# **Vehicle Operation**



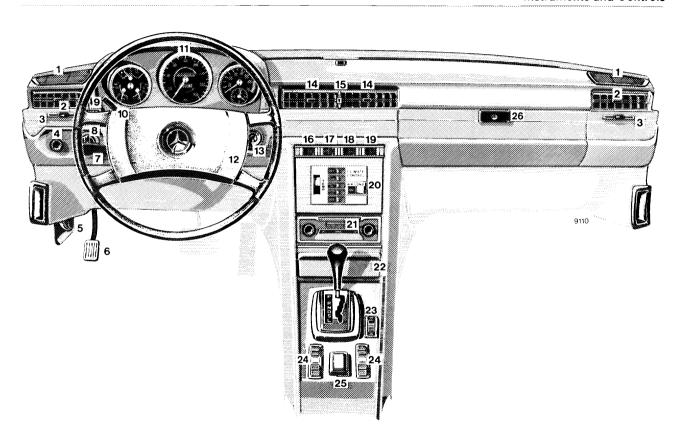
#### Instruments and Controls

For more detailed descriptions see quoted pages.

- 1 Speaker grilles
- 2 Adjustable louvers for side ventilation (page 21)
- 3 Control lever for side ventilation (page 21)
- 4 Parking brake release knob (page 34)
- 5 Handle to disengage hood lock (page 34)
- 6 Parking brake pedal (page 34)
- 7 Combination switch (page 19)
- 8 Light switch (page 18)
- 9 Instruction tag (except tourist vehicle). Use only unleaded gasoline
- 10 Cruise control (page 20)
- 11 Instrument cluster (page 10)
- 12 Horn control
- 13 Steering lock with ignition/starter switch (page 18)
- 14 Adjustable louvers for cooled air (page 21)
- 15 Control lever for cooled air (page 21)

- 16 Switch for rear passenger compartment light
- 17 Switch for automatic antenna (page 30)
- 18 Switch for heated rear window (page 27)
- 19 Switch for electric sliding roof (page 27)
- 20 Automatic climate control (page 21)
- 21 Radio (page 28)
- 22 Ash tray with lighter (page 27, 54)
- 23 Loudspeaker fader control (page 29)
- 24 Switch group for window lifters (page 26)
- 25 Hazard warning flasher switch Push switch = hazard warning flasher system switched on Push switch once more = hazard warning flasher system switched off
- 26 Glove compartment (to open, shift handle sideways). Only illuminated if steering lock is in position "2".

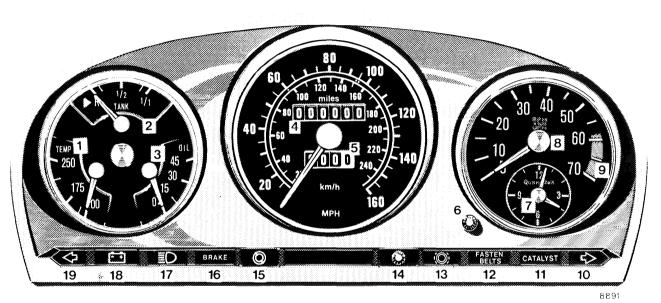
# Instruments and Controls

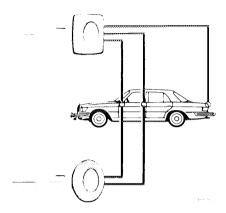


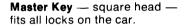
#### Instrument Cluster

- 1 Coolant temperature gauge (° F) Up to red marking: Maximum permissible temperature for an antifreeze-blended fill protecting down to -22° F (-30° C)
- 2 Fuel gauge with reserve warning light (amber) Fuel reserve for approx. 30 miles (45—50 km) For capacity, refer to page 78 and last page.
- 3 Oil pressure gauge
- 4 Main odometer
- 5 Trip odometer
- 6 Knob for clock adjustment (press in for adjustments)
- 7 Electric clock
- 8 Tachometer
- 9 Red mark on tachometer: Maximum permissible engine revolutions, do not exceed a maximum of 6,500 rpm (280 SE) or 5,800 rpm (450 SEL).
- 10 Turn signal indicator light, right (green)

