the mercedes benz s class formerly known as sonderklasse german for special class abbreviated as s klasse is a series of full sized luxury flagship vehicles produced by the german automaker mercedes benz a division of german company daimler ag the s class designation for top of the line mercedes benz models was officially introduced in 1972 with the w116 and has remained in use ever, the mercedes benz w116 is a series of flagship luxury sedans produced from september 1972 until 1980 the w116 automobiles were the first mercedes benz models to be officially called s class although earlier sedan models had already unofficially been designated with the letter s for sonderklasse or special class, classic car quick links our classic cars articles by members galleries classified items these links allow you to view our homepage with all our classic car content displayed cleanly separated