

Volvo 122s “Amazon”

I am only the fourth owner of this 53 year-old car, the first being a lady in Leicester who kept it for 24 years. It then had two further owners during the intervening years before I finally acquired it 1999.

It became my everyday car until late 2005 when I took it off the road to rebuild; five years of living on the Isle of Portland, exposed to far more than its fair share of wind, rain and salt spray had taken its toll. There is some considerable doubt as to whether my decision to carry out this project was sensible ... given the amount of work needed. It was another 7 years before the car saw the road again and the first trip, just 5 days after receiving a fresh MoT, was to Montpellier in the South of France; a 2000-mile round trip that it made without missing a beat.

The only modifications have been to the engine which now has a high-lift camshaft, steel timing gear to replace the fibre one, cylinder head from a Volvo 123GT (bigger valves, hardened valve seats and higher compression), a twin-downpipe exhaust manifold and straight-through sports exhaust.

The car is still not finished and very possibly never will be completely, it is also not now in daily use, that task falling to a 1974 Volvo 144. It is however used and enjoyed regularly, often towing our tiny “Pod” caravan.