

Low Volume Jaguar Prototypes & Concepts (In Monthly Episodes). Part 5

By Tony Johnson

XK140 Zagato Coupe (1957)

Zagato built three similar bodies on XK140 and XK150 chassis. It started with the XK140. The car was commissioned by Italian dealer Guido Modiano who had damaged his XK140 in a major accident when the car was relatively new.

Being a personal friend of Mr Zagato, he inquired about simply re-bodying the car rather than repairing it.

As Zagato hoped he could sell Jaguar on the idea of a limited run of cars he agreed to the project and Jaguar Cars showed this finished coupe on its own stand at the 1957 Paris Salon. In the end, however, only two more cars were built, both of them XK150s. The 1957 XK140 Zagato survives, fully restored, and is finished in dark green with a full suede interior. In 1958, the first XK150 example offered by Zagato and painted red, was presented at the Geneva Auto Show and was identical to the XK140 apart from an XK150 grille and parallel operating wipers. A brochure was printed, which indicates that they indeed intended to produce this car more than once, but it never came to any series production. In 1960 Zagato displayed the third XK150 this time painted in black. This creation whilst similar in concept was wider than the previous coupes and sported a different grille design. Whilst the red '58 XK150 S.E. is considered to be lost the 1960 car was purchased by an American gentleman in the mid-sixties. At that time the '60 Zagato XK150 S.E. was painted beige, later white and finally mustard yellow. The car has been in the family since and although it survives in a dismantled state, the owner is planning a ground up restoration.



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