



1/87 VEHICLE CLUB

German-English Dictionary for Modelers and Collectors

In an effort to assist both English and German language modelers, we have prepared this following list of typical words and phrases likely to be encountered on German language web sites:

Colors:

- Blau** – Blue
- Braun** – Brown
- Gelb** – Yellow
- Grün** – Green
- Hellelfenbein** - Light Ivory (traditional color for ambulances)
- Leuchtrot** - Fluorescent Red (Day-Glo Red)
- Leuchtorange** - Fluorescent Orange (Day-Glow Orange)
- Lila** - Purple (or heliotrope)
- Purpur** – Purple
- Rot** – Red
- Schwarz** – Black
- Violett** – Violet
- Weiß** - White (the "ß" is equivalent to "ss" in English)

Note: "Leuchtrot" and "leuchtorange" are commonly on modern German fire trucks and ambulances. Until recently, vehicles were painted in these colors, but the Germans are now switching to white vehicles with vinyl graphics in the fluorescent colors.

Note: "Hell" means "light" and "Dunkel" means "dark." "Hellblau" = "light blue" "Dunkelgrün" = "dark green"

Countries:

- Deutsche** – German
- Deutschland** – Germany
- Frankreich** – France
- Französische** – French
- Österreich** – Austria
- Schweiz** – Switzerland
- Vereinigte Staaten** - United States



Herpa 042604 - Sprinter RTW, leuchtrot

Organizations:

- ADAC** - German Auto Club
- AvD** - German Auto Club
- Berufsfirewehr** - Professional Fire Brigade (i.e., not volunteer)
- Bundesheer** - Austrian Army
- Bundeswehr** - German Federal Armed Forces. *The Bundeswehr is composed of the Das Heer (Army), Die Marine (Navy) and Die Luftwaffe (Air Force).*
- DRK** - German Red Cross
- Feldjäger** - German Army Military Police
- Feuerwehr** - Fire Brigade
- Freiwillige Feuerwehr** - Volunteer Fire Brigade
- Katastrophenschutz** - Disaster Control or Disaster Relief Service. *The THW is an example of a "Katastrophenschutz."*
- ÖRK** - Austrian Red Cross
- Polizei** – Police
- THW** - Technisches Hilfswerk. *This is Germany's quasi-military organization that combines the functions of the Army Corp of Engineers and Disaster Relief Agency.*

Fachdienste des Katastrophenschutzes -Special Disaster Services *This is a list of types of agencies, not specific departments or ministries.*

ABC-Dienst - literally "ABC Service"; Atomic, Biological and Chemical Emergency Service

Fernmeldedienst - Communications Service

Betreuungsdienst - Support Service

Sanitätsdienst - Medical Service

Brandschutzdienst - Fire Protection Service

Bergungsdienst - Salvage Service

Instandsetzungsdienst - Repair Service

Luftschutzhilfsdienst - Air Protection Emergency Service. *This is an obsolete service somewhat like the American Civil defense with responsibilities for air raids. Its functions were primarily associated with fire brigades.*

Nachkriegsorganisation der zivilen Verteidigung - Civil Defense

Bereitschaftspolizei - Auxiliary Police. *The Bereitschaftspolizei conducts training for most, if not all German police agencies. In addition, they are the national reserves to help with special situations, including localized emergencies, civil unrest, state visits and such. They are quite different from the Bundesgrenzschutz, or German Federal Police, who are a quasi-military organization somewhere between the National Guard and a state police force.*

IKRK (English: IFRC) Internationales Komitee vom Rotes Kreuz - International Red Cross (parent organization of all national Red Cross agencies).



Herpa 146937 - Mercedes Actros Pritschen-Lastzug mit Ladekran

General Vehicle Terms:

Achse - axle (singular), **Achsen** - Axles (plural)

Anhänger – Trailer

Auspuff or **Auspuffgase** – exhaust

Auspuffrohr – tailpipe

Beifahrer - Front-seat passenger

Cabrio or Cabriolet - Convertible.

"Geschlossen" means the model is supplied with the top up. "geöffnet" means "open" or the top is down.

Dachreling - Roof Rack or Roof Rails

Fahrgestell - Chassis

Fahrzeug – vehicle

Felgen - Wheels or Rims, as in "mag wheels"; **Felge** - wheel (singular)

Gabelstapler - Fork Lift

Getriebe – transmission

Inneneinrichtung - Interior (literally "inside mechanism")

Karosserie – Body

Kipper - Usually used in combination, but means dump body

Koffer - Box Van body or Box Trailer

Kofferraum - Trunk ("boot" in the UK)

Kraftstofftank - fuel tank

KTW (Krankentransportwagen) – ambulance

Kühlergrill - radiator grill

Kühlkoffer - Refrigerated Box Van or Trailer

LHF - (Löschhilfeleistungsfahrzeug) - Fire Rescue Truck

LKW - Lastkraftwagen - Truck (in any size)

Lastzug – Literally "Load Train." Full trailer combination, what we might call a double-bottom or truck and full trailer combo

Lenkrad - Steering wheel

Lieferwagen - Panel delivery truck

Limousine – Sedan

Motorhaube - Hood ("bonnet" in Merrie Olde England)