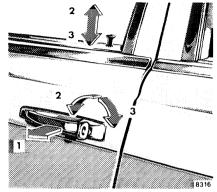
- 11 Catalyst replacement indicator light (red) (only California vehicles of type 280 SE). When the indicator light comes on, the catalyst must be replaced
- 12 Seat belt warning light (red)
- 13 Brake pad wear indicator light (red): Light comes on while braking and driving if the front wheel brake pads are worn down, refer to page 42
- 14 Dimmer knob for instrument lighting, continuous adjustment
- 15 Reset knob for trip odometer (push button)
- 16 Brake warning light (red) comes on if
  - the parking brake is engaged
  - too little brake fluid is in the reservoir
- 17 High beam indicator light (blue)
- 18 Charge indicator light (red): Comes on when the steering lock key is moved to driving position "2" and must go out when the engine is idling
- 19 Turn signal indicator light, left (green)







Supplementary Key — rounded head — fits only the door locks and the steering lock. This key is intended to be used whenever the car is left with an attendant. Be sure to lock glove compartment and trunk with the master key.



# **Opening the Doors**

From outside: pull handle outwards (1).
From inside: pull handle in door trim panel.

# **Locking and Unlocking of Doors**

From the outside: turn key. From the inside: actuate plunger.

- 2 Unlocking
- 3 Locking

When the rear door plunger's are pushed down the rear doors cannot be opened from the outside or the inside. They can be opened after pulling plungers up.

#### One cannot lock:

- the driver's door if it is open.
- any door if the door lock has not engaged fully. In this case open the door and close it again.

# **Master Lock System**

The master lock system simultaneously locks or unlocks together with the driver's door all other doors, fuel tank filler flap and trunk lid. As the driver's door plunger is moved, the plungers of all other doors must move at the same time. If this is not the case, the lock of the corresponding door has not engaged fully. Open the door once more and close it correctly.

When the master lock system has been applied, the lock plungers of the front passenger door and the rear doors can also be operated manually from indside. In addition to this, the front passenger door can be locked or unlocked by means of the key.

The master lock system can only be applied by depressing the plunger on the driver's door. Lock plungers of the other doors cannot be depressed individually.

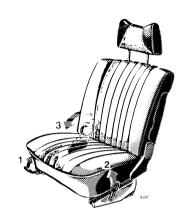
The trunk lid can also be unlocked separately by turning master key counterclockwise to the stop. Push the trunk lock button in with it and lift the lid. Return the key to its initial position and withdrawit. Tolock thelid, close it firmly. It will then be locked again by the master lock system.

A provision has been made to facilitate permanent locking of the trunk lid for positive prevention of access to trunk by unauthorized persons. Before leaving vehicle with an attendant, lock trunk with master key (square head) by turning key clockwise to stop (tumbler slot vertical), then provide attendant with roundheaded supplementary key. Thus, the trunk lock has been excluded from the operation of the master lock systemand cannot be opened except with the square-headed master key.

To reverse this, turn trunk lock counterclockwise back to horizontal position of the tumbler slot with masterkey. Lock will then be reengaged in master lock system; that is, it will automatically be locked or unlocked depending on whether the driver's door is locked or unlocked.

The master lock system operates on vacuum generated by the engine. A reservoir allows the master lock system to be actuated about five times after the engine is turned off. If the system can then no longer be engaged idle engine for a short period. If no vacuum is available, doors and trunk have to be locked individually in the normal manner. The fuel tank filler flap, however, remains unlocked. Note:

If the filler flap cannot be opened when the master lock system is unlocked, refer to "Unlocking of the Filler Flap" (page 66).



# Adjustment of Driver's Seat and Front Passenger Seat

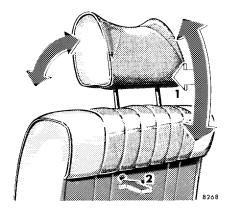
Forward and backward adjustment: lift handle (1); slide seat to desired position and allow handle to reengage. Height of seat: raise lever (2); to raise seat, move seat forward; to lower seat, move seat backward; allow lever to reengage.

Seat back position: turn handwheel (3) forward or backward. For full reclining of backrest, seat should be moved to one of the forwardmost positions and headrest removed. For driving, return backrest to upright position and push seat back. Replace headrest.

#### Note:

Prior to operating the vehicle, the driver should adjust the seat height for proper vision as well as fore-aft placement and seat back angle to insure adequate control, reach, operation, and comfort. The headrest should also be adjusted for proper height so that when the cushion is tipped completely forward, it should form a cradle behind the seat occupant's head. Both the inside and outside rear view mirrors should then be adjusted for adequate rearward vision. Fasten seat belts. Children under the age of six or under the weight of 50 lbs. (23 kg) should be seated in the back seat with an approved restraint system properly secured.

