

Low Volume Jaguar Prototypes & Concepts (In Monthly Episodes). Part 2

By Tony Johnson

C Type (1952-1954)



Whilst the C Type was originally built as a light weight competition version of the XK120 aimed primarily at winning Le Mans in 1951, a limited run of production cars was commenced in 1952 to ensure the car was deemed a “production” model. Most were sold to “sporting all-comers” and immediately pressed into competition although the odd one was retained for road use. The factory was determined that these cars were to be considered genuine production models and some were offered by the factory for road tests. The production car differed from the first three cars built for the 1951 Le Mans race with different top bonnet vents and the side ventilation flaps being replaced with louvres. The whole concept of the XK120C, or C Type as it was known, was very different to the standard XK120. The car was built on a tubular frame with aluminium panels attached. The engine was fitted to a sub frame fixed to the main frame. No wet weather protection was available. A total of 53 cars were built.

Tony