

Type: Vehicle, Utility Nomenclature: **Gelandewagen, 0.4 Ton, 4x2, VW 181 Kurier**

Country: West Germany Date of Introduction: 1969

Physical Data:

Weight empty 1985 lb (900 kg)
Weight loaded 2955 lb (1340 kg)
Length (OA) 149 in (3780 mm)
Width (OA) 64.5 in (1640 mm)
Height (OA) 64 in (1620 mm)
Grd clearance 8 in (203 mm)
Wheel base 94.5 in (2400 mm)
Wheel tread Front 52 in (1324 mm)
Rear 56 in (1416 mm)

Drive 4x2
Armor n/a
NBC protection Individual

Armament:

Main – Cal LMG
Elev & traverse Manual
Fire control Optical
Aux wpns Crew side arms

Capacity:

Fuel Gas 10.5 gals (40 liters)
Ammo/Qty unk
Crew/Pass 2/2
Cargo Vol/Wgt 10.7 cu ft (.3 cuM)

Engine:

Type Gas
HP at Rev/Min 46 hp (34 kW)
Model VW 1500
Mfr VW
No. of Cyls 4
Location Rear
Cooling Air

Transmission:

Type Manual
Gear Fwd/Rev 4/1
Model unk
Mfr VW

Suspension System:

Type Torsion bar
Steering Front axle
Turning radius 18 ft (5.6 m)
No/wheels 4
Tire Size 6.50x15

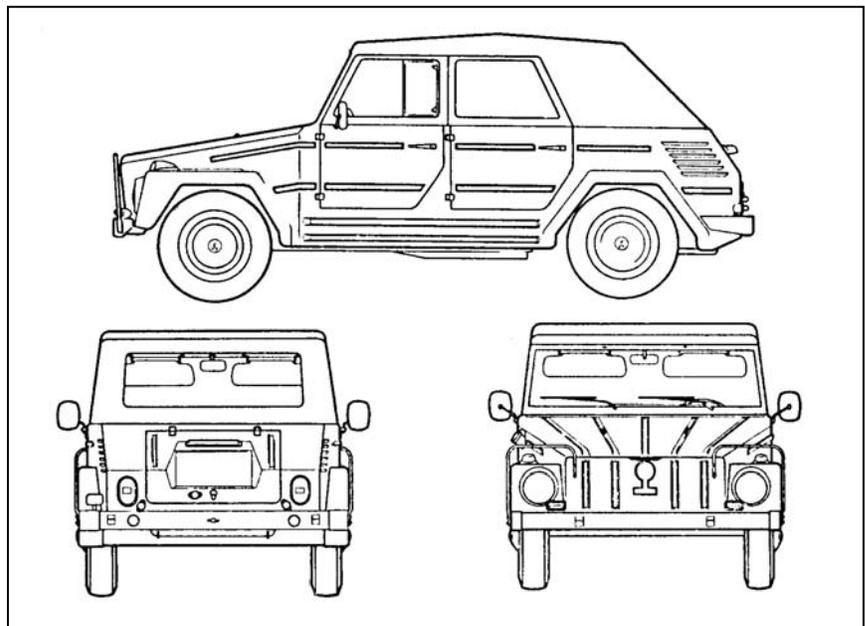
General Data:

Elec voltage 12V
Radio As fitted by user including 24V generator

Night Vision: as fitted by user

Performance:

Speed/Land 62 mph (100 km/h)
Speed/Water n/a
Range 217 mi (350 km)
Fording depth unk
Max grade 55%
Trench unk
Step unk



Remarks: In the 1960's, West Germany, France and Italy were waiting for the development of a tri-service vehicle to replace their aging 0.25-ton utility vehicles. When it became evident that development was going to take longer than expected, the Bundeswehr put forward a requirement for an interim vehicle. Volkswagen put forward the Type 181 and from 1969 to 1972 built over 16,000 vehicles for the West German requirements. While further production started in Mexico from 1973 to 1980. In total over 70,000 vehicles were completed by all sources. The last remaining vehicles were still found in service until at least the late 1990's.

Above: Three view of a standard early production Type 181. Top: Type 181 with soft-top and brush guards. (Photos: Author's collection)

Usage: Used by Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France (units in W Germany), West Germany (approx 16,000), Greece (including Greek Navy), Indonesia (assembled from kits), Mexico (built in Mexico), Morocco, The Netherlands (Air Force), and Turkey.

Manufacturer: Volkswagen-Germany and Volkswagen-Mexico.