

BIRKIN

BIRKIN S3 CLUBMAN - THE AFFORDABLE SUPER CAR!

"MY FIRST DRIVE IN A BIRKIN"

I have never before been in anything that accelerated or felt like that did. Wow! Not since I let go of an aircraft wing at 8,000 feet have I 'lost' bits of seconds due to sensory overload.

This Birkin is a car begging to be driven. It's very tight, compliant, forgiving yet capable of outrageous performance. Your senses come alive just sitting in the thing. It's changed my notion of what a 160 horsepower can do given the right chassis. I can still only imagine having 200 or more horses under my foot, but I'm a bit closer after today.

Steering is precise - you just point the car, add some loud pedal and watch the front wheels swallow the tarmac. It doesn't bump steer at all, or punish your wrists. Across train tracks, manhole covers, potholes... smooth and steady.

The Birkin is stiff, the ride quite firm, but not rock-hard as I was expecting. You can see the wheels move. New sensations report in through the steering and the seat as the car telegraphs its intent. I was bounced about a bit, but with the bucket seats and tight fit I wasn't going anywhere the car wasn't. The seatbelt and roll over bar was comforting, but I thought about the added security of a four-point harness!



WHAT EXACTLY IS THE 'BIRKIN'?

The Birkin sports car is essentially a reproduction of the Lotus 7 Series 3, originally manufactured by Lotus Cars UK in 1968. The Birkin S3 fits into a niche market for classic cars of the "7" variety, of which there are numerous derivatives. Most of these are only broadly similar to the original Lotus in cosmetic appearance, and differ significantly in technical construction.

Birkin's S3 is one of only two reproductions worldwide that bear any real resemblance to the original Lotus, although both have been re-engineered in different directions to meet modern safety and emission legislation. Birkin Cars (Pty) Ltd is a South African manufacturing entity which has earned an enviable international reputation for craftsmanship and quality. Over 6000 Birkins have been supplied worldwide.

BIRKIN S3 CLUBMAN - THE CAR YOU CAN BUILD YOURSELF!

One of the attractions of the Birkin is that it is provided as a build it yourself kit. The Birkin allows owners to significantly reduce costs by assembling components onto a completely finished chassis which is fully clad with all pipes run. There is no need for any fabrication or metalwork. The vehicle can be assembled quickly using standard Birkin components in approximately 100 hours. All components are new and provided prepackaged and labeled. The comprehensive build instructions reward the constructor with a high performance vehicle that has enviable resale value.

The Birkin S3 Roadster - Live Axle

The S3 chassis is fitted with a live rear axle and wide track front suspension. The simplicity of the 4 link rear end combined with a Panhard rod offers reduced cost and ease of setup at the track for competition purposes.

Comprehensive Base Kit

The Birkin is available as a comprehensive base kit with a range of additional component kits which can be purchased as needed to complete the vehicle. The comprehensive kit includes:

Body chassis assembly

An epoxy coated steel space frame fitted with aluminium panelling, carbon fibre dash, brake and fuel lines; GRP front and rear cycle guards and nosecone (with grill), all fitted with mounting brackets and clips ready for assembly.

Chassis accessories

A 38 litre aluminium fuel tank and lockable filler assembly, an aluminium radiator with oil cooler mounts, a scuttle assembly with padded console, and a spare wheel cradle and roll bar. A fully braced rack and pinion assembly with a lockable and collapsible steering column and a billet aluminium pedal box adjustable for reach and front to rear braking bias, and handbrake assembly are also provided.

Wide track front suspension

Upper and lower wishbones in Aero tubing, specially cast and machined aluminium uprights, 4 spot aluminium racing calipers and pads, front hubs, adjustable stabiliser bar assembly and all required linkages, bushes, brake hoses and fasteners.

Component Kits

These are available for: Engine installation, gearbox fitting, upholstery and interior, windscreen, lighting, instruments, electrical looms, wet weather gear and side screens, boot and tonneau covers, and other performance and comfort options as required.