NAW (Notarztwagen) - emergency ambulance with emergency doctor on-board

NEF (Notarzteinsatzfahrzeug) - emergency doctor's car. *An NEF meets emergency ambulance on the scene.*

PKW - Passenger car

Pritschen - Flatbed Truck. *Most European flatbeds actually have sides, but the term is used nonetheless. Also used for flatbeds with canvas tops.*

Räder or Raeder - Generic term for wheels

Reifen – Tires



Busch 49951 - Felgen mit Weißwandreifen und Achsen

Rückleuchten - Tail Lights

RTW (Rettungstransportwagen) - emergency ambulance. *Similar to an American EMS ambulance.*

Sattelzug - Tractor with Semi-Trailer

Scheinwerfer - Headlight

Schlepper - Farm tractor

Sonnendach - Sunroof. *"Sonnenfaltdach" refers to a cloth or folding sun roof.*

Spiegel - Mirror

Stoßstange – bumper

Tieflader - Lowboy trailer for transporting equipment like bulldozers (Planierdrape),

wheel loaders (Radlader) or excavator (Raupenbagger).

Tür - Door (zweittürig = 2-door, viertürig = 4-door)

Turnier - Literally "tournament" but used for Station Wagon.

Variant - Means the same in English. Another term for Station Wagon.

Weißwandreifen - Whitewall Tires

Commercial Vehicle Terms:

Allradantrieb - all-wheel drive

Baustelle - construction site

Bruttogewicht - gross weight

Blattfederung - multi-leaf steel springs

Drehmoment – torque

Drucklufttank - air tank

Erntemaschine – harvester

Federung – suspension

Fernfahrer - long-haul truck driver

Fernfahrerlokal or **Servicestation** – truckstop

Fracht – freight

Frontlenker - C.O.E. (cab over engine)

Hauberfahrzeuge – conventionals

Kabine (Fahrerhaus) – cab

Kugellager - ball-bearing

Kupplung – clutch

Ladekran - Loading crane, like the truck-mounted Hiab



Busch 41850 - Ford E-350 Lieferwagen, Blau

Last(-kraft)wagen, Lieferwagen (pick-up and van) – truck

Lastwagenfahrer(in) - truck driver
Lastwagenfahrer – truckman
Luftfederung - air suspension
Marke – make
Motor – engine
Radstand – wheelbase
Rahmen– frame
Rahmenträger - frame rail
Sattelaufleger - semi-trailer; one that attaches with a fifth wheel
Spediteur or **Transportunternehmer** – carrier
Freiwillige Feuerwehr - Volunteer Fire Brigade
Straßenbaustelle - road work
Tieflader - lowboy trailer



Wiking 636 02 35 - Mercedes-Benz Atego Abschleppwagen mit Ladekran

Tonkombination - Literally "tone combination." Refers to the two-tone horn used instead of a rotating-blade or electronic siren

Turbolader – turbocharger
Transportunternehmer, Spedition - haulage contractor
Umbau – conversion
Verstärkung – reinforcement
Verteilergetriebe - transfer case
Warneinrichtung - Warning apparatus, like a light bar
Warnlicht - Warning Light
Wendekreisradius - turning radius
Zugmaschine or **Traktor** - Any truck tractor used for towing, like a Unimog or heavy-duty truck

Specialized Vehicles and Terms:

Abschleppwagen - Tow Truck
Avantgarde - Mercedes' highest trim level in a model
Bestattungswagen – Hearse
Betonmischer - Cement Mixer
Container – Container
DLK - Ladder Truck Body, usually for Fire Trucks
Gefangenentransporter - Paddy Wagon
Gerätewagen - Equipment Truck
KTW or **Krankenwagen** – Ambulance. *This is what we call a "transfer ambulance." It does not carry life support or rescue equipment and is not normally used for critically ill or injured patients.*
Krankentrage – Stretcher
Löschzug - Literally "extinguishing train." *This is the standard first response unit for a fire and depends on the emergency and the size of the responding department. It is usually two pumpers and a ladder truck.*
Mannschaftsbus - Crew Bus
Notarzt - Emergency Doctor. *A Notarzt is a physician trained in emergency care. What we would call an EMS technician is a "Rettungsassistent." An EMT-Basic is called a "Rettungshelfer" and "Rettungssanitäter" is an EMT-1.*
Operationswagen - Operations vehicle. *There are various kinds of operations vehicles, including communications, command and others. These are generally classed as "Einsatzfahrzeug" or "applications vehicle."*
Pferdeanhänger - Horse trailer



Herpa 043892 - Mercedes E200 Limousine Notarzt Passau

Preßmüllwagen - Refuse Truck.
Preßmüllaufbau refers to the loading and compactor body.



