



1974 ELITE

Officially launched in May 1974, the Elite heralded a new direction for Lotus as an Automaker. Hitherto a manufacturer of small and light coupes and roadsters, the Elite was the first of a new generation of cars intended to elevate Lotus' market position and compete with the supercar establishment. Although the Elite was bigger and heavier than its predecessors, the Lotus philosophies of innovative engineering, light weight, and slippery aerodynamics allowed the Elite to compete effectively with its more powerful, but heavier, competition. The Elite also preserved Lotus' excellent reputation for handling; its sophisticated independent suspension and perfect front/rear weight distribution gave it flat, roll-free cornering and a neutral handling balance that few modern cars can match. Despite its performance credentials, the Elite pampered its occupants like no Lotus before it. For the first time, air-conditioning, power-steering and an automatic transmission were made available to complement the standard equipment. In addition, the Elite's spacious interior was luxuriously designed by the Italian master Giorgetto Giugiaro, and could comfortably seat four adults. Production of the Elite ended in 1983, after a total of 2,535 examples had been built. "...the steering, ride, handling and braking are everything we have come to expect from a Lotus - and more. In a word, fabulous." Road & Track, March 1975.



Specifications:

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|--------------|--|
| Engine | 4 cylinder, 1973cc, four valve per cylinder aluminum block |
| Performance | |
| Top Speed | 128 mph |
| 0-60 mph | 7.4 seconds |
| 0-100 mph | 23.3 seconds |
| Power | 140 bhp @ 6500 rpm |
| Torque | 130 ft. lbs @ 5000 rpm |
| Cooling | Water cooled |
| Transmission | 5-speed manual transaxle |
| Ratios: | 1 st - 3.200 2 nd - 2.010 3 rd - 1.370 4 th - 1.000 5 th - 0.800 Rev - 3.467 |

| | |
|----------------|------------------------|
| Brake System | Front disc / rear drum |
| Wheels | Alloy 7jk |
| Dimensions: | |
| Length | 179.7 inches |
| Height | 47.5 inches |
| Width | 71.5 inches |
| Unladen Weight | 2975 lbs |