The Birkin S3 Roadster - Independent Rear Suspension

Responsive and exhilarating to drive, the IRS model is a well balanced performance Roadster with incredible road holding and acceleration. The IRS model offers superior road holding and ride on bumpy surfaces with a modest increase in price and no weight penalty.

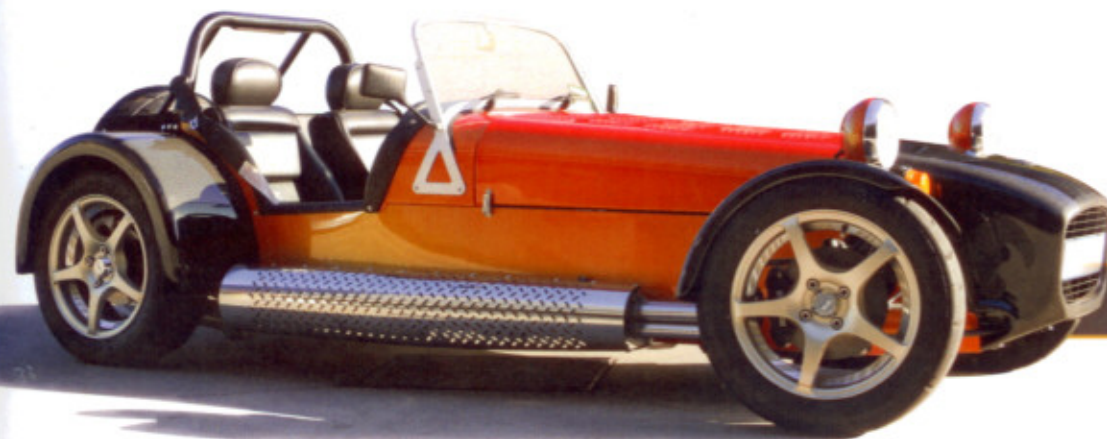
Independent Rear Suspension

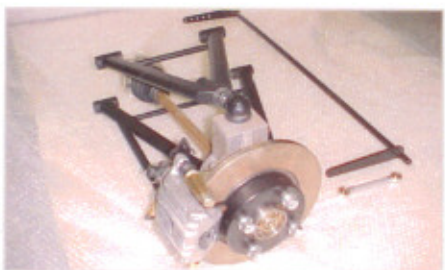
Upper and lower wishbones in Aero tubing, specially cast and machined aluminium uprights, single spot aluminium calipers (with integral handbrake assemblies), brake pads, rear hubs, adjustable stabiliser bar assembly and all required linkages, bushes, brake hoses and fasteners. A machined and fabricated structure to mount the differential is also provided.

Or

Live Axle Rear Suspension

3.9:1 differential assembly, 4 trailing links and a Panhard rod, single spot aluminium calipers (with integral handbrake assemblies), and all required linkages, bushes, brake hoses and fasteners.





Frequently Asked Questions

Q1. What engine options are available?

A: Installation kits are available for a wide range of engines including the Toyota 4AGE (16 and 20 valve), the Toyota 1ZZ and 2ZZ, the Toyota 3SGE, the Ford Zetec, and the latest Ford Duratec. However, current Australian emission legislation limits engine selection depending on the state in which the vehicle is to be registered. New Zetec power plants are available that meet current emission standards!

Q2. What gearbox options are recommended?

A: Standard gearbox fitment is the Ford Type 9, 5 Speed which is readily available, compact and robust. Spares are locally available and a wide range of performance transmission components including alternative ratios can be purchased through specialist providers.

Q3: Can Birkin Australia source my engine, gearbox and other components not included in the comprehensive kit?

A: Local Birkin agents can supply all of the components to complete your vehicle including both new and second hand.

Q4: How do I register my completed vehicle?

A: All Australian Birkin's have been registered as Individually Constructed Vehicles (ICV's). Every car has been subject to engineering inspection to ensure compliance with State and Federal regulations. Your local distributor has access to a well developed engineering template to speed this process.

