W220 OWNERS ENCYCLOPEDIA - START HERE

Folks have often requested a general starting point for questions and research on the W220 S-Class, something akin to the Encyclopaedia Germanica vol. 107 on the BenzWorld R/C 107 forum. Well, here it is. I don’t have all the answers, or even all the good sites; but I do have over 1500 links bookmarked that help me respond to questions on three different forums. Here are the best of them. Feel free to add more.

Please read this over before posting new questions. We’ll ask. If it’s already covered, we’ll just refer you back to this. If it doesn’t quite answer your questions, you’ll have a bunch of good search terms for the forum’s search tool, and you won’t have to wait as long for an answer.

HINTS FOR FOLKS NEW TO FORUMS


SUSPENSION & STEERING Airmatic and ABC Issues & Solutions

Primer - http://www.benzworld.org/forums/w220-s-class/1502652-suspension.html

Problem indications, post 6 at http://www.benzworld.org/forums/w220-s-class/1329314-s-class-airmatic-woes-yes-again.html


For a good look at an airmatic strut and problems see http://www.benzworld.org/forums/w220-s-class/1508878-mercedes-airmatic-shock-disassembled.html


DIY on an epoxy seal for upper front strut leaks; also the instructions for upper seal replacement with OE parts - http://www.benzworld.org/forums/w220-s-class/1467695-airmatic-strut-epoxy-fix.html


Where to get Hella relay (W220 uses 4-prong relay) http://www.autohausaz.com/search/product.aspx?sid=0upkfrm2jwhclz45ox2ojl55&makeid=800
Noisy airmatic pump post 3 [http://www.benzworld.org/forums/w220-s-class/1492566-noisy-airmatic-pump.html]

**DIY Airmatic pump replacement** [http://www.benzworld.org/forums/w220-s-class/1401924-airmatic-pump-replacement.html]


Valve Block replacement [http://www.benzworld.org/forums/w220-s-class/1493623-help-needed-airmatic-damping.html]

Caution if you have a leak and raise the car on a lift – post 22 at [http://forums.mbworld.org/forums/s-class-w220/168916-airmatic-problem-please-help.html]


Difference between Airmatic and ABC post 15 [http://www.benzworld.org/forums/w220-s-class/1410359-airmatic-visit-workshop-2.html - post3213557]

More Airmatic and ABC differences; how to tell which you have [http://www.mbworld.org/forums/s-class-w220/278880-how-can-i-find-out-if-i-have-active-body-control-not.html]


ABC front strut top [http://www.benzworld.org/forums/w220-s-class/1492060-whats-suspension-2001-s500-sport.html]
ABC owners will be interested in 2007 recall - [http://forums.mbworld.org/forums/s-class-w220/202009-s-cl-class-recall-abc-high-pressure-distribution-hose.html](http://forums.mbworld.org/forums/s-class-w220/202009-s-cl-class-recall-abc-high-pressure-distribution-hose.html)


**Chasing down annoying vibrations – possible sources:**

**COMAND**


COMAND and Head Unit Removal, Repair [http://www.carstereohelp.com/strmercedes.htm](http://www.carstereohelp.com/strmercedes.htm)


COMAND screen replacement


COMAND 2.5 diagnostic menus
[http://www.mercupgrades.com/Mercedes+COMAND+Diagnostic+%28Service%29+Mode+article-13.html](http://www.mercupgrades.com/Mercedes+COMAND+Diagnostic+%28Service%29+Mode+article-13.html)
COMAND Unlock codes – NOTE: This is not recommended, and these codes will not work on many COMANDS – too many people screwed up their COMANDs and codes have been changed - [http://www.benzworld.org/forums/audio-telematics-forum/1286738-command-unlock-codes.html](http://www.benzworld.org/forums/audio-telematics-forum/1286738-command-unlock-codes.html)


### NAVIGATION

a. DVD based nav systems (COMAND 2.0)

Latest Navigation DVDs (for MOST based systems) [http://www.navigation.com/is-bin/INTERSHOP.enfinity/WFS/Navteq-NavteqNorthAmerica-Site/en_US/-/USD/ViewStandardCatalog-Browse:pgid=cVpwi3WhesNSR0T7e6n1Me0000hVrX_kcX?CatalogCategoryID=RlsKCggQOvgAAAETNVQohsBw&ShowAllProducts=YES](http://www/navigation.com/is-bin/INTERSHOP.enfinity/WFS/Navteq-NavteqNorthAmerica-Site/en_US/-/USD/ViewStandardCatalog-Browse:pgid=cVpwi3WhesNSR0T7e6n1Me0000hVrX_kcX?CatalogCategoryID=RlsKCggQOvgAAAETNVQohsBw&ShowAllProducts=YES) - also available from your dealer at the same price.


b. CD-based nav systems (COMAND 2.5, COMAND MOPF widescreen)


Cleaning the nav CD drive on COMAND 2.5  
http://www.benzworld.org/forums/w220-s-class/1586997-mercedes-benz-comand-2-5-nav.html

c. Nav not accurate – wheel/tire size  
and Inaccurate navigation – no satellites  

