

BMW M1Group 4

IMSA GTO 1981

As racing regulations evolved in the mid seventies, BMW Motorsport saw an opportunity to beat arch-rival, Porsche, in a new racing series by designing and manufacturing a purpose-built racing car and offering it for sale to the public, as stipulated by the rules.

The BMW M1, designed by Giorgetto Giugiaro and powered by a Paul Rosche-designed 3.5-liter, twin-cam 6-cylinder engine, mounted amid-ships, debuted at the 1978 Paris Auto Show to the admiration of the world's motoring press. The only problem was that delays with outside contractors caused its appearance to coincide with the demise of the racing category for which it was built. The quick thinking solution was the fast and furious ProCar Series which preceded European Formula One races, pitting the top-five qualifying Grand Prix start against 15 talented local drivers in identically prepared M1's. The ProCar Series ran in 1979 and 1980 with championships by Niki Lauda and Nelson Piquet, respectively.

This M1 Group 4 racer was campaigned in the 1981 IMSA GTO Series, seeing action at the 24 Hours of Daytona, Watkins Glen and Mosport.

Drivers included David Hobbs, Mark Surer, and Dieter Quester. M1 ProCars are now prized collector items and can be seen on vintage race tracks around the world.

This car is owned by BMW of North America, LLC and is not for sale.

General Data

Weight	App. 2866 lbs
Wheelbase	100.8 ins
Length	175.7 ins
Width	71.8 ins

Engine

Engine type	6-cylinder
Valve linkage	DOHC 24-valve
Bore x stroke, mm	94 x 87
Power/hp	490 approx.

Drivetrain

Drive system	Mid engine/rear wheel drive
Transmission	ZF 5 - speed

Chassis

Front suspension	Double A-arms coil springs/gas shocks
Rear suspension	Double A-arms coil springs/gas shocks
Brake system	4-wheel ventilated discs
Tires	Front:23.5/10.5 x 16 Rear: 25.5/14.0 x 16