All seat, headrest, and rear view mirroradjustments as well as fastening of seat belts should be accomplished before the vehicle is put into motion.





Adjust headrest to support the back of the head at the level of the upper end of the ear.

Height adjustment:

Press headrest slightly forward (1) and reset upward or downward.

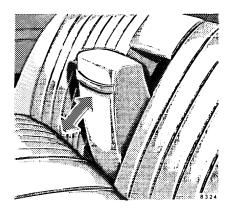
Detaching headrests:

Pull headrest out to the stop. Release arrester by depressing locking knob to be felt under the backrest covering

material and pull up headrest, holding it by the LH headrest post (viewed in driving direction). Finally pull out headrest completely with both hands.

The headrest locking knob of the front seat is located below the LH headrest post (2).

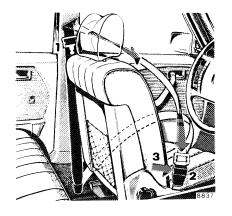
The headrest locking knob of the rear seat is located between the two headrest posts.



Arm Rest (Rear Seat)

A center arm rest is provided in the rear seat which can be pulled out with a loop.

For the removal of the rear seat cushion see "Practical Hints".





Warning system:

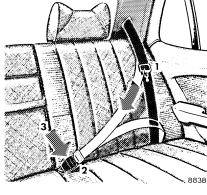
The indicator marked "FASTEN SEAT BELTS" is illuminated for 4—8 seconds after turning the steering lock key to position "2". If the safety belt of the driver's seat is not fastened a warning buzzer sounds simultaneously.

Fastening of front and rear outer seat belts (with inertia reel):

- Pull belt with tongue (1) across shoulder and lap. The belt must not be twisted and must be tight.
- Press tongue (1) into buckle (2) and allow to engage audibly.

Unfastening, front and rear:

- Depress red button "PRESS" (3) in buckle (2).
- Return tongue (1) to initial position.



Fastening of rear center belt (without inertia reel):

- Pull belt across the lap. It must not be twisted and must be tight.
- Press tongue into buckle and allow to engage audibly.

Adjustment of rear center seat belt:

To lengthen, turn belt buckle (on LH side of belt) to be at right angles to the belt and pull the tongue. To shorten, pull loose end of belt.

Operation of belts with inertia reel: The safety belt inertia reel stops the belt from unwinding further in case of vehicle deceleration in any direction or if the belt is pulled out quickly.

#### Functional test:

The locking function of the inertia reel can be tested by braking, driving around a bend or by pulling the belt out quickly.

#### Note:

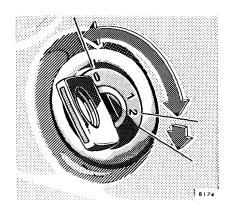
No safety belt can be used for more than one person. Belts are not intended for children.

After an accident, inspect the safety belts and replace them, if required. The belt anchors in the vehicle should also be checked.

Belt webbing must not be routed via sharp edges.

No modifications which may affect the efficiency of the belts must be made. For cleaning and care of belt webbing, refer to page 51.





# Steering Lock

**0** Off position: When the key is withdrawn the steering is locked. To unlock the steering, the key must be turned to position "1". The lights can be switched on. The key can be removed only in this position.

#### Note:

Do not remove key from steering lock while the vehicle is in motion as this will cause the engagement of the steering lock thus rendering the vehicle inoperable. 2 Driving: The steering is unlocked. (When turning the key clockwise to position"2", slightly movethesteering wheel, if required.) The red charging control light comes on.

Power supply to standing lights is cut off.

#### Starting position:

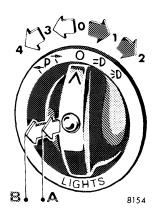
Turn key clockwise to the stop. The starter is engaged as long as the key is held up to the stop. Due to the starter non-repeat unit, the key must be returned to position "0" before making another starting attempt.

With the key in position "1", the steering is unlocked. The radio can be switched on.

A warning buzzer sounds when the key has been left in steering lock positions "1" or "0" and the driver's door is opened.

