

200mph Mark 1 Jaguar

Editor: The following story is about an obsessed American known as Kris who wanting to do 200 mph in his road registered Mark 1 Jaguar.

England 1950's

Skies were grey with smog. People were grey with nicotine. Even the cars were grey. In fact, life in fifties' Britain was pretty grey all round. However, in 1955 a ray of sunshine appeared in the shape of the new Jaguar Mark 1 saloon.

This was powered by 2.4 or 3.4-litre twin-cam straight six based on the XK120 sports car engine. In 1956, The Motor magazine ran a 3.4L up to 119.8 mph. The car was loved by cops, robbers and race car drivers such as Sir Stirling Moss, Roy Salvadori, Mike Hawthorn and Australians David McKay, Ron Hodgson and Ian 'Pete' Geoghegan.

Jagrolet

Kris bought the Mk 1 in 1987. He drove it that way until Hot Rod magazine's 'Dare to be Different' campaign inspired him to turn the 120mph 'Jagrolet' into a street legal 200mph race car.

He fitted it with a 327/Turbo 400 along with wide wheels and associated modifications. The modified Mk 1 did the quarter mile in 11.70 seconds. In 1994, the 327 was replaced with a 350 which turned a credible 9.89/137 mph.

In 2003 Kris decided to try his hand at land speed racing. With a 2.56 rear



The Mk 1 Jaguar has been fitted with at least 10 different engines not including the original 3.4 litre XK engine. The car first hit 200mph powered by a 572 cubic inch big block V8. The current unit is a 6.0 litre LS with twin turbos.

end, he went 159mph. Kris returned for several years trying to break 200mph, but failed.

Determined to break that barrier, he installed twin turbos and bumped his speed to 182mph, but melted two pistons.

Close But No Cigar

He wasn't done yet though, and with the help of a friend he built a 572ci Chevy that made 850hp naturally aspirated. That Mk 1 went 195 mph, but still not the magic 200 he was looking for.

Then in 2011, running on nitro (N20) the 572ci finally went 204mph. After 10 years of trying, Kris had finally made it into the 200mph club.

Not Finished Yet

His plan now is to drive from his home south of Nashville, Tennessee to Blytheville, AR, and run the Arkansas Mile - and, of course, go 200mph. We have no doubt he will.

Editor: Information for this story sourced from Custom Car Magazine.

