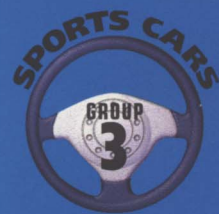




SWEDEN 1971-1973

Volvo P1800ES



NUMBER 135

The uniquely styled Volvo P1800 coupe was looking a little dated by the start of the 1970s, so Volvo decided to spruce it up by adding a station wagon rear end. This improved its luggage capacity.

Produced by
Volvo Car Corp,
Gothenburg, Sweden.



VITAL STATISTICS

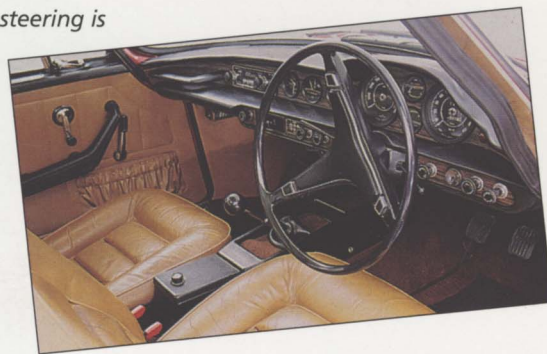
| | |
|---------------|---------------------------|
| Top speed: | 116 mph |
| 0-60 mph: | 11.3 sec. |
| Engine type: | Inline four |
| Displacement: | 1,986 cc |
| Max power: | 112 bhp at 6,000 rpm |
| Max torque: | 115 lb-ft at 3,500 rpm |
| Weight: | 2,570 lbs. |
| Gas mileage: | 27 mpg |
| Price: | \$5,032 |



"...supportive seats."

"The elderly design of the P1800ES's engine means that you really need to work the shifter—which is slick, with well-spaced ratios—in order to overcome the lack of torque. Because the steering is heavier than suits most people's tastes, it is only on the freeway that the Volvo shines, with its overdrive transmission working very well. Prominent body roll makes forceful driving a hair-raising experience. At least you sit comfortably on very supportive seats."

An overdrive transmission makes the Volvo a fine cruiser.



Volvo P1800ES

Volvo's 1800ES was part sports car, part station wagon and a real image breaker for the Swedish firm. The specification was hardly state-of-the-art, but it was in many ways a lively, charismatic car.

Fuel injection

Volvo's 1800 model switched to fuel injection from 1969, not only for the American market but for Europe too, which was unusual. The system chosen was Bosch's electronically controlled Jetronic, which enabled good emissions performance without serious loss of power.