# **Light Switch**

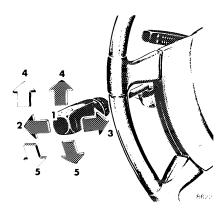
- 0 Off-position
- Parking lights (includes side marker lights, tail lights, license plate lights, instrument panel lights)



- 2 Same as pos. 1 plus headlights
- 3 Standing lights, right
- 4 Standing lights, left
- A Turn to position 2 and pull out to first detent = same as position 2 plus fog lights
- B Available for an option

#### Note:

With the steering lock key removed and the driver's door open a signal soundsifthevehicle's exterior lighting is not switched off (standing lights excepted).





#### **Combination Switch**

- 1 Low beam (turn light switch clockwise two notches)
- 2 High beam (turn light switch clockwise two notches)
- 3 Headlight flasher (high beam available independent of light switch position)
- 4 Turn signals, right
- 5 Turn signals, left

To operate the turn signals, move the combination switch past the point of resistance (up or down). The switch is automatically cancelled when the steering wheel is turned by a large enough angle.

To signal minor directional changes of the vehicle, such as changing lanes on a highway, move combination switch to the point of resistance only and hold it there.

6 Control for windshield washer system

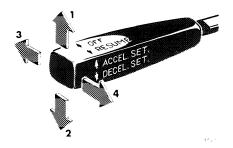
When the washer system is switched on, the wipers also operate

- 7 Windshield wiper control
  - Windshield wiper switched off
  - I Intermittent wiping
  - II Normal wiper speed
  - III High wiper speed

#### Hints:

If one of the turn signals fails, the turn signal indicator system flashes and sounds at a faster sequence than under normal operating conditions. Fog lights will only operate together with low beam headlights. Fog lights are turned off automatically when light switch is returned to off-position.

#### Controls



# **Cruise Control**

Any given speed above a range of approximately 10—25 mph (16—40 km/h), depending on model, can be maintained with the cruise control by operating the switch.

- 1 = Setting (touch switch) Accelerating (hold switch)
- 2 = Setting (touch switch) Decelerating (hold switch)

Normally the vehicle is accelerated to the desired speed with the

accelerator. Speed is set by briefly pushing the switch to position "1" or "2", and the accelerator can be released. The speed can be increased (e. g. for passing) by using the accelerator. As soon as the accelerator is released, the previously set speed will be resumed automatically.

If the set speed is to be increased or decreased slightly (e.g. for adaptation to the flow of traffic), hold switch in position "1" or "2" until the desired speed is reached. When the switch is released, the newly se speed remains constant.

3 = Cancelling

To cancel the cruise control, briefly push lever to position "3".

The cruise control will also be cancelled if the brake pedal is actuated or if the vehicle speed drops on steep grades by more than 20 % below the set speed.

#### 4 = Resume

If the lever is briefly pushed to position "4" when driving at a speed exceeding approximately 10—25 mph (16—40 km/h), depending on model, that speed is resumed which was set prior to the cancellation of the cruise control. The last memorized speed is cancelled when the key in the steering lock is turned to position "1" or "0".

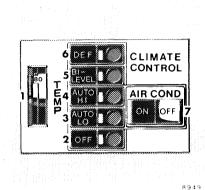
# Important:

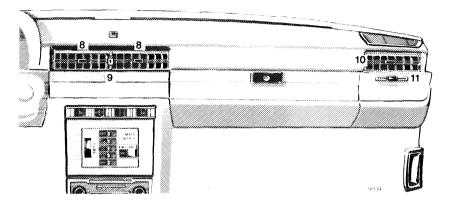
Please do not use the cruise control if traffic conditions do not make it advisable to maintain a steady speed, i.e. in heavy traffic or on twisting or slick and muddy roads.

Position"Resume"should beengaged only if the driver is fully aware of the previously set speed and wishes to resume this particular preset speed.

When driving with the cruise control, the selector lever must not be shifted to position "N" as otherwise the engine will overrev.

#### **Automatic Climate Control**





- 1 Temperature selector wheel
- 2 "OFF" button
- 3 "AUTO-LO" button
- 4 "AUTO-HI" button
- 5 "BI-LEVEL" button

- 6 "DEF" button
- 7 Refrigerant compressor switch
- 8 Adjustable louvers for cooled air
- 9 Lever for cooled air open = lever up closed = lever down

- 10 Adjustable louvers for side ventilation
- 11 Lever for side ventilation open = towards center of vehicle closed = towards outside of vehicle

The automatic climate control is designed to maintain the desired temperature in the vehicle interior. Heating, cooling and air distribution (top, center, bottom) are controlled automatically. The blower speeds will be varied automatically depending on the push button setting, operating and temperature conditions.