HANDSFREE PHONE (Cell Phone) – Bluetooth and Plug-in

How-To Guide for Cell Phone Upgrades and Equipping Your Car for First Time -  
Downloadable version at post #2,  
- They’re all you need.  
Other kits:  
http://www.incartronics.com/,  
http://www.mobridgeinc.com/products/bluetooth,  
and  
http://www.eiskits.com/argoslaunch4.html

IPOD INTEGRATION

How to integrate an iPod in cars that cannot use the MB iPod kit -  

Other kits:  
http://www.incartronics.com/,  
http://www.mobridgeinc.com/products/audio-proddetail-3

**Another approach for COMAND 2.5  

AUDIO PROBLEMS, RADIOS, RADIO CODES

No sound and CD Changer problem  

Troubleshooting a No Audio Problem  
http://www.carstereohelp.com/mercedesFiberOptic.htm  
Also  

CD Changer repair -  
http://blogs.sun.com/miko/entry/cd_changer_repair

A potential non-MB replacement for D2B equipped cars -  
**Installing SIRIUS**


The one and only proper way to get radio codes for Audio XX head Units (COMAND does not use radio codes) – post # 2 at http://www.benzworld.org/forums/audio-telematics-forum/1388704-sticky-idea.html - and the reason why it’s the only proper method, post 8 at http://www.benzworld.org/forums/audio-telematics-forum/1358347-i-need-radio-code.html

**INSTRUMENT CLUSTER**

Extended Warranty vs Recall - The instrument cluster on the W220 and W215 were subject to a recall, by VIN, for lighting-specific problems. The recall was superseded by a 10-year extended warranty from initial date of service on ALL U.S. W220s and W215s. The extended warranty applies to all defects and is NOT limited by VIN. Jayhawk posted the extended warranty letter at 58 http://www.mbworld.org/forums/s-class-w220/82722-instrument-cluster-removal-3.html. See applicability of recall vs. extended warranty, and some repair sources, post 4 at http://www.benzworld.org/forums/w220-s-class/1532684-2000-s430-instrument-cluster.html

See also post #2, http://www.benzworld.org/forums/w220-s-class/1328053-instrument-cluster-illumination-button.html

**If you are not covered by warranty or recall, see posts 8 and 17 at http://www.mbworld.org/forums/s-class-w220/82722-instrument-cluster-removal.html and post 4 at http://www.benzworld.org/forums/w220-s-class/1532684-2000-s430-instrument-cluster.html
Also see http://www.benzworld.org/forums/w220-s-class/1565332-speedo-light-repair-service.html for additional repair sources.

**MANUALS - OWNERS, MAINTENANCE and COMAND MANUALS ONLINE:**

**ELECTRONIC PARTS CATALOG**

Owners Manuals: http://www.mbusa.com/mercedes/- /servPrtsOwnersManuals/


Voice Recognition (Control) System Manual:  http://home.earthlink.net/~phdwebsite/vcm.htm

Mercedes Electronic Parts Catalog (EPC) -  http://epc.startekinfo.com/epc/welcome.jsp - it is free, but you must sign up and provide a credit card # (to show you are an adult). This lists virtually every part and provides the exploded diagrams of every assembly for nearly every model.

You can join the Mercedes Star TekInfo system for 1 day and download the wiring diagrams and other information that you might find necessary. See http://www.benzworld.org/forums/w220-s-class/1508080-w220-s-class-owners-encyclopedia-start.html and click on "Technical Information." It does go back to 1994.

You may also be able to get printed tech manuals at  http://www.classictechlit.mbusa.com/MB/

**BODY**

**Air Filter Replacement**


Center Console Removal http://www.benzworld.org/forums/w220-s-class/1395904-removing-centre-armrest-console.html

**Removing Front Headrest** http://www.benzworld.org/forums/w220-s-class/1306205-passenger-headrest-rattle.html#post2285723

**Fixing a broken front visor** http://www.benzworld.org/forums/w220-s-class/1540033-fixing-broken-front-visor.html

Strange or Annoying noises http://www.mbworld.org/forums/s-class-w220/276204-strange-noise-drivers-footwell.html#post3270964

Creaking noise, post 6  http://www.benzworld.org/forums/w220-s-class/1418810-plastic-creaking.html


Solution for sticky steering wheel buttons post 3 at [http://www.benzworld.org/forums/w220-s-class/1403187-steering-wheel-buttons.html]

Door controls [http://www.benzworld.org/forums/w220-s-class/1358362-no-power-front-passenger-door.html]


VIN number, Vehicle Data Card (Equipment on vehicle when delivered) [http://www.benzworld.org/forums/w220-s-class/1425010-vin-number-info.html]

Water in Car, Control (Button) Problems, Class Action Settlement [http://www.mbca.org/forum/settlement-class-action-suit-interior-flooding] and pay attention to imbedded links regarding water leaking into interior


Removing front headrests - [http://www.benzworld.org/forums/w220-s-class/1306205-passenger-headrest-rattle.html#post2285723]

**Body Panel Removal Videos** - door panels, dash, console, mirror housing, bumper strips, headlight washer door - http://www.benzworld.org/forums/w220-s-class/1544686-body-panel-removal-interior-exterior.html - a great How-To tool that also covers replacement or front & rear DCMs and LED lamp modules for the inner door handles; also, for how to remove the rear shelf, see http://www.benzworld.org/forums/w220-s-class/1540319-s430-trunk-closed-while-repairing-now.html

DIY on simple rust repair http://www.benzworld.org/forums/w220-s-class/1591342-door-rust-battle-continues.html

**AIR CONDITIONING/HEATING**


**A/C Light Is On, System Throwing Codes** http://www.benzworld.org/forums/w220-s-class/1564959-ac.html


DIY replacement of duovalve http://forums.mbworld.org/forums/e-class-w211/250487-diy-installing-new-changeover-heater-control-valve.html - if car will not heat or cool, duovalve is often the problem.


