

More dash for the Elan

Elements gathered from Ford of England's far-flung collaborators crystallized into the ballistic 1972 Lotus Elan Broadspeed. We drive it



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Given Lotus's association with Ford from Cortinas to Formula One, Cosworth's efforts on everyone's behalf, and the Broadspeed works' wrenching involvement with the road-car-based-racing side of things, you'd think that someone, at some point, would have thought to cram a 16-valve Cosworth twin-cam into an Elan. Ultra-light car (just about a ton, with driver) plus ultra-powerful engine could only equal a monstrous little sports machine, suitable for terrorizing six-, eight- and twelve-cylinder machines alike. Couldn't it?

Well, unknown to most, someone did. And this is it. When we say "it," we don't mean "an example of." Literally, this was it. The one, the only.

