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Callaway displays raw power, Jaguar power and elegance

Posted 01/07/99 10:20 a.m. CST

DETROIT — As the press days at the North American International Auto Show (NAIAS) drew to a close, two car makers showcased vehicles long on power and distinctive styling.

[Callaway C12 Convertible](#) | [Jaguar S-Type](#) | [Jaguar XK 180](#)

Callaway C12 Convertible

Not since homeboys Iggy Pop and the Stooges played in Detroit has there been so much raw power on display in the Motor City. A 5.7-liter, 440-horsepower LS1 engine propels the new [C12 Convertible](#) from Callaway Cars to a top speed of 195 mph. Introduced at the Detroit auto show on Wednesday, the open-air two-seater joins the C12 Coupe, which premiered last year at the Geneva International Auto Salon, in the Callaway lineup.



Callaway C12 coupe

Although the C12 Convertible platform and power plant are based on General Motors products — the Corvette C5 platform and all-aluminum small block LS1 V-8 first introduced in 1997 — there have been extensive modifications to both. The 16-foot-2-inch-long vehicle was completely re-

engineered for suspension geometry,

said Reeves Callaway, company founder and president. The interior of the silver display model features black and red leather — not unusual for a racing car but a bit overpowering off the track. The aluminum, larger-than-a-golf-ball gearshift knob is another distinctive touch.

The C12 is built in Germany with the assistance of engineering partner the IVM Engineering Group. Up to 100 vehicles could be produced this year. The first C12 coupes and convertibles will be available next month. The vehicles will be priced at \$199,000 for the coupe and \$211,000 for the convertible.

This was the first visit to the Detroit auto show for Callaway Cars,

which was founded in 1976. Starting out as enhanced-powertrain specialists, the company has graduated into auto manufacturing with the C12.

Jaguar Cars

As part of the Ford family of vehicles, Jaguar was one of six marques nestled in the massive Ford floor display at the Detroit auto show. Reinforcing its image as corporate parent, Ford president Jacques Nasser signed and handed over a check for \$1.5 million — a donation that will help establish a Jaguar museum in Mahwah, N.J. Earlier, Nasser made his entrance by driving onto the stage of the IMAX theater-like conference site in his own black Jaguar XJE V-12 roadster. The Jaguar event also served as an introduction for its 2000 S-Type sedan and the second edition of the XK180 roadster concept.

2000 S-Type

The new [S-Type luxury sedan](#) took a bow Wednesday at the final media preview of this year's Detroit show. The S-Type shares a chassis with the 2000 Lincoln LS, although the sheet metal and cabin of each differ completely. The S-type will also be offered with higher-performing versions of the same V-6 and V-8 power plants available on the LS.



Jaguar S-Type

The new vehicle is named after the company's high-performance 3.8 S-Type from the 1960s. Jaguar plans to build up to 50,000 2000 S-Types at its new production complex near Birmingham, England. The new sedan will go on sale this spring.

Jaguar XK 180

Sharing the spotlight in the Jaguar booth was the second edition of the [XK 180 roadster concept](#). The first edition was shown at last fall's Paris Motor Show. Similar to the first edition, the newest iteration is hand-built at Jaguar's Special Vehicle Operations shop in Coventry, England.



Jaguar XK 180



Jaguar XK 180

The two-seater is powered by a 450-horsepower V-8 and is equipped with a five-speed automatic transmission. Created to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the XK series sports cars, the XK 180 is a modern interpretation of classic Jaguar design.

Reported by [Mary S. Butler](#), [cars.com](#)

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