*Wiking 639 40 36 Mercedes-Benz Atego
mit Faun-Preßmüllaufbau*

Reisebus - Touring Bus (like Greyhound)

Rettungsdienst - Emergency (Rescue) Service

Sanitätszug - Literally means "medical train." *First response team for a medical emergency. This would include a "Notarzt" and a "Rettungstransportwagen" (RTW).*

Schneepflug - Snow Plow

Schnelleinsatzgruppe - Rapid Deployment Group

Silberpfeil - Silver Arrow, used to refer to Mercedes' racing cars

Sondersignal (Blaulicht und Martinshorn) - literally, Special Signal, Blue Light and Martinshorn. *Refers to the standard German emergency apparatus of blue light and two-tone horn. What the Brits call, "Blues and Twos."*

Stadtbus - City Bus

Straßenkehrwagen - Street Cleaner

Stromerzeuger - Generator

TLF - Pumper Body for Fire Truck

Wohnanhänger or **Wohnwagen**- travel Trailer

Wohnmobil - Recreational Vehicle

Handy Catalog Terms:

Bausatz - Kit (as opposed to a pre-assembled model)

Gesilbert - Silvered, usually means painted as opposed to plated

Lieferbar – Available

Neuheiten – Literally "Novelty." New product

Nicht mehr erhältlich - No longer produced or available

Sammler – Collector

Sonderfahrzeugfreunde - Special vehicle friends (i.e., fans of a certain type of vehicle like fire truck collectors)

Sondermodell - Special Model - Chrome-plated

Verchromt - chrome-plated

Zubehör - Accessories

German Army abbreviations:

ARW. (Achtradwagen) = Eight-wheeled vehicle

E. or Einh. (Einheits) = Standardized type

Flak. (Fliegerabwehrkanone) = Antiaircraft gun



*Roco 111 - Fliegerabwehrkanonen
panzer IV "Möbelwagen"*

Fu. (Funk) = Radio

gf. (geländefähig) = Off-road going

gl. (geländegängig) = Cross-country going

gp. or gep. (Gepanzert) = Armored

Gw. (Geschutzwagen) = Armored car

HK. (Halbkettenfahrzeug) = Half-track

Kfz. (Kraftfahrzeug) = Motor car

KP. (Kraftprotze) = Artillery tractor

Krad. (Kraftrad) = Motorcycle

Krkw. (Krankenkraftwagen) = Ambulance

LWS. (Landwasserschlepper) = Amphibious tractor

Pak. (Panzerabwehrkanone) = Anti-tank gun

Pz.Jag. (Panzerjäger) = Tank destroyer (literally "tank hunter")

Pz.Kpfw. (Panzerkampfwagen) = Armored fighting vehicle

Pz.Spahw. (Panzerspähwagen) = Armored scout car

R. (Raupen) = Tracked

R/R (Räder/Raupenantrieb) = Wheeled and tracked

Sankra. (Sanitätskraftwagen) = Ambulance

schf. or schwf. (schwimmfähig) = Amphibious

schg. (schienengängig) = Rail going

Schlp. (Schlepper) = Tractor

Sfl. or Sf. (Selbstfahrlafette) = Self-propelled gun

Sd.Kfz. (Sonderkraftfahrzeug) = Special vehicle

StuK. (Sturmkanone) = Assault guns

WS. (schwerer Wehrmacht Schlepper) = Heavy military tractor

trop. or Tp. (tropenfest) = Tropicalized

ve. (vollentstört) = Radio-suppressed

Vs.Kfz. or Vkz. (Versuchsfahrzeug) = Experimental vehicle

Wg. (wassergängig) = Amphibious

Zgkw. (Zugkraftwagen) = Tractor



Roco 228.2 - Mittlerer Zugkraftwagen

Modifiers used in conjunction with other terms:

L. or le. (leicht) = Light

M or mittl. (mittler) = Medium

S. or schw. (schwer) = Heavy

Translation of Weights & Measures:

1 meter (m) = 39.37"

10 Dezimeter (dm) = 1 meter (m)

100 Zentimeter (cm) = 1 meter (m)

1,000 Millimeter (mm) = 1 meter (m)

1000 Meter (m) = 1 Kilometer (km)

10,000 Dezimeter (dm) = 1 Kilometer (km)

100,000 Zentimeter (cm) = 1 Kilometer (km)

1,000,000 Millimeter (mm) = 1 Kilometer (km)

1,000 Kilogramme (kg) = 1 tonne (t)
(metric - about 2,205 pounds)

1,000,000 grammes (g) = 1 tonne (t)
(metric - about 2,205 pounds)

or

2.54 (cm) Zentimeter = 1 inch

30.48 (cm) Zentimeter = 1 foot (12 inches)

1.609 (km) Kilometer = 1 mile

28.35 (g) Gramm = 1 ounce

453.59 (g) Gramm = 1 pound (16 ounces)

907.185 (kg) Kilogramm = 1 ton (2000 pound)

3.785 (l) Liter = 1 gallon

159.106 (l) Liter = 1 barrel (42 gallons)

This dictionary is by no means exhaustive, but we hope you find it useful. It took the efforts of a number of people, including Bob Johnson, Ralf Grote and Bill Cawthon. Photographs are courtesy of Busch Automodelle, Herpa Miniaturmodelle, Roco Modellspielwaren and Wiking Modellbau.

We invite you to join the 1/87 Vehicle Club and get more out of this wonderful hobby. For more information and the latest news, visit our website at <http://www.1-87vehicles.org>.