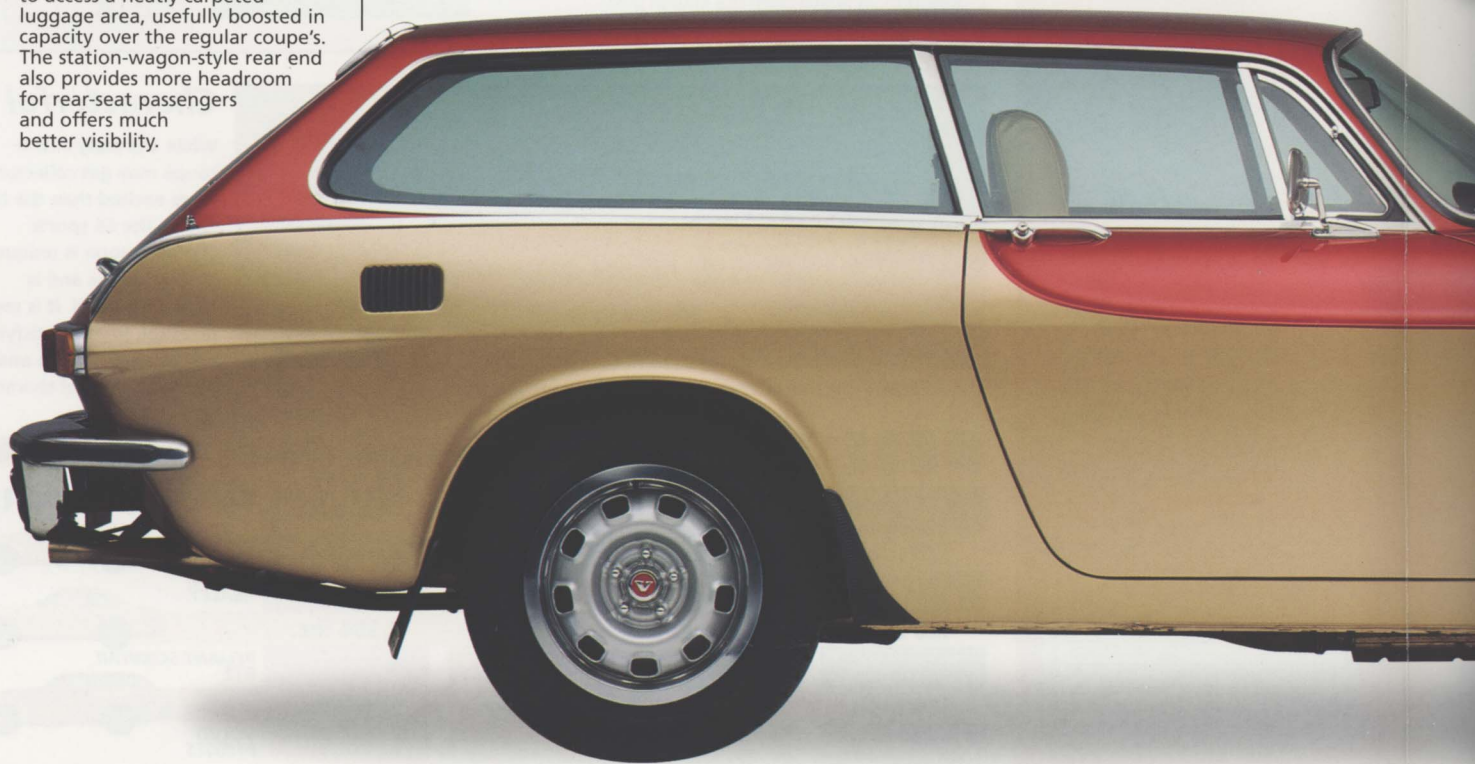


Rear fins

Despite its rear-end makeover, the 1800ES retained the prominent rear fins of the 1800 coupe. This is one styling quirk that was well out of fashion by the 1970s.

Glass tailgate

A deep, glass rear hatch lifts up to access a neatly carpeted luggage area, usefully boosted in capacity over the regular coupe's. The station-wagon-style rear end also provides more headroom for rear-seat passengers and offers much better visibility.





Four-wheel disc brakes

As part of Volvo's safety-first policy, it adopted all-around disc braking from 1969. That meant the 1971-1973 1800ES model always came with powered discs on each wheel.