The automatic climate control is operational only if the engine is running. For adaptation to the weather conditions various functions can be selected with the pushbuttons. Air outlets 8—9 must then be adjusted as required. Buttons 2—6 can be pressed only individually. The indicator lights in the individual buttons come on if the buttons are pressed and the vehicle lighting is switched on.

1 Temperature selector wheel
The desired temperature in the
vehicle interior can be set with
the selector wheel. Normally only
one adjustment is necessary for
the entire year. If required to be

altered, only slight adjustments should be made to this temperature setting.

 "OFF" button: Switching off the automatic climate control.

Simultaneously the fresh air supply to the vehicle interior is cut off. This position can be briefly selected in the case of odorous or dust annoyances or when passing through an automatic car wash.

3 "AUTO-LO" button: Normal vehicle operation.

This setting will provide heating or cooling of the vehicle's interior depending on the selector wheel setting and the outside temperature. If heating is required, the freshair supply and the blower will remain in the off position until the engine cooling water is slightly warmed up. Only then will warm air enter the interior of the vehicle and be distributed mainly to the

footwell outlets. A small amount of air is directed to the windshield to ensure defogging under normal weather conditions. For the defogging of the side windows, air can be diverted to the side outlets 10 depending on the position of levers 11. Center outlets 8 remains closed during heating, regardless of the position of lever 9.

If cooling of the interior is required. the blower will start immediately regardless of engine temperature. The air is routed into the vehicle interior via center outlets 8 and side outlets 10. The air volume can be controlled as required by means of levers 9 and 11. No air is allowed to flow to the windshield and to the footwell. The blower speed will be automatically reduced in several steps in the heating or cooling cycle as the interior temperature approaches the preselected temperature on the temperature wheel 1.

- 4 "AUTO-HI" button: Fast heating or cooling of vehicle interior.
  - Air conditioning, air distribution and blower control are the same as in position "3" "AUTO-LO". The blower, however, operates at a higher speed.
- 5 "BI-LEVEL" button:
  For fogged-up windows.
  During heating and cooling operations air is channelled to the windshield and to the footwell.
  During the cooling operation air also enters via the center outlets 8.
  The air volume can be controlled as required by means of lever 9.
  The vehicle interior is cooled practically free of draft with more air being blown into the footwell. The

- blower then operates at a higher speed than "AUTO-LO".
- We recommend this position at low ambient temperatures.
- 5 "DEF" button: For iced-up windows. Independent of the position of the temperature selector wheel air heated to maximum temperature is channelled to the windshield. For the side windows, open out-

lets 9.

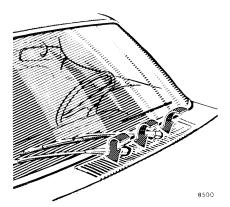
 Refrigerant compressor switch: Switching the air conditioning compressor on and off.
 The compressor can be switched off completely in the positions "AUTO-LO" and "AUTO-HI", e. g. if no cooling is required be-

- cause of low ambient temperatures (fuel economy).
- Fresh air is supplied to the footwell if the refrigerant compressor is switched off while the system is working in the cooling mode.

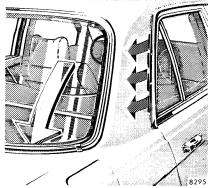
# Important!

In order to keep the air conditioning section of the climate control system in good working condition at all times, it is necessary to operate the A/C compressor briefly at least once a month even during the seasons it is normally not required. Switch compressor switch to "ON" and depress "AUTO-LO" or "AUTO-HI" button. Make sure that the ambient temperature is above 36° F (2° C) since the A/C compressor will not operate below this temperature.

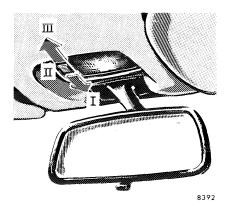
# **Automatic Climate Control**

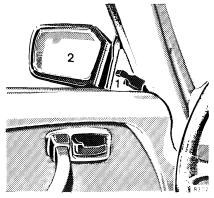


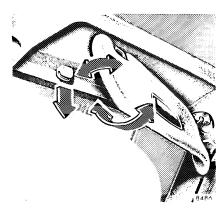
Fresh air enters the vehicle through an opening in front of the windshield (keep free of snow) and is emitted through ventilation ports below the



rear window if the windows are closed. Do not cover up the ventilation ports with clothes.







