


# CLASSIC DRIVER



## 1997 BMW 540

Lot sold	<b>USD 36 192 - 60 320</b> EUR 30 000 - 50 000 (listed)	Lenkung	Links
Baujahr	1997	Zustand	Originalzustand
Landesspezifische Mehrwertsteuer	FR	Standort	
Losnummer	13	Außenfarbe	Schwarz
		Automobiltyp	Limousine

### Beschreibung

French registration papers

Chassis n° WBADE51030BR90707

- 7 delivered in France, the only one with manual gearbox

- Booklets, spare key, Hartge brochures

- Nice presentation, only 69,000 km

Herbert Hartge's company, founded in 1971 to develop models from the BMW range and intended for competition, began transforming cars for road use in the early 1980s with the H6S (a 6 Series E24) then the H5S (a reworked E28). But it was in 1985 that the small firm obtained from TÜV the coveted sesame of full manufacturer. Between the victories in competition (most often in Germany) and the growing reputation, Hartge became like Alpina, an institution in Germany thanks to its successful modifications coming from the Bavarian bestseller, BMW E36 in the lead. The end of the 90s marked the height of the company. With the launch of the fabulous 540i E39, Hartge hit the pinnacle with its 340 horsepower 4.7l V8. About ten copies produced worldwide, the model we are presenting has the particularity of being one of 7 units delivered new in France and the only one fitted with the very rare 6-speed manual gearbox.

Aesthetically, we are a long way from the rampant tuning fashion in Germany. The car is lower with a more enveloping front spoiler, a blade at the end of the rear hood, contoured mirrors, 19-inch rims, a sports exhaust and two badges with the emblem of the house on the hood and the trunk. In the

passenger compartment, the choice of materials and especially the quality of manufacture confirm BMW's excellence in the field and only the speedometer graduated up to 330 km / h with a red zone at 6,750 rpm and a small Hartge badge in front of the passenger put the chip in the ear. Ordered new in March from Pelras dealership in Toulouse, it is shipped to Beckingen, Germany to receive model-specific modifications as indicated on its purchase invoice. Registered 1681 ZJ 31, it is the personal vehicle of the management before being sold to its second owner in February 1998. The latter having had his M5 stolen a few months earlier and dissatisfied with his new M3, he will travel a little more 50,000 km behind the wheel before an overheating problem brings the vehicle to a halt. It will then be sold to a professional in the region who will reassemble the vehicle before reselling it to its current owner in December 2017. Used as a family car to rally the countryside from his Parisian residence on weekends, our 540i Hartge has been serviced at Gap Automobiles in October 2019. Delivered with its leather pouch containing all its manuals and duplicate keys, Pelras purchase invoice, original Hartge invoice and all its advertising brochures, this car is a high-speed saloon capable of formidable performance, all in a largely up-to-date comfort 22 years after leaving the factory. A real Youngtimer and a real collector's item...

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