GENERAL MERCEDES FAULT CODES
http://www.bba-reman.com/content.aspx?content=Mercedes_common_fault_codes
http://www.benzworld.org/forums/v-class/1283782-mercedes-fault-codes-these-will-get.html

MB FIBER OPTICS SYSTEMS AND BUSES


How to tell the difference between D2B and MOST http://www.benzworld.org/forums/audio-teleatics-forum/1439410-do-i-have-d2b-most.html#post3434579

RESETS


How To Reset Windows, express close, steering column adjustment, ECU, sliding roof, easy exit, windshield wipers - Things to try when stuff just doesn’t work -- http://www.mbca.org/forum/handy-resets-w220-and-possibly-other-models

**ELECTRICAL SYSTEM**


**TPMS** – tire pressure monitoring system


Programming Homelink (Garage Door/Gate Opener) - if instructions in the Owners' Manual don't work, see post #11 at http://www.benzworld.org/forums/w220-s-class/1500824-homelink-programming-s500-2.html

**FUSE LOCATIONS**

Post # 6 at http://forums.mbworld.org/forums/s-class-w220/235834-need-help-door-control-module-00-s500.html#post2723059 for MY ’00 and ’02 (generally usable for other years as well)


**I shorted the red wire going to the “fuse box” under the back seat – (HINT: that’s not just a fuse box, it’s a SAM) http://www.mbworld.org/forums/s-class-w220/348103-s430-issues-w220-2002-a.html

**KEYS**

How to change batteries - http://www.mbworld.org/forums/audio-electronics/273095-diy-how-replace-batteries-your-keyfob-pictures.html


**ENGINE**


DIY replacement http://www.mbworld.org/forums/s-class-w220/326637-how-replace-crank-position-sensor-cps-s500.html#post3820540
http://www.benzworld.org/forums/w220-s-class/1496096-diy-cps-write-up.html
Los of power, misfiring - Mass Air Flow sensor -- replacement

Electronic Ignition System (EIS) - Key won’t turn in lock – posts 1, 2 and 5

**Replacing the fuel filter http://www.benzworld.org/forums/w220-s-class/1550665-fuel-filter-replacement-diary-s430.html

**Cold start problems http://www.benzworld.org/forums/w220-s-class/1553452-has-your-car-started-cold-today.html

TRANSMISSION

Small leak, shifting problems – leak in electrical socket -
http://www.benzworld.org/forums/w220-s-class/1298924-transmission-leakage.html


Transmission Dipstick (why you don’t have one and why you may need it) -
http://www.mbworld.org/forums/s-class-w220/279880-questions-regarding-5 spd-transmission.html

Shifter stuck in park – how to repair
http://www.benzworld.org/forums/w220-s-class/1273096-wont-come-out-park-2.html and video at
http://www.benzworld.org/forums/w220-s-class/1508789-2000-s500-abs-esp-error-now.html


DRIVE TRAIN/BRAKES

4Matic – Careful with staggered wheels - http://forums.mbworld.org/forums/s-class-w220/256035-vibrations-70mph.html also applies to vibrations

4Matic service campaign - http://forums.mbworld.org/forums/2571251-post86.html
Flex Discs (possible vibration source) [http://www.benzworld.org/forums/w220-s-class/1493937-flex-disk-replacement-2.html](http://www.benzworld.org/forums/w220-s-class/1493937-flex-disk-replacement-2.html)


**Adjusting the parking brake** [http://www.benzworld.org/forums/w220-s-class/1551661-adjusting-parking-brakes.html](http://www.benzworld.org/forums/w220-s-class/1551661-adjusting-parking-brakes.html)


**QUALITY AND COMPARISONS, BUYING ADVICE**


Quick checks and things to learn before you buy – see links post 5 [http://forums.mbworld.org/forums/s-class-w220/139427-worth-00-s500.html](http://forums.mbworld.org/forums/s-class-w220/139427-worth-00-s500.html)


Differences between ’03 facelift and later models - [http://forums.mbworld.org/forums/s-class-w220/254960-differences.html#post2969848](http://forums.mbworld.org/forums/s-class-w220/254960-differences.html#post2969848)

Differences between ’00 and ’05/’06 - [http://www.benzworld.org/forums/w220-s-class/1227766-comparison-00-w220-05-a.html](http://www.benzworld.org/forums/w220-s-class/1227766-comparison-00-w220-05-a.html)