# **Interior Lights**

The switch for the front light has 3 positions.

Position I: light is switched on and off by the front door contact switches (450 SEL: driver's door with delay switch).

Position II: light is continuously switched off.

Position III: light is continuously switched on.

The rear courtesy light is switched on and off by the rear door contact switches or by the rocker switch on the instrument panel. The reading lights in the rear passenger compartment are switched on and off by means of a switch in each light.

#### Rear View Mirrors

Outside rear view mirror: Outside rear view mirror (2) can be randomly adjusted from inside by means of lever (1). If the mirror housing has been forciply removed from its safety catch, it must be repositioned by applying firm pressure.

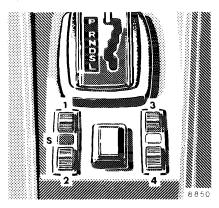
Inside rear view mirror: Mirror housing can be randomly adjusted.

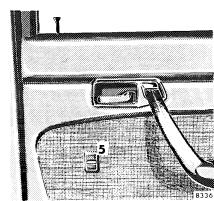
In addition mirror can be dimmed by means of lever on lower mirror edge. Lever in opposite driving direction = normal position. Lever in driving direction = anti-dazzle position.

#### Sun Visor

To protect against sunlight from ahead, fold the sun visor downwards.

In the event of strong sunlight through the side windows, remove the sun visor from its inner fixture and swing it sideways.





# **Electric Window Lifters**

Switch group for window lifters:

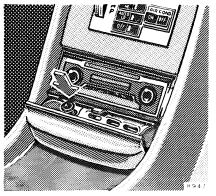
- 1 front, left
- 2 rear, left
- 3 front, right
- 4 rear, right
- S Safety switch

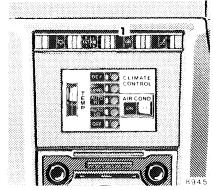
The electric window lifters can only be operated with the steering lock in position "2". All four windows can then be operated using the switches in the center console. The rear door windows can also be operated using the switches (5) in each rear door panel as long as the safety switch "S" in the center console is depressed. If the

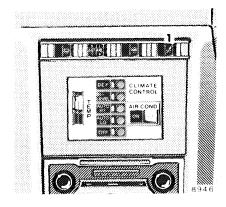
safety switch is not depressed, inadvertent operation of the rear door windows (for instance, by children) is prevented.

The front door windows move slower than the rear door windows.

When the ignition switch is turned off, the windows cannot be operated.







# Lighter

Turn key in steering lock to position "2". Push the lighter in to heat it. It will pop out as soon as the filament glows.

#### Shelf below Rear Window

Do not carry heavy or hard objects on the shelf below the rear window. Such items could become dislodged during hard braking or upon a vehicle crash causing distraction or serious injury to the vehicle occupants.

#### **Heated Rear Window**

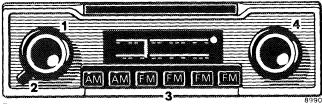
Turn key in steering lock to position "2". When the rear window heater is turned on, the white indicator light in the switch (1) comes on.

A heavy load is imposed on the battery due to the high power requirement. For this reason, switch off the heated rear window as soon as it is demisted or defrosted. It is shut off automatically after a maximum of 30 minutes. Always remove heavy layers of ice and snow first.

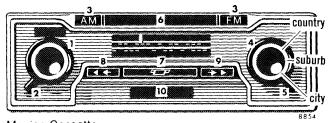
# **Sliding Roof**

Turn key in steering lock to position "2". Push the switch (1) at the right (symbol) = Opening
Push at the left = Closing
If the electric drive fails, the sliding roof can also be moved by hand.
Rever to "Sliding Roof-Emergency Operation".

#### Radio



Europa (Radio with Pushbutton Tuning)



Mexico Cassette (Radio with Automatic Signal Seeker and built-in Cassette Player)

- 1 On-Off/Volume Control
- 2 Tone Control
- 3 Push buttons for band selection and tuning of preset stations (band selection only on radios with built-in cassette player)
- 4 Manual tuning control
- 5 Search sensitivity switch
- 6 Automatic tuning bar (Mexico models only)
- 7 Cassette release
- 8 Fast forward
- 9 Fast rewind
- 10 Cassette slot

For control location, refer to the illustration on the type of radio installed in your MERCEDES-BENZ. The radio can only be operated with the ignition key in the number "1" or "2" position.

