Avanti Chronology

1961 – 1962 Sherwood Egbert's inspiration and Raymond Loewy's masterpiece

1961 Egbert envisions a sports/luxury vehicle to boost Studebaker's image

1961 Loewy assembles Avanti design team in Palm Springs, California in March

1961 Full-size clay mock-up presented to Studebaker board in April '61

1962 Avanti debuts at the New York International Auto Show in April '62

1962 R-3 driven by Andy Granatelli at Bonneville shatters 29 U.S. records

1962 Avanti's arrive in Studebaker showrooms summer of '62

1963 - 1964 Studebaker Avanti

1963 Studebaker manufactures 4647 Avanti's from June '62 to December '63

1963 '64 model is built from August to December '63, but there is some overlap

1964 The glory ends prematurely as Studebaker closes South Bend

1964 Nathan Altman purchases all rights, equipment, and parts

1965 - 1982 Avanti Motor Corporation - Avanti II

1965 Avanti Motors press release issued Monday August 2, '65

1965 45 new Avanti II's are produced as 66 models

1968 100 cars built for Avanti II's third model year

1973 10th anniversary generates national publicity

1976 Nate Altman dies leaving his brother Arnold in charge of the company

1982 Stephen Blake purchases Avanti Motors on October 1, '82

1982 - 1985 Avanti Motor Corporation - Stephen Blake

1983 Contoured, body-colored bumpers replace chrome ones

1983 Limited Edition 20th Anniversary car introduced

1984 Limited Edition Touring Coupe introduced

1984 First prototype convertibles produced

1985 Blake files bankruptcy in October

1986 - 1988 New Avanti Motor Corporation - Michael Kelly

1986 No '86 cars produced

1987 Limited Edition Luxury Sport Coupe (LSC) introduced

1987 Production moved from South Bend to Youngstown, Ohio

1989 – 1991 Avanti Automotive Corporation – John J. Cafaro

1989 Four-door sedan unveiled at the New York Automobile show

1991 Avanti production ends after 29 years

1992 - 1999 AVX - Jim Bunting

1993 Tom Kellogg submits designs for an Avanti AVX

1996 First one-of-a-kind AVX shown at Studebaker meets

1997 Production prototype shown at Avanti meet in South Bend

2000 – 2006 Avanti Motor Corporation – Michael Kelly

2000 John Seaton and John Hull form Avanti Motor Corporation with Michael Kelly

2001 A 2001 Avanti is produced in Villa Rica, Georgia from GM chassis

2003 Avanti Motors introduces Studebaker XUV at the Chicago Auto Show

2004 Introduction of a 2005 model Avanti using a Ford chassis

2005 Avanti Motors and Studebaker develop 2006 models

2006 Announced new operations in Cancun, Mexico, in October

2006 Mike Kelley arrested for operating Ponzi scheme in December

2007 to Present. Website still active, http://www.avantimotors.com/, not updated since 2007



1963 Studebaker Avanti



1964 Studebaker Avanti



Avanti II



1983 Blake



1984 Blake



1990 Four Door



2002 Convertible



2005 Convertible