



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 super car 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:

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