

Jaguar E-Type Story Strange but True



1971-75 E-Type (XKE) Series III convertible (with hardtop)

The introduction of the E-Type Jaguar took place at the Geneva Auto Show on March 16, 1961. It was introduced by Jaguar founder Sir William Lyons.

Aerodynamicist Malcom Sayers design, to say the least, was spectacular. The E-Type went on to be produced until 1974, when production ceased at the Brown's Lane factory in Coventry. When production ended there were, of course, parts left over. These parts

were acquired by a Jaguar enthusiast who kept them stored for 31 years. In 2005, this enterprising Brit decided to sell all of his E-Type parts to a gentleman who had a friend by the name of Mike Wilkinson of M&C Jaguar Spares, a Yorkshire-based Jaguar parts business. Mike went to see Ray Parrott. Ray was a regular customer and had already restored several cars. Together, Ray and Mike took an exhaustive inventory of the parts and discovered that about 95% of the parts were there to actually build a V-12 Series 3 Roadster.

Ray, a self-taught engineer, set to work painstakingly assembling the car in his Essex home garage. Ray already had extensive knowledge of the car and had his fully assembled Series 3 car for reference. He also had a shop manual and original assembly manuals. Working both day and night, it took Ray eight months to assemble the car. Through the course of the assembly, Ray found that the mild-steel exhaust system was in perfect shape. All boltholes on parts lined up perfectly. There was no rust on anything. The original Dunlop tires were also in perfect condition because they had never been exposed to the elements. The day finally arrived when Ray took the black roadster with a tan interior for its first drive. The car was then tested by the Ministry of Transportation and was awarded both Vin and chassis numbers. Ray Parrott then became the proud owner of E-Type number 72,530.

Happy Motoring...Ron Couturier

