

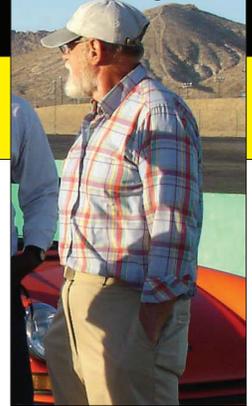
# Book Reviews for Porschephiles

by Bruce Herrington, Orange Coast Region

## PORSCHE Boxster: The 986 Series 1996-2004

by Brian Long, published by Veloce Publishing

Bruce Herrington



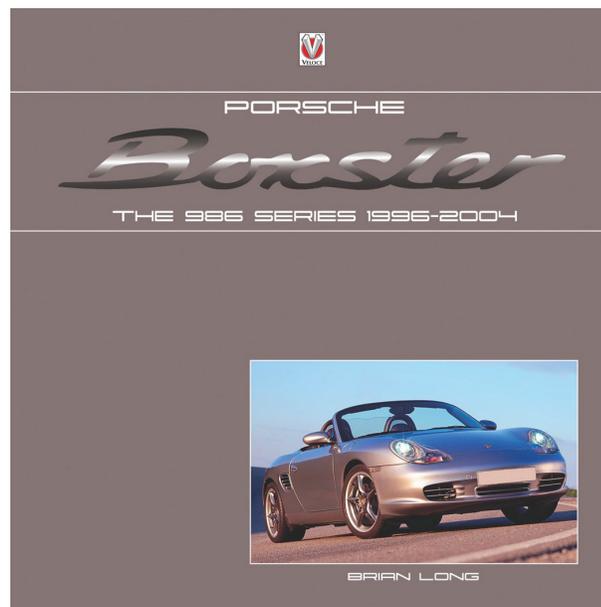
Like all Brian Long books, this is complete and very detailed, but without the quotes from factory personnel used by Leffingwell and Ludvigsen.

The book begins with a detailed discussion of the genesis of the 1993 Detroit Show Boxster prototype design, including Porsche's envy of Mazda Miata sales success and the influence of the sales of the 1993 964 Speedster. Some 550-RSK ambiance features that never made it to the 986 production design are also mentioned. There is also commentary about the importance of designing the Boxster to be *fun to drive*, promoted at the Paris presentation as *reawakening the passion of driving*, a concept which Porsche seemed to abandon with its recent announcement of an era of automatic-only cars. The Boxster design process, as described, reeks of paralysis-by-analysis, with 4 separate design programs reaching the full-scale mockup stage, only to have the front end of the production car be ported over from the 996 Coupe to save production costs.

PORSCHE Boxster is very well illustrated. If you like to look at pictures of Boxsters, their components and cutaway drawings, this book is for you. Individual year versions are described in great detail, as are various options. Historic black and white pictures of the early antecedents of the Boxster are included. A unique touch in this Porsche book is the inclusion of pictures of events in Japan and of Japanese advertising materials. Also included is discussion of, and quotes from, comparison tests made over the model years by various (mostly US) automotive magazines.

There are five chapters, beginning with "The Boxster Concept" and ending with "Face-lift and Finale". There is a one page, four-column index, which seems rather cursory compared to the immense amount of detail in the text, but it does list references to six individual members of the Porsche family. Possible skimpiness of the index is compensated for

by the roster of Appendices: 1) Concise Buyer's Guide, 2) Year by Year Range Details, 3) Engine Specifications (by type code), 4) Chassis Numbers, 5) Sales and Production Figures.



Any owner of a Boxster of this era would be fascinated to find exactly how uniquely the features of his/her car differ from others in the series. Even the various wheel shapes and sizes available each year are discussed and/or illustrated. Detail is so specific that changes in window washer nozzles and seat backrest release button profiles are mentioned. Hidden changes in engine and transmission internals, and suspension components/configurations/specifications are described.

Photos are included to illustrate differences in appearance options. These Boxsters came with so many individual options and option packages, that trying to establish what is standard for any given year is virtually impossible. Only by studying this book can the owner of a 1996-2004 Boxster know exactly what he/she has, and how it differs from earlier and later cars, or differently configured contemporaries.

The owner of a Boxster of any vintage will find the discussion of the development and evolution of the initial Boxster concept to provide extensive fodder for trivia discussions, and useful insight into the character of all production Boxsters into the modern day.

PORSCHE Boxster is hardcover, with 160, 10 x 10 inch pages and 200 color photos. It should now be available for \$55 from your favorite bookseller (ask for it) or from Motorbooks.com (which will bring up a "Quattro" page reflecting the new umbrella corporation).