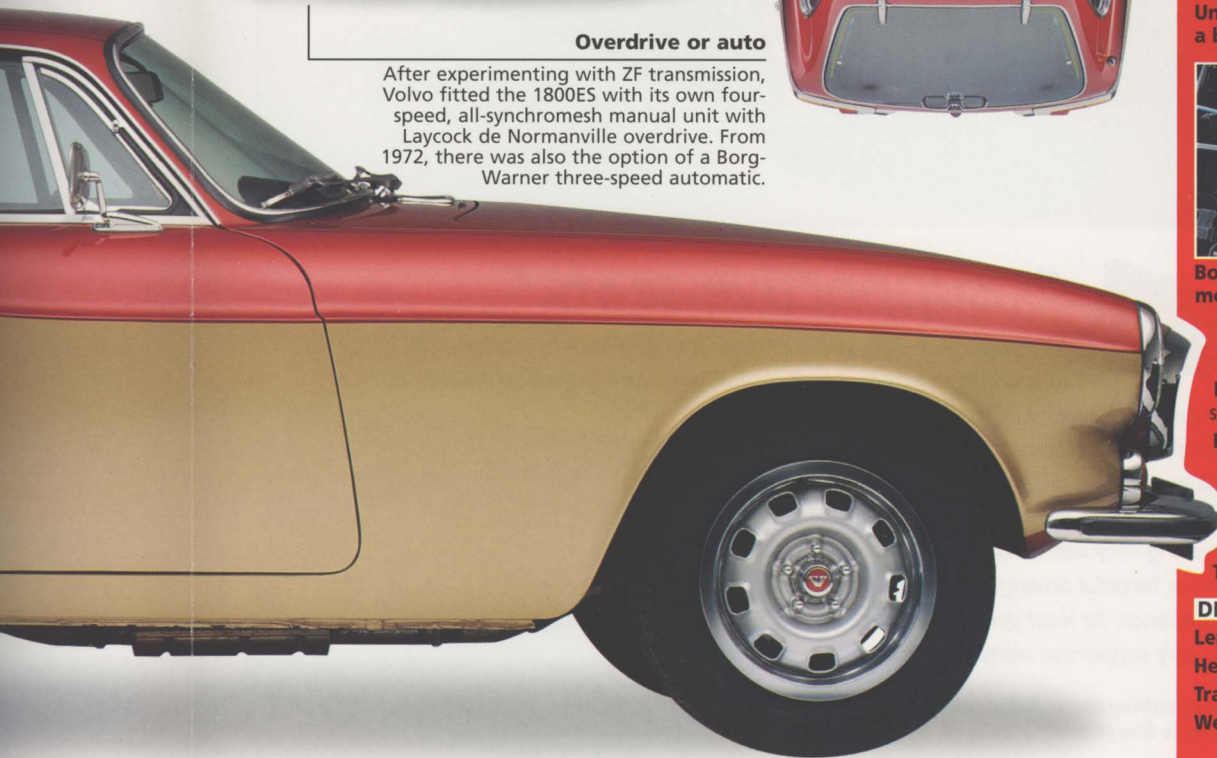
Rear fins

Despite its rear-end makeover, the 1800ES retained the prominent rear fins of the 1800 coupe. This is the styling quirk that was well out of fashion by the 1970s.



Overdrive or auto

After experimenting with ZF transmission, Volvo fitted the 1800ES with its own four-speed, all-synchromesh manual unit with Laycock de Normanville overdrive. From 1972, there was also the option of a Borg-Warner three-speed automatic.



Specifications

1972 Volvo P1800ES

ENGINE

Type: Inline four

Construction: Cast-iron cylinder block and head

Valve gear: Two valves per cylinder operated by a single camshaft with pushrods and rockers

Bore and stroke: 3.55 in. x 3.2 in.

Displacement: 1,986 cc

Compression ratio: 8.7:1

Induction system: Bosch fuel injection

Maximum power: 112 bhp at 6,000 rpm

Maximum torque: 115 lb-ft at 3,500 rpm

TRANSMISSION

Four-speed manual with overdrive

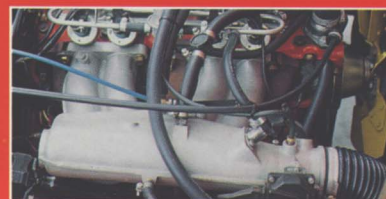
BODY/CHASSIS

Unitary monocoque construction with steel two-door station wagon body

SPECIAL FEATURES



Unlike earlier P1800 models, the ES has a black plastic grill.



Bosch fuel injection allowed the ES to meet strict U.S. emission tests.

RUNNING GEAR

Steering: Worm-and-roller

Front suspension: Wishbones with coil springs, shock absorbers and anti-roll bar

Rear suspension: Live axle with trailing arms, radius arms, Panhard rod, coil springs and shock absorbers

Brakes: Discs (front and rear)

Wheels: Steel or alloy, 15-in. dia.

