SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE MOTHER EARTH NEWS ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLE (THE SHUTTLE BUG)

The SHUTTLE BUG is a prototype, two-place, mini-car designed to [1] explore the possibility of operating a personal transportation vehicle on methane and other extremely low-pollution fuels, [2] develop an automobile that a family can run on methane made from its own sewage, electricity produced with its own windplant and other "homemade" fuels and [3] define the size of the minimum, comfortable urban car that might replace the present automobile for short-run, in-city use.

SPECIFICATIONS	GASOLINE-POWERED VERSION	METHANE VERSION	ELECTRIC VERSION
Gross weight	800 lbs.	1100 lbs.	1500 lbs.
Overall length	102"	102"	102"
width	56"	56"	56"
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Wheelbase	60"	60"	60"
Ground clearance	8"	8"	5"
Track (front)	48"	48"	48"
(rear)	48"	48"	48"
Turning circle	18'	18'	18'
Frame	Welded tubular and plate steel with integral roll cage (all three versions)		
Body	Fiberglass with formed Lexan windshield (all three versions)		
Tires			
Engine/motor	338 cc., single-cylinder, two-stroke	600 cc., two-cylinder, four-stroke	7 hp, compound-wound, traction motor
Fuel capacity	6 U.S. gallons	2400 cu. ft. (three 2,000 psi pressure tanks)	three 200 amp/hr., deep-cycle, lead/acid batteries
Top speed	75 mph	60 mph	45 mph
Cruise speed	55 mph	55 mph	35 mph
Maximum range	240 miles	100 miles	75 miles