

# MEMORABILIA LANE

By Peter Elias

## Audi – the Models, part II



8 C Sonderkarosserien  
Audi 5000 Picasso



Baujahr	1986
Hubraum (ccm)	2.226
Liter (l)	2,2
Zylinder	5
Leistung (PS)	115
Beschleunigung 0 auf 100 (Sek.)	13,7
Höchstgeschwindigkeit (km/h)	183
Verbrauch (l/100 km)	10,9
Drehzahl (U/min)	5.500

PICTURED FROM TOP TO BOTTOM ↗  
Sport Quattro rally car, red Audi Quattro radio controlled car, silver RB radio controlled car, Audi 5000 stretch limo card.

IN THE LAST ISSUE I SPOKE about the various Audi models (ones smaller than full size!) that one can collect. There are of larger scale models which are generally the 1/18 scale size die-cast. As with the smaller 1/36 or 1/24 models in the USA, the representation of Audi models are minimal.

For displaying on a desk or shelf, models in the 1/36 to 1/48 (or smaller size) are usually best, as they are not too large (5-8 inches), such as the Audi Sport quattro model (Walter Röhrl edition) illustrated nearby. Due to some of the smaller attached parts (such as mirrors) which can easily break off when handled, it is best to keep these type of models attached on their plastic display cases with the clear cover (it also prevents dust build-up).

Needless to say that these are not "toys" for children to play with, rather display items and collectibles. In my case, having over 100 various Audi-related models means keeping them locked away in a closet for now. In the hands of the average 10-year old, they wouldn't last long. Much as I'd love to admire my collection more often, there's no easy way to do so right now. I'd have to get one of those all-glass display cases with many shelves and with a lock!

But even displaying the collection poses a slight problem. The best way to fully appreciate the models, is to see all of them, without any of the packaging. From a collector stand-point, value is lost though once an item is no longer mint in box (MIB). Unfortunately with many of the models, one has to destroy most of the packaging in order to get the model out.

While of course almost all models have wheels that turn, and in some cases front wheels that actually steer, to some people, nothing is better than a model car that can be driven! There is a fairly large radio controlled (RC) car hobby out there, but as usual, Audi models are few and far between.

Back in 1985, Radio Shack sold a large 1/10 scale Audi quattro (see photo; also shown is a tiny 1/96 HO-scale plastic Audi quattro for size comparison). This was a fairly massive RC car, measuring 16" long and weighing a hefty 44 ounces, without the ten required AA batteries!

The picture shows this to be a red car, but it was originally silver and had lots of decals. Being much younger back then, I repainted the car and got rid of most of the decals except the four rings, in light of the fact that I owned a red Audi Coupe GT at the time. And this was actually used as a toy; there's lots of scuffing on the bumper protectors, the paint is getting scratched and the mirrors are unfortunately missing. It is still a neat model, and not seen often. Although, as I'm writing this article, I saw one for sale on eBay (the original silver version of the car with all the decals, unfortunately also missing the mirrors, but supposedly functional), so I quickly snapped it up!

Contrast this with today, where the most common RC model available here is usually an Audi R8, such as the one Chinese made "New Bright" one shown in the picture nearby. Unlike the Radio Shack model, this one is a relative lightweight! It is 12" long and weighs in (without the four required AA batteries) at only 10.5 ounces. But since the plastic on this model is so light and thin, I don't think it can stand up to much abuse!

And speaking of Audi models, I recently bought a deck of "Quartett" cards featuring various Audi vehicles from private collections, most interestingly the one with an Audi 5000 stretch limo (see scan). What does this have to do with Audi models? The card deck was issued by "Thomas Höing", a private car museum in Stadlohn, Germany, that specializes in Audi vehicles/ historical documentation of Audi models, and siku (German model car manufacturer) models from 1951 onwards. Check website: <http://oldtimermuseum-hoeing.de/>.

So if you are into collecting any sort of Audi-related memorabilia, there is a lot of stuff out there (let google be your friend), unfortunately a lot of it is not in the USA. One of these days, time & money permitting, I'd love to do an "Audi" vacation in Europe to check out places such as the Thomas Höing museum! In the meantime, I'll just have to settle for a deck of cards and internet surfing.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at [peter@pce-lias.com](mailto:peter@pce-lias.com). 