



Aston Martin V8 Vantage GT2



Image credits: Wouter Melissen

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What seemingly started as an experiment grew out to become the latest addition to the GT2 class in international endurance racing. In the fall of 2007 Aston Martin Racing started developing a V8 Vantage N24 further from its homologated GT4 specification. Not much later the car was spotted in action on the Goodwood track and speculation was rampant about the prospect of Aston Martin branching out into GT2. At that time that was apparently far from certain. This was very understandable as the regulations in GT-racing were expected to be extensively modified from the 2009 or 2010 season. On the other hand Aston Martin's GT1 racer, the DBR9 was entering its fourth season and the GT1 class was almost certainly on the verge of cancellation.

Fortunately Aston Martin decided to carry on with the project and found that demand for the V8 engine machine was high. Three cars were sold and will be raced in all three major sportscar series; the ALMS, FIA GT and Le Mans Series. Because Aston Martin Racing starting so very late with the development of the new GT2 racer, they were unable to deliver the new cars or even finalize the specification before the start of the season. Deliveries of the new Aston Martin racing car are now expected to come a few races into the season.

The original test mule was extensively modified throughout the winter to meet the strict GT2 regulations, which allow for relatively few modifications compared to GT1. One of the last upgrades was the installation of a side-exhaust system. There is little information available on the exact specification of the car, but we expect the 4.3 litre V8 to produce in the region of 480 bhp, which will bring it on par with the competition from Porsche and Ferrari. A first impression of the car's performance came when the test mule took to the track during the official Le Mans Series test at Paul Ricard. Although it was not quite on the pace with the fastest Porsches and Ferraris yet, it was a promising start. The V8 Vantage GT2 mule is seen above during the Paul Ricard test.

Article by Wouter Melissen, last updated on 03 / 02 / 2008

General Specifications	
Country of origin	Great Britain
Chassis number	X2
Numbers built	N/A
Introduced	2008

Engine	
Configuration	90° V 8
Location	Front, longitudinally mounted
Construction	alloy block and head
Displacement	4.300 liter / 262.4 cu in
Valvetrain	4 valves / cylinder, DOHC
Fuel feed	Fuel injection
Aspiration	Naturally Aspirated

Drivetrain	
Gearbox	6 speed Sequential
Drive	Rear wheel drive

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