

The Spartan II. The fanciest 300ZX ... in the world.

If you read that title in Jeremy Clarkson's voice, you're on the right website.

My friend Mario, an avid Z31 300ZX enthusiast and owner, sent this crazy thing across my desk...



Immediately, I was able to see the Z31 greenhouse as a core component of the styling of this neo-classic car. The words that came to my mind when I saw this Spartan II were not very positive. It's a level of garishness on par with quarter vinyl tops and Continental kits. It reminds me of everything wrong with aftermarket dealer installed options, as if someone ordered a brand new Nissan sports coupe and demanded a vinyl roof, gold badges, Vogue wheels and tires, an E&G grille, and then went down to Auto Zone and grabbed some faux fender vents, just for good measure.



And yet... I find myself liking it. The shape reminds me somewhat of the bustleback Cadillac Seville of the early 1980s, which is certainly a love-it-or-hate-it design. So Mario and I did some digging.

We found a few different Spartan IIs for sale, and a link to the old Spartan Motorcar Co. website from archive.org. Mechanically and internally, this car is little more than a 300ZX 2+2 with fancy bodywork and whitewalls.

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Yep, that's a 300ZX alright.[/caption]

The company was based in Pinxton, Derbyshire, United Kingdom. They folded in 1995 after 22 years in business, producing kit cars on platforms like the Triumph Herald and the Ford Fiesta Mk2. Bodies were comprised of aluminum and fiberglass.

I think my favorite thing about this car is that it is instantly recognizable what it really is once you open the door. The really cool digital instrument panel is still present, as is the steering wheel that contains far too many buttons. It's a 300ZX with a redwood-sized portion of faux wood paneling, and it's perfectly fitting. Spartan even kept the t-tops, for when you have the urge for open air cruising in this large two door.

[caption id="attachment_137" align="alignnone" width="300"]



I have a secret love of this instrument panel.[/caption]

[caption id="attachment_136" align="alignnone" width="300"]



More wood equals more luxury, right?[/caption]

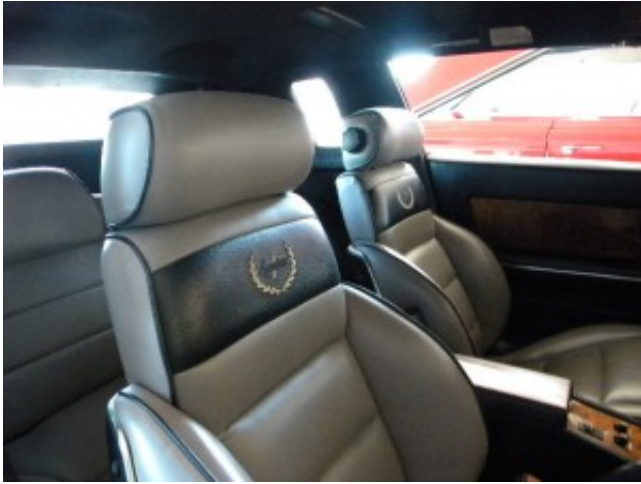
And large it is. According to Spartan's brochure, this thing is 204.2 inches long. That's bigger than a current BMW 7-series at 199.8 inches. Unfortunately, all that extra length still means you have to squeeze four people into the cabin of a 1980s 300ZX, assuming you can find three other willing passengers. What do you think? Would you buy it? Would you be SEEN in it? Are you as crazy as I am, and maybe you even LIKE it?

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You have to admit, those seats look pretty comfortable. [/caption]

For the curious, here is a link to the original ad on Hemmings.com:

http://www.hemmings.com/classifieds/dealer/spartan/series_2/1312423.html