

# Low Volume Jaguar Prototypes & Concepts (In Monthly Episodes). Part 3

By Tony Johnson

## D Type (1954-1957)



The D Type is also included in this section as a limited production model. The evolutionary D Type was also put into limited production in 1955. The original factory cars built in 1954 had fixed frames but this was revised for production with a removable front frame assembly bolted directly to the tub. This construction method formed the basis of the E Type which was to follow in 1961. As with the C Type, the D Type remained powered by the very successful 3.4 litre XK engine that originally powered the XK120 first shown to the public at the Earls Court Motor show in 1948. By the mid 1950s several modifications had taken place enabling the D Type to reach speeds of over 190 mph on the Mulsanne straight at Le Mans. A total production of 67 'production' road cars were made although the factory had built 16 works competition cars as well; 5 early short nose cars built with a full frame extending through the tub, 5 long nose works cars prepared in 1955 and the last 6 long nose cars produced in early 1956. Of the 67 production D Types built, 16 were converted to XKSS specifications. No cars with long nose and high rear fin were ever sold to the public as a production car although several ex-works cars were supplied to Ecurie Ecosse.

*Tony*