SALIENT FEATURES OF THE JAGUAR TYPE XK ENGINES

In this new range of Jaguar engines oil compression in design has been eliminated. Each engine is therefore simply an assembly of the most modern sound technical knowledge available today in naturally aspirated petrol engines. Tests carried out on the completed units have shown the efficiency of the decision taken by the Jaguar Company nearly nine years ago to develop an engine on these lines.

In addition to bench tests, resulting many thousands of hours, extensive road tests at home and abroad have been carried out and it is significant that the 3 litre engine, tested at Goodwood when he broke the world speed record in the 3-litre class at 154 miles per hour, is completely standard with the exception of modified pistons to give a higher compression rate.

From the following condensed summary of the more important features of the Type XK engine, it will be seen that no reliance has been placed upon the use of new or unusual inventions. Instead, a blend of known and proved detail designs of the highest efficiency has resulted in the creation of a production engine of unparalleled quality and performance.

The following are some of the more important points:—
1. Horizontally split, light, vented, cast-alloy cylinder heads. 2. Valve springing of special high compression run. 3. Four valves per cylinder, two intake, and two exhaust, correctly placed to give the greatest possible initial admission and exhaust. 4. Compression ratio of 8:1. 5. Engine lubricated with oil from the main bearings and oil from the camshaft. 6. All main and connecting rod bearings are of split design. 7. Water circulation—direct flow across the head from a high-pressure pump. The head and the aluminium cylinder blocks are cast separately and are then machined to size. The cylinder cores are of a special design to ensure correct positioning of the cylinder wall. 8. The camshafts are of hardened steel and are located in the cylinder block. 9. The crankshaft is of the twist-ribbed design and is supported by a combination of main and connecting rod bearings. 10. The exhaust manifold is of the highest quality and is supported by a combination of main and connecting rod bearings. 11. The engine is tested at the factory to ensure correct positioning of the cylinder wall. 12. The engine is tested at the factory to ensure correct positioning of the cylinder wall. 13. The engine is tested at the factory to ensure correct positioning of the cylinder wall. 14. The engine is tested at the factory to ensure correct positioning of the cylinder wall. 15. The engine is tested at the factory to ensure correct positioning of the cylinder wall.
132.6 M.P.H. ON PUMP PETROL

On May 30th, 1949, an entirely standard Jaguar 3½ litre XK 120 Sports Two-Seater, running on pump fuel, attained a speed of 132.6 m.p.h. over a flying mile on the Jabbeke-Aalter Road in Belgium. This speed was officially timed by the Royal Automobile Club of Belgium and is the fastest ever recorded by a standard production unsupercharged car.
**SOME WORLD PRESS OPINIONS ON THE XK 120 JAGUAR**

The speed achieved (by the Jaguar) is so far ahead of current sports car performance that it represents a major achievement by the British Motor Industry.

Harold Nockolds, *The Times*

Jaguar have established their car as the world’s fastest unsupercharged catalogue model with full touring body work. Indeed, it is very doubtful whether any standard model in catalogue condition, even with the aid of a supercharger, has ever recorded such speeds.

*Autocar*

The Jaguar Super Sports has thus proved by official timing that it constitutes to-day the world’s fastest uncharged production car equipped with a full complete touring body. Moreover, we do not think that any other production car, even supercharged, has ever been officially timed at a higher speed. It can, therefore, be regarded in a manner of speaking, as holding the “Blue Riband” of the road.

*L’Echo de la Bourse*

...a performance which does honour to the English Company of Jaguar...

(Translation).

La Meuse

The most admirable cars is certainly the new Sports Jaguar. Apart from its technical features... this car reaches a standard of functional beauty never before achieved by a British manufacturer. As a prestige car abroad it is probably the most important new car to be shown by the British Industry.

J. Eason Gibson, *Country Life*

The spectacular performance of the Jaguar has already placed it in the forefront of super sports cars.

*The Sphere*

The car which achieved this high speed so easily is a production car. Too much emphasis cannot be placed on this fact. We have ourselves been able to verify that the car in question did not receive the least special care either before or after the trial. The engine was not hot but had the required temperature, and one could trace no oil leak either on the ground or on the engine itself. In a word, a very definite record, and a really admirable achievement.

(Translation).

*Bruges Handelsblad*

Never has a more impressive demonstration of silent effortless speed ever been given than that of the new Jaguar twin o.h.c. 6 cylinder 3.5 litre XK 120.

J. N. Bennett, *Sporting Life*

One of the fastest cars in the show.

*Vienna Morning Post*

It was a record all along the line; a well-merited record, due not only to the English quality of the car itself, but also most certainly to the driver who gave a wonderful performance.

(Translation).

*L’Indépendant*

All of us are still breathless at the remarkable speeds obtained with the first production 3.5 litre Jaguar XK 120... A speed of 134.156 m.p.h. gives R. M. V. Sutton the distinction of being the driver of the world’s fastest uncharged catalogue car.

The Light Car

The most important thing in this sporting performance rests in the perfectly normal character of the car which achieved with a disconcerting ease a speed rarely attained by cars which boast as having descended from racing cars.

(Translation).

Belgique Sports

Rarely, we believe, does a similar demonstration attain its objective in such a masterly way.

(Translation).

La Metropole

For a normal 3.442 c.c. sports car carrying full equipment even to a front bumper, rear overriders and G.B. letters and running on pump fuel, to officially exceed a speed of 133 m.p.h. is a truly meritorious achievement.

*Motor Sport*

It is the fastest ever touring, yet as docile in heavy traffic as the most expensive and biggest saloon.

Thomas H. Wisdom, *Daily Herald*