



DELAHAYE TYPE 145

Coupe, 1938





The Veteran

A Retired Racer that has grown more beautiful with age

In 1937 Lucy Schell, founder of the Ecurie Bleue racing team, ordered four Delahaye Type 145s to compete in the French government's automotive engineering challenge, the Million Franc Prize. The Mullin Automotive Museum is home to three of these historical cars.

Chassis 48773 is one of the three.

The Mullin Chassis 48771, 48772, and 48773 were exotic V-12 racecars built for speed and endurance. The original aluminum

coachwork was utilitarian and devoid of anything that would take away from the aerodynamic form needed to reach high speeds. They experienced much success on the track—racing in international grand prix throughout Europe during the 1937–1939 seasons.

With its racing career at an end, Chassis 48772 was bought by coachbuilder Henri Chapron, who transformed it into one of the most beautiful examples of classic French coachwork of the postwar era. Having by necessity been unproductive



during World War II, Chapron began to rebody the car as a two-seat coupé in 1947. The long, narrow, and underslung body was ideal for sleek-looking coachwork. The car bore the signature Delahaye radiator with enveloped, teardrop-shaped fenders and an elaborate beltline that dipped with the downslope of the fenders toward the rear. Its priceless and historic twelve-cylinder engine has remained intact.



PROFILE

Coachbuilder	Chapron
Chassis number	48772
Body type	Coupé
Number made	1 of 4
Acceleration	0
Top Speed	120

BODY | CHASSIS

Front brakes type	Hydraulic; ventilated
Rear brakes type	Hydraulic; ventilated
Front suspension type	Independent transverse leaf springs with upper control arms and lever-action shock absorbers
Rear suspension type	Live axle with semielliptical leaf springs and lever-action shock absorbers
Length	15' 10"
Height (Ground line to highest roof)	4' 7"
Width	6' 1"

ENGINE

Number of cylinders	12
Displacement	4496
BHP at 4000 RPM	184
Gearbox	Cotal electromagnetic
Number of gears	4
Overdrive	0



