

"Mazinger" (Boxer) Armored Truck Series

By Julio Montes

(Jupiter) Mazinger Gun Truck

In the early 1980s, the Salvadoran military acquired a number of military German vehicles, to include 4x4 Unimog, 4x4 MAN-630 and 6x6 Jupiter trucks. The original Jupiter A6500 was a 7-ton truck built for the German Bundeswehr by Magirus-Deutz starting in 1956. The A6550 was superseded by the Jupiter, which in its military form was the predecessor for the Magirus-Deutz 178 D15A, produced between 1960 to 1964. In 1961, the truck was powered by the F8L714 multi-fuel engine, and all those delivered to El Salvador had a closed cab.

In the mid-1970s, the Salvadoran Army had a requirement for an armored gun-truck/personnel carrier. Therefore, the Army Quartermaster Depot (Maestranza) proposed to modify the Jupiter truck with high-hard 8mm armored plates. The resulting vehicle was denominated Boxer, and was a conventional armored truck, with plates covering the engine compartment, the cabin and the large personnel bed. Plates protected sides and overhead. There were large windows that could open to allow ventilation and firing from the inside. Maestranza would then build a total of 14 Boxers, but to the troops, the vehicle's boxy shape reminded them of the Mazinger Z cartoon, popular in television. The nickname stuck, and the armored truck was never referred by its given denomination, but it became The Mazinger.

Colonel Oswaldo Marengo would explain later that fourteen Mazingers were originally built using the Jupiters, one for each of the 14 most important garrisons in the country. They became so popular and important to protect against the usual ambushes that more gun trucks were built on other large truck chassis since there were no more Jupiters to spare. They were all known as The Mazinger.

Specifications

Country of Origin/Used by:	Salvadoran Gun Truck/armored transport – Mazinger military German truck chassis Magirus-Deutz 6x6 Jupiter 7-ton
First Produced/Service Dates:	1977 – active between 1977 – 1992
Manufactured by:	Maestranza de la Fuerza Armada de El Salvador (FAES)
Crew:	Two + up to 18 troops
Armament:	Usually one pintle mounted light machine gun
Engine:	Deutz Diesel V8-cylinder F8L714 multi-fuel engine 178hp
Miscellaneous Info:	Standard 7 Ton military truck
Data Sheet Available:	Length: 8.35 m (325 inches). Width: 2.50 m (97 inches). Height: 3.24 m (126 inches). Weight: 15.000 kg (33.000 lb.) – without the armor. Engine: Deutz Diesel, V8-cylinder, type F8L714A, 12.667 cm ³ (773 cubic inches) displacement, air cooled. Horsepower: 178 at 2.300 rpm. Transmission: 6-speed gearbox. Transfer case: 2-speed with center differential. Electrical system: 24 volt, negative ground. Brakes: Air/hydraulics. Tyres: 11.00 - 20. Fuel type: Diesel (multi-fuel). Fuel capacity: 150 liter (33 gallons). Range: 300 km (187 miles)

References Available

Reference	Source/Provider
Colonel Oswaldo Marengo	Interview - Julio A. Montes

(MAN630L2AE) Mazinger Gun Truck

The MAN630 also entered service in 1956 as the standard 5-Ton truck of the German Army. Basically, an evolution of the MAN ML 4500A produced between 1940 and 1944. The vehicle was produced until 1972. The variant MAN630LE refers to that with single rear wheels.

There are only two Mazingers known to have been built on MAN630 truck chassis. One was a crowd control vehicle, housing a large liquid tank, and high-pressure hose. The vehicle was supplied to the National Police. Another Mazinger-MAN was supplied to the 5th Infantry Brigade in San Vicente. This one was a fire support variant, equipped with a M55A2 AAA gun system, two HK21 and a pair of 90mm M67 RCLs. The M55A1 was housed on a large turret that covered the gunner and the magazines. Entrance was through a rear door. The gunner was able to fire the three 20mm cannons, which were used to mark the target, and then fire the 90mm RCLs to complete destruction of the objective. The two HK-21 were mounted on the sides to protect the vehicle.

Specifications

Country of Origin/Used by:	Salvadoran Gun Truck/armored transport – Mazinger military German truck chassis MAN630L2AE 5-Ton
First Produced/Service Dates:	1979 – active between 1979 – 1992
Manufactured by:	Maestranza de la Fuerza Armada de El Salvador

	(FAES)
Crew:	Two – specialized vehicles
Armament:	One known variant serving with the 5 th Infantry Brigade San Vicente as fire support vehicle with a M55A2 AAA, and one riot police with the National Police in San Salvador
Engine:	MAN D 1246 MV3A 6-cylinder multi-fuel engine 130hp
Miscellaneous Info:	Standard 5-Ton military truck
Data Sheet Available:	<p>Length: 7.79 m (303 inches). Width: 2.45 m (95 inches). Height: 2.98 m (116 inches). Weight: 13.000 kg (28.600 lb.) without armor. Engine: MAN D 1246 MV3A 6-cylinder, 8.275 cm³ (505 cubic inches) displacement, liquid-cooled. Horsepower: 130 at 2.000 rpm. Transmission: 6-speed ZF, type AK 6-55 gearbox. Transfer case: 2-speed transfer-box. Electrical system: 24 volt, negative ground. Brakes: Air-over-mechanical. Tires: 11.00 - 20. Fuel type: Multifuel. Fuel capacity: 110 liter (24 gallons). Range: 440 km (275 miles). Crew: 1 + 1.</p>

References Available

Reference	Source/Provider
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(International Harvester, Ford and GM trucks) Mazinger Gun Truck

After the fleet of German military trucks dwindled, Maestranza turned to commercial sources to continue building The Mazingers. By 1979, a Mazinger had been completed for the National Guard based on a Harvester International 1600 loadmaster. The vehicle sported a gun turret equipped with a M55A2 AAA piece, with 180 ready-rounds. The large rear compartment allow up to 10 men to be carried. This vehicle had been dismantled by 1988. Other armored trucks were built using Ford F-700 and GM trucks. It is known that 14 Mazingers were built on Jupiter truck chassis, but the complete production of Mazingers is unknown.

Specifications

Country of Origin/Used by:	Salvadoran Gun Truck/armored transport – Mazinger Commercial US truck chassis - Ford F700, Harvester International and GM
First Produced/Service Dates:	1979-84 – active between 1979 – 1988
Manufactured by:	Maestranza de la Fuerza Armada de El Salvador (FAES)
Crew:	Two + Armored Transports
Armament:	One machine gun
Engine:	
Miscellaneous Info:	Commercial 5-Ton truck
Data Sheet Available:	

References Available

<u>Reference</u>	<u>Source/Provider</u>
Colonel Oswaldo Marengo	Interview - Julio A. Montes