

1960 Bentley S2

Launched in 1959, the **Bentley S2** introduced the all new aluminium 6230cc V8 engine that would be the base for all Bentley power plants until the arrival of the **Arnage** in 1998. The S2 was based on the Rolls-Royce Silver Cloud II but, with the new engine, offered significantly better performance than the previous cars. A total of 1,922 S2s (2,308 including the S2 Continental) were produced between 1959 and 1962.



The new engine had to make do with the antiquated separate chassis and mechanical servo brakes that harked back to the Edwardian era. Despite the car's elderly mechanical design this large, heavy motor car could reach 115mph and cruise on Europe's new motorways at high speed for long periods, eating up the miles (and petrol).

As on the earlier S1, some cars had special bodies by the usual Coachbuilders (Park Ward, Hooper, H.J. Mulliner and James Young) although many were beginning to disappear as the age of the monocoque (a construction technique that supports structural load using an object's external skin) car arrived. The S2 was replaced by the facelifted S3 in 1962.

The Bentley S2 in the BK Museum was acquired in its current condition in October 2004.