

Buying a Jaguar

By Neville Barlow

It has often crossed my mind why people choose to purchase certain Jaguars. Was it because they looked great coloured black or their cat like appearance? Some, perhaps because of Jaguar's great racing history or simply because they were British.

I have read of a man whose main criteria was to buy a classic car that he could fit into. He was 6 foot 6 inches tall! At one time he did think he would be too tall for a car that he could call a classic.

This poor man was not only exceedingly tall but he also had extensive back problems. So his future car had to be very comfortable as well.

He first looked at kit cars. He sampled a Marlin TF but although it was well built and a competent roadster it was low, had stiff suspension and therefore a very bumpy ride. Because he had inherited a nice sum of money he decided to look upmarket as his health could limit his time as a driver.

He found that the vital information, for him, in car adverts never seemed to state the length, important to fit his garage and width. He therefore haunted car sale yards asking, "Do you mind if I try your car for size?".

Obviously he was looking for a car with style and comfort and if possible a luxurious place to spend some time in. Also that it would provide a nice driving experience. A Triumph Stag, a Riley RM and a Ford Pilot all did not fit the bill. Then at last he sat in a Jaguar MK2. Wow. The clouds parted, the sun came shining through! Leg room, head room and his knees touched together under the steering wheel. His elbows had room and his size 13 feet fitted the pedals.

There was also a telescopic steering column. He had found the car, at last, or so he thought. But the price was beyond his budget.

Back to the drawing board. He thought the Jaguar marque might have other suitable models. So the 240's, 340's, Daimler 250 and S Type were researched. He was told that the S Type handled better than the MK2 with its E type rear suspension and they seemed to be on the market at about two thirds the price of the MK2's.

The search started again and at last a 1965 S Type was discovered for sale nearby. It was painted Willow Green with suede green interior. This car had been owned by a member of the Cooper family who created the Coopercraft Brakes, a system fitted to this car which was a pleasant bonus.

At last the car arrived and he found it to be extremely comfortable. This man is delighted with his purchase and says that he has a car with a pedigree and a heritage - a Jaguar.

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