

AUTOMOTIVE

Bentley commemorates 7 decades of R-Type Continental

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The R-Type Continental has inspired Bentley's design teams for decades. Image credit: Bentley

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

British automaker Bentley Motors is celebrating 70 years of its R-Type Continental, reinforcing its reputation for craftsmanship.

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One of the most cherished cars in the company's 103-year history, the vehicle has been lauded since the 1950s. The R-Type Continental is viewed in company history as a standard of excellence and a reflection of the brand's grand touring ethos.

Decades of prosperity

Only 208 R-Type Continentals were produced, reaching a top speed of 115 mph unusual for the era.

At the time of production, May 1952, the model was the fastest four-seat car in the world. It was also the most expensive, at 6,928 pounds or \$8,752.55 at current exchange, four times the price of a home in the United Kingdom in 1952.

The fast-paced feel and exterior design of the model inspired Bentley's first Continental GT in 2003, which then took the title of the fastest four-seat car in the world.

The R-Type Continental has inspired Bentley's design teams for decades.

The three modern generations of the Continental GT have an exterior design inspired by the R-Type Continental, a reflection of how far the R-Type's reach has spanned for years.

The Continental GT's haunch, sloping roofline and additional features to the ability to carry four adults with luggage at high speed for long distances all reflect R-Type inspirations.



Two Bentley legends. Image credit: Bentley

To commemorate the anniversary, Bentley released images of the GT Speed with the JAS 949, the R-Type Continental chassis BC16C.

Earlier this month, Bentley Motors reported continued record sales performance with reported revenue of 170 million euros, or \$179.1 million at current exchange rates, in the first quarter of 2022 ([see story](#)).

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