

One of a Kind

1978 Mini Estate

Featured in Mini World (Dec 08)

42,434 original miles

Offered for purchase is a one-of-a-kind Mini station wagon. I am only the second owner of this vehicle. Originally sold to an elderly woman in Reading (UK), it was lovingly cared for and only gained 22,000 miles before I acquired it in 2003. I purchased it after her passing and imported it to the US. After driving the car about 18 months I decided to change the color scheme (mustard yellow/brown velour) and the Clubman front end, opting to emulate the earlier 60's "tinnie" look. Renewal was undertaken in 2005.

The car was completely disassembled, a few small rust areas addressed with new metal, a new all metal flip front created and sub-frames powder-coated. The car was finished in factory Vermillion Red appropriate for its age. Wear prone areas were coated with two coats of Herculiner to protect the finish. A full set of restoration photos are available at: <http://www.northamericanmotoring.com/gallery/showgallery.php/cat/539>. For those concerned, the flip front could easily be transformed to the standard fitment if desired. However the convenience of accessibility and potential of removal make routine maintenance a dream.

As the Mini seats are notoriously bad, a complete interior from a 1999 Prelude was fitted. The adjustable seats with lumbar support have been excellent for the many long distance trips we've experienced. It was fitted with new carpet and mats and a new white vinyl headliner. A custom polished aluminum dash with full gauges was fitted along with polished door hardware.

On the exterior, original period Lucas Flamethrowers, SLR700s (100W) and SFT700s (45W), were obtained and fitted to a chrome lamp bar. A spare SFT700 lamp and two SLR700 lenses are included. Halogen headlamps were also added as well as LED brake lights for added visibility. New chrome wipers, fill plates and mirrors were added. The car was then fitted with Minilight 10x6 rims and shod with Yokohama A008s. Tires are in very good condition. Two are new.

Mechanically, the Mini sports the original 1098 which has been an excellent and torquey motor. It was fitted with a Cooper 12G295 cylinder head to improve breathing and a LCB with an RC40 exhaust were installed. The original HS4 Capstat SU was rebuilt, fitted with standard jets, mounted on an alloy intake and a chrome cone air filter installed. A Pertronix ignition replaced the points and a Pertronix coil was added. A new clutch assembly was installed at the time as a precaution as well as a water pump and radiator. A new 90A GM alternator powers the electrical system.

Brakes were addressed with new cylinders, springs and linings all around and Cooper S drums in the rear. About 2007, a 7.9" disc brake conversion was installed along with new CV's, bearings etc. A spare set of new calipers comes with the car.

Suspension has been greatly upgraded with adjustable tie rods, adjustable lower arms, adjustable rear camber brackets, poly bushings (F&R), and HI-LOs installed all around. Cones and dampers were also replaced in the rebuild.

A SS sump guard was fitted to protect the drive-train. The transmission is the original rod-change gearbox which shifts smoothly and quietly. It has been fitted with a short shift kit.

The car comes with the classic Mini roof carrier as pictured. To be noticed in traffic (if the color and lights don't do it), the car is fitted with triple air horns.

The car comes with a blue Technalon car cover and has always been stored in a dry garage. Many of the removed original parts are available and will go with the car. It currently has only 42,434 original miles. The car is titled in Florida.

The bad: Like most LBCs it has a small oil leak, likely the gear selector rod seals. There is one small bubble (3/8") in the paintwork behind the left rear wheel arch.

If you seek a unique and practical Mini, this estate is the ticket. A proper wagon, not a converted van. Quality built. A real head-turner in traffic. More photos available at: <http://s3355.photobucket.com/albums/r454/minimad-photos/Mini%20Parts/Mini%20Estate%20Sale%20Photos/>

Clear FL title.

PRICE: \$12,900