Tires: 185/70 HR15

DIMENSIONS

Length: 172.6 in. **Width:** 66.9 in.

Height: 50.6 in. **Wheelbase:** 96.5 in.

Track: 51.6 in. (front and rear)

Weight: 2,570 lbs.

Milestones

1963 Volvo moves into the sports car market with the P1800 coupe



The sporty 123GT uses the same 1.8-liter engine as the ES.

1969 As the renamed 1800E, the coupe gains fuel injection, disc brakes and alloy wheels.



The P1800 sports coupe was originally made by Jensen.

1971 The 1800ES sports station wagon is launched. Despite its good looks, in Europe it gains the nickname 'Snow White's hearse.'

1972 Automatic transmission becomes available as an option.

1973 A year after the coupe is withdrawn, 1800ES production ends. Some 8,078 examples were built. Most were exported to the U.S.

VALUE GUIDE

ORIGINAL PRICE

1972 \$5,032

CURRENT VALUE

\$2,500-\$8,000

PRODUCTION TOTAL

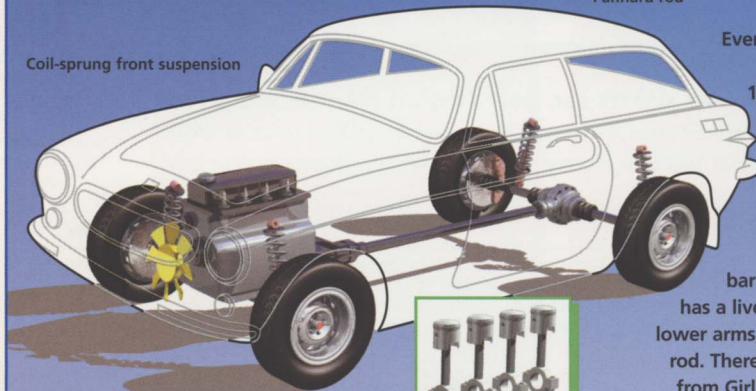
8,078

UNDER THE SKIN

Front and rear disc brakes

Live rear axle with Panhard rod

Coil-sprung front suspension



Inline four

Solid sledge

Every bit as strongly built as its Volvo sedan sisters, the 1800ES even shares many of its underpinnings with the rugged Amazon series.

That includes the suspension, consisting of unequal-length wishbones, coil springs and an anti-roll bar at the front, while the rear has a live axle with radius arms and lower arms, coil springs and a Panhard rod. There are four-wheel disc brakes from Girling, and the transmission is Volvo's own M41 four-speed unit.

THE POWER PACK

Rugged design

Volvo engines have a reputation for rugged reliability and longevity. Certainly the overhead-valve four-cylinder unit in the 1800ES lasted a long time in production, as it is derived from the PV444 engine of the 1940s. It even shares its 80-mm stroke, although by the 1970s it had expanded to 2.0 liters. From 1969, the sporting Volvos had Bosch electronically controlled fuel injection, in which form the engine puts out 130 bhp, or just 112 bhp in the U.S.



The P1800ES combines style, safety and performance.

Characterful

While the early P1800 coupe may get collectors more excited than the later 1800E, the ES sports station wagon is unique among Volvos and is highly regarded. It is more practical, just as satisfying and reliable to own and has an individual character.

NOSE TO NOSE Jensen-Healey • Reliant Scimitar GTE • Volvo P1800ES

| TOP SPEED | 0-60 mph | POWER | WEIGHT | RIVAL CARS |
|-----------|----------|---------|------------|----------------------|
| 120 mph | 7.8 sec. | 140 bhp | 2,120 lbs. | JENSEN-HEALEY |
| 120 mph | 8.8 sec. | 146 bhp | 2,554 lbs. | RELIANT SCIMITAR GTE |
| 116 mph | 11.3 sec | 112 bhp | 2,570 lbs. | VOLVO P1800ES |