Q5: If I am over 1.8M tall, will I fit in the car?

A: Yes; the S3 will accommodate drivers up to 1.9m tall and 110KG in weight. The pedal box is adjustable for reach and the drivers seat is fitted with sliding rails to help achieve the optimum driving position..

Q6: Are parts and accessories easily available?

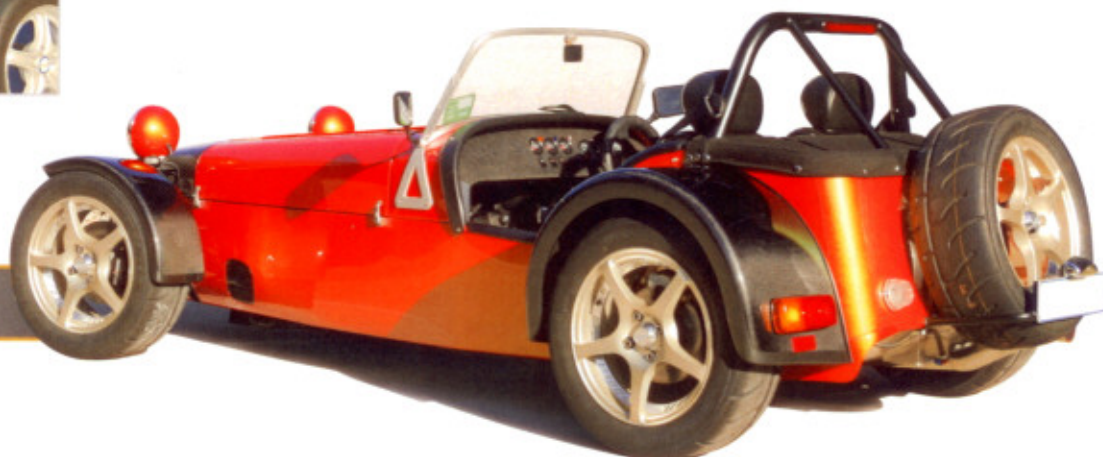
A: The advent of Birkin Australia has ensured that distributors stock and carry a diversity of parts from a simple engine mount to a complete chassis.

Q7: What is the delivery time once the order has been placed?

A: Birkin Australia has been established to ensure a supply of component form vehicles ex-stock.

Q8: How do I get my Birkin insured?

A: Your Birkin can be readily insured through a range of providers for a modest premium without a large excess. Your local dealer will be able to provide further details.



BIRKIN S3 CLUBMAN - SPECIFICATIONS

Engine

Standard Ford Zetec 2000 cc, 107 KW, 185 NM, Euro 3 emissions.

Transmission

Ford Type 9, 5 speed with concentric slave in bell housing.
Open differential ratio 3.9:1 standard, with 4.1:1 and 4.44:1 options including LSD.

Suspension

Independent suspension front and rear with unequal length wish bones, coil springs, adjustable dampers, anti roll bars and aluminium uprights and hubs. Optional four link live axle with Panhard rod.

Steering

Lightweight rack and pinion fully braced into front chassis with collapsible steering column.

Braking System

Ventilated disc brake assemblies (255mm) with four piston aluminium calipers at the front with solid disc brake assemblies (254mm) at the rear. Lightweight bias adjustable pedal box with fore and aft travel.

Body Construction

Space frame type chassis structure with integral aluminium body panels and CHS and RHS framing similar to a Lotus Super 7. An aluminium fuel tank (38 litres), aluminium radiator and braced roll over bar are provided.

Weights and Dimensions

Front track: 1410mm
Rear track: 1410mm
Overall width: 1600mm
Overall length: 3440mm
Wheelbase: 2235mm
Kerb weight without passengers: 540 Kg dry (without options).

Wheels and Tyres

6.5JJx15 alloy rims with Toyo Proxes R888 radial ply tyres (195/55 R15 front) and (205/50 ZR15 rear).

Performance

0-100 Km/Hr: 5.2 seconds approx.
Top speed: 200 Km/Hr



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