

One of a kind: Cabinet maker converts Jaguar into retro Supercar

By Neville Barlow

This is the stunning supercar created by a talented cabinet maker from an old Jaguar sports motor- using expanded foam, fibreglass and a lot of elbow grease. Graham Slater,43, has completely changed the shape of the 2003 Jaguar XKR, which he bought for £7,000 into a retro-style head turner. The custom show stopping vehicle is capable of speeds up to 165mph and has been valued at £120.000.

The striking pearl blood red car has been extensively re-modelled by Graham who spent 36 weeks working on it over three years. Retaining elements of the original Jaguar design it also combines aspects of a Lincoln Zephyr and a Porsche. The car which retains its original Jaguar V8, 4.2 litre engine was shaped to resemble the boat tailed classic Bugatti's of the 1930s.

Graham, a cabinet maker who builds church organs, and close pal Steve Cook, measured the car's shape using string lines, creating a cardboard template. They then shaped its remarkable lines using 54 cans of expanding foam before bolting six layers of fibreglass panelling to the car's steel shell. For the bonnet, Graham imported a brass swallow ornament from the USA in homage to Jaguar's origins as Swallow Motor Company. Its interior is in cream leather with a new central console and body coloured instruments. The car has been sprayed a Red Pearl Paint courtesy of a friend at a nearby Colourcube Automotive in nearby Huddersfield.

Graham said "Every time I see the car I can't believe it – it feels like such an achievement. It's a lovely feeling when people react to it the way they do. Individuality is something money cannot buy. It took him and work pal Steve 36 weeks to finish and cost more than £50,000 to build.

However, the proud father of three, of Wakefield, West Yorkshire, insists his home built supercar is only ever driven at speeds which allow people to admire it. Because it attracts so much attention you don't want to go too fast. It really does put a smile on your face- people



are just blown away by it.

Foot note.

Beauty sure is in the eye of the beholder. I am sure some members of our club will cry to see what has become of a lovely Jaguar XKR.

Neville