was used by the US from 1952 until the early '70s. Other countries that used the M38A1 included: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Greece, Israel, Japan, Jordan, The Netherlands, Mexico, Spain, S. Korea, S. Vietnam, Turkey and Uganda. There was also a series of civilian jeeps (i.e. the CJ-5) which were paid for by US Military Assistance Program, these were part of the M606 series.

Manufacturer: Willys-Overland, later Willys Motor Inc. (owned by Kaiser), Ford Motor Company and Nederlandse Kaiser-Frazer (NEKAF).