

TIMELINE: ALPINE & SOLARA IN UK

- July 1975

Alpine introduced in Europe and produced in France, 1294cc GL and 1442cc S 4 speed AT Simca Gearbox

- September 1975

GL and S introduced to UK market (press only)

- January 1976

Voted car of the year

- September 1976

UK GLS version launch

Same engine as 1442cc S, additional accoutrements are velour seating with integral vinyl headrests, electric windows with switches located in centre console, tinted glass all round and laminated windscreen, headlamp wash wipers

- November 1976

Production of Alpine commenced at Ryton

- August 1977

Electric window switches re-located to driver and passenger door top finishers, the finisher is also changed to complement the dashboard

- September 1977

The 1442CC engine can be specified as an option on the GL

Instrument panel includes brake pad wear warning lights with test switch

Rear wash wipe standard on S and GLS

- January 1978

Optional factory fitted Cassette, Sunroof and Central door locking available

Vinyl roof standard on the GLS unless sunroof is specified

Chrome Door mirrors discontinued replaced with larger black metal design

The metal sill covers are replaced with a plastic design

The front seats now have adjustable headrests with revised seat rake adjuster in nylon plastic, the stitching design has narrow ribs

- July 1979

Rebound stops added to front dampers

- October 1978

Electronic Ignition changed to Hall Effect discontinuing the need for the ballast resistor, the coil bracket on the O/S wing welded mounting is deleted and the coil relocated to the engine/ gearbox

Optional flat design Alloy wheels

Deletion of pressure sensor shuttle valve in 19mm master cylinder, replaced with simpler 20.6mm master cylinder with level sensor in master cylinder reservoir

- December 1978

The LS model with 1294 or 1442 engine introduced, the S model is discontinued, The GL has six dial instruments irrespective of engine size and has body side mouldings

- April 1979

Flat design Alloy wheels discontinued, spoked alloy wheels become the option

Limited edition Alpine Sun Seeker Based on the GL 1442cc features a factory fitted sunroof, tinted glass, spoked alloy wheels, push button radio, black body stripes and halogen headlamps. Available in three choices of colour with chequer cloth seating:

Seville with Brown interior, Ermine white with brown interior, Moss Green with Brown interior

- June 1979

GLS Special (Jubilee in rest of Europe)

Available in two tone colours Green/ Green, Brown/ Brown, Silver/ Silver. 1442cc engine with 4speed AT gearbox, Power Steering, Alloy wheels, Factory Fitted Sunroof, Velour interior in Green, brown or grey, electric front windows, tinted glass and laminated windscreen

- Late 1979

Alpine SX (Mk1)

1592cc with Torque flight A415 3speed automatic transmission, cruise control headlamp washers central locking and GLS specification, but with full parchment velour interior with stitching design with large panels, including seat sides and backs and flat design Alloy wheels

- January/ February 1980

Redesigned front and rear ends and restyled bumpers. With the exception of the front panel forward of inner wings, rear lamp panel and to a lesser extent the rear wings which have a slightly different rear edge. The structure remains the same with broadly interchangeable cosmetic changes to the internal structure to accommodate trim clips, a new rear inner panel to allow access to the lamp units, a re-profiled tailgate lower edge (even more rot prone) and provision for mercury tilt switch, cut outs on door to attach new style mirror and slightly altered front wings in the indicator aperture. The grille has TALBOT inscription, a new dashboard, revised interior trim and instruments, the SX (Mk2) now also has a trip computer and heavy tint bronze glass wheel offset for all wheels goes from 41mm to 36mm, and has spoked alloy wheels. LS and GL have white bumpers, GLS and SX dark grey which extend to all models by February. GLS is 1442cc and P/S optional on GL and GLS

- April 1980

Solara range introduced, both Solara and Alpine have revised wider track front and rear with modified front suspension which necessitated an alteration to the longitudinal front member mounting holes, have revised braking system and 22.2mm master cylinder (from May), all implemented simultaneously with the Alpine. T on grille only with Talbot inscription on bonnet

Solara available as 1.3 LS, 1.6 LS, GL, GLS, and SX

- September 1980

The GLS model on Alpines and Solaras is downgraded; no tinted glass, or power steering, velour interior is replaced with tweed. GLS alpine is 1442cc, Solara is 1592cc

- March 1981

Introduction of AC 428/ 429 Citroen gearbox 4 or 5-speed, optional on GLS and SX, the LS and GL continues with the 4 speed AT gearbox

- May 1981

Parchment or Grey interior available on SX

Alpine GLS is 1592cc only

- September 1981

Engine modification increase economy and BHP and torque

Alpine GL now has 1592cc engine 4 speed AC gearbox with the option of the five speed AC box, the 5-speed gearbox is standard on the GLS (P/S standard) and SX, the automatic becomes the option on the SX, the velour interior on the GLS is reintroduced on the seat faces with vinyl sides, this interior design extends to the SX in Havana, Blue or Grey. New type of Trip computer with red and white buttons has new sender units and turbo function that measures instant fuel consumption

- March 1982

Limited edition Alpine Arrow in silver or cherry

based on 1442 LS but with 1592 engine, 5speed AC gearbox, Piccadilly trim similar to the Lotus sunbeam

- May 1982

Limited edition Solara Sceptre based on a GL with factory fitted sunroof but with 1592 engine, 4 speed AC gearbox, Café noir and gilt with Havana tweed trim or Fox grey and silver with grey tweed trim

- September 1982

Limited edition Alpine Stereo front fog lights, specific 4 channel stereo radio cassette based on the 1592cc LS but with 1442cc engine 4 speed AT/AC gearbox. Piccadilly trim similar to the Lotus sunbeam

Limited edition Solara Vogue based on the 1592cc LS with 4 speed AT gearbox but with front fog lights, electric window and 72bhp engine

The 1442 cc engine is discontinued from the Alpine

- October 1982

Series 2 introduced Range LE, LS, GL, and GLS. All models have the BE gearbox in 4 or 5 speed form the Automatic becomes an option on GLS, and GL. Economy models available LE 1.3 and 1.6

The GLS has Pepper pot alloy wheels, revised velour door cards, quicker solenoid type central locking and velour headlining on the Solara

- December 1982

5 speed gearbox standard on all 1592cc

- June 1984

Limited edition Alpine S Summertime Special, Cascade blue metallic based on the 1592cc LS with P/S and factory fitted glass sunroof.

- October 1984

All models re-badged Minx and Rapier essentially GL and GLS specification but the Rapier doesn't have electric windows, central locking or velour headlining. Automatic transmission is optional on Rapier models with an additional dashboard switch for turning on the cruise control system and additional column stalk for controlling the speed. European models have a further redesigned trip computer

- January 1985

Minx and Rapier only, automatic option discontinued

1985 - present battling the tin worm!