

Beauty



Germany. Here the running gear, which had been transported the 600 miles from Munich, was mated to the bodyshells.

It was not until October 1969 that the 2800CS arrived in the UK. Strangely enough the first cars arrived in the UK as left-hookers and were converted to right-hand-drive by the UK concessionaire, who also thought they should have electric windows. The standard transmission was a four-speed manual, while a three-speed auto was a £198 option and power steering was available at £99. With 170bhp and 174lb ft of torque from its 2798cc engine, fed by twin Zenith carbs, performance was strong – 128mph maximum and 0-60mph in 8.5 seconds. Autosport

summed the CS up as 'a very desirable car'.

Karmann assembled more than 9000 2800CS versions before the model was superseded in April 1971 by the 3.0CS. Although visually identical, this car was fitted with an enlarged 2985cc version of the six-cylinder engine, which produced 180bhp and 189lb ft of torque. Rear disc brakes were now standard (2800s made do with drums), while right-hand-drives were now produced at Osnabruck alongside the left-hand-drive cars.

By September 1971, the 3.0CS had been superseded by the fuel injected 3.0CSi, although British customers had to wait until March 1972 for deliveries. Only badging gave away the new model's identity, but under the

bonnet Bosch D-Jetronic fuel injection helped power soar to 200bhp, making it a genuine 140mph car. The CSi only came as a manual, if you had to have an auto, then the 3.0CSA was available alongside the CSi, but it was not very popular in the UK.

The ultimate coupé, the CSL, was introduced specifically to homologate parts that were necessary to take on Ford's Capri in the European Touring Car Championship. This was a proper stripped for action racer with aluminium opening panels, Scheel bucket seats, plastic rear bumper, plexiglass windows and very little in the way of sound proofing. The first CSLs were powered by a 2985cc carburettor engine and were all left-hand-drive, but