#### On-Off/Volume

Turn knob (1) clockwise to switch radio on and to increase volume. Green control light on the dial will light up.

#### Tone

Turn lever (2) clockwise to increase treble range and counterclockwise to increase bass range.

# Front-Rear Speaker Balance

This control is installed whenever the vehicle is equipped with rear speakers. Turn rearward to increase volume of rear speakers and forward to increase volume of front speakers.

# Station Tuning

First, select desired band by pressing one of the AM or FM station buttons (3), then tune manually by turning control knob (4). For good reception, accurate manual tuning is important.

To preset stations on pushbutton tuning radios in either the AM or FM band, pull station buttons (3), carefully tune in the desired station, push button slowly and firmly all the way in, then release.

Automatic station tuning (on signal seeking radios only) is accomplished by momentarily depressing the "Automatic Tuning" bar (6). The tuner moves from the left towards the right side of the dial and stops whenever a useable station is found.

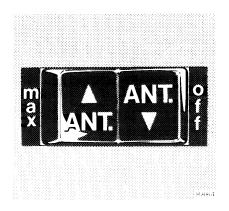
Operating the automatic tuning bar again causes the tuner to resume its search function. When the end of the band is reached, the tuner will automatically return to the beginning of the band and start the search operation again.

The position of the search sensitivity switch (5) determines whether the tuner will stop at many or the most powerful stations only.

Position I	Selector stops at every
"country"	useable station
Position II	Selector stops only at
"suburb"	more powerful stations
Position III	Selector stops only at

the strongest stations

"city"



#### Automatic Antenna

The antenna switch can be actuated with the radio switched on and the key in steering lock positions "1" or "2".

- If the antenna switch is in center position, the antenna extends automatically to a specific height,
- if the antenna switch is engaged in the "max" position, the antenna extends fully.
- if the antenna switch is engaged in the "off" position, the antenna will

not extend or will retract completely.

The height of the antenna can furthermore be adjusted continuously by actuating the antenna switch:

- If the antenna switch is in center position, the antenna will extend to the specific height. The antenna can be further extended or retracted to any height by rocking the switch (not engaging it).
- If the antenna is to be retracted, e. g. for playing cassettes, engage switch in "off" position.

When the key is turned to steering lock position "0" or the radio is turned off, the antenna will retract completely.

#### FM Reception

FM signals travel in a "line-of-sight". Reflections or "dead spots" may cause cancellations or loss of the signal as well as strong signal overloading or capture.

Lowering the antenna height in strong signal areas may eliminate many of the resulting problems and restore good tone quality. However, fringe

area reception requires the full antenna length to capture weak incoming signals. The antenna can be operated by depressing the respective side of the rocker switch.

# FM Stereo Reception

When tuned to a FM stereo station, the red Stereo Indicator Light will light up. Because more information is carried in the FM stereo signal than in FM monoraul broadcasts, flutter, cancellation and capture effects may be even more noticeable. The noisefree broadcast range, therefore, is somewhat less and accurate tuning to the strongest available stereo stations is required, especially for fringe area reception.

Your radio is equipped with a specially designed Stereo Decoder which automatically switches the radio from stereo to mono reception if the signal becomes too weak. However, the Stereo Indicator Light remains lit to avoid the distracting flicker at short-time signal changes. The radio will return to the stereo mode automatically when signal strength permits it.

Tape Playback (Mexico Cassette Model)

This type of radio provides for the playback of prerecorded stereo music through the unique combination of all the features of an automatic signalseeking stereo radio with a tape player.

To start playback, insert stereo cassette through the swing-away door of the cassette slot and depress until the mechanism engages. (Note: Full reel on the right tape side of cassette first.) The cassette will be automatically released when the tape reaches its end. To play the other side, remove the cassette from the radio, turn it upside down and reinsert through the slot. To manually eject the cassette, push the release bar (7). When the cassette is ejected, the unit will automatically switch to radio reception. For fast forward or rewind of the tape, depress button 8 or 9 past point of resistance. To stop tape winding, depress opposing button to point of resistance only.

Care of the Tape Player

Use only good quality cassettes with a maximum playing time of 45 minutes per side (C 90). "Unwound" tapes can be fixed by rewinding either reel with a pencil inserted in its hub. The pick-up head and roller should be cleaned occasionally to maintain the original high quality sound reproduction.

