

# CLASSIC DRIVER

## 1954 Ford Pilot

- Lot sold  
USD 0  
GBP 0 (listed)  
**Year of manufacture** 1954
- **Mileage** 1 657 mi / 2 667 km
- **Gearbox** Manual
- **Lot number** 244
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- **Drive** RHD
- **Condition** Used
- **Location** 
- **Exterior colour** Other
- **Car type** Other
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### Description

"The world's first mass-produced V-8, the legendary 'Flathead', was introduced by Henry Ford in March 1932. With two banks of four cylinders set at 60° apart and a capacity of 3,622cc, it developed 65bhp in its initial single carburettor form. The 'Flathead' was highly amenable to tuning and rapidly became the engine of choice within America's speed community and post war the standard bearer for the world of hot rodding. Post-war, the British Ford arm launched the new Pilot saloon featuring hydro mechanical brakes, a built-in jacking system and a column gear change. Initially equipped with the tax efficient 22hp motor, Dagenham soon reverted to the 3,622cc version. Power was up to 85bhp at 3,800rpm and the V8's famous flexibility more than compensated for a three-speed gearbox with synchromesh on the upper two ratios; indeed, it was marketed as 'a truly top-gear car...un-baffled by the steepest hills, unruffled by slow traffic speeds'. Costing £585 it was outstanding value for a car that could cruise at 60mph carrying six people in comfort on the bench seats and return 20mpg. The Pilot's performance credentials were underlined by their use as Police high-speed pursuit vehicles and Ken Wharton's victories in the 1950 Lisbon and Tulip Rallies.

This incredibly rare Pilot van was originally registered on 1st May 1954 and although being a British built van and remaining in the UK since new, is in left hand drive guise. Having been restored to a very good standard and owned by a fastidious and knowledgeable enthusiast, this V8 Pilot van presents in beautiful condition. We are advised she drives every bit as good as she looks. A comprehensive photographic history accompanies STJ 228 showing the depth and quality of the

restoration. Open the rear doors and the wooden roof lining is a work of art. These Pilot V8's were often built as a pick-up and were a great commercial vehicle for tradesmen because of their durability. Vans were built in far fewer numbers, and it is thought this could be the only one remaining. Supplied with a V5C registration document together with several invoices, this is a piece of British motoring history and one that will certainly turn heads.

Interested parties should note unfortunately there is a problem with the header tank on this vehicle. There was not enough time to repair it prior to auction. However the vendor will ensure it is repaired and then delivered free of charge to the new buyer.

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