

# LOTUS EVORA IPS

By Tim Barnes-Clay, Motoring Writer [www.twitter.com/carwriteups](http://www.twitter.com/carwriteups)



**MANY MOONS ago the cynics joked that Lotus stood for Lots Of Trouble Usually Serious. But the Norfolk based sports car maker has produced some beautiful, reliable cars since then.**

One such car has to be the exquisite Evora. Its Pepsi-bottle shape is very hard not to like. Even non petrol-heads commented on what a nice motor I had when I tested the Evora IPS recently.

But what are those three letters following the name of the car, I hear you ask? Well, for a start, the letters don't appear anywhere on the body of the Lotus. The car looks like a normal Evora on the outside. And let's face it, a normal Evora is pretty special because only about 2,000 of the beasts have been sold – so really, it's anything but normal to see on our roads. Anyway, I digress; IPS stands for Intelligent Precision Shift. Basically, it's all to do with the gearbox. You see, Lotus knows that the Asian and American markets prefer automatics to manuals and that's why, for the first time in years, an auto 'box has been offered up as an optional extra to a flagship Lotus.

The original Evora, launched in 2009, was generally well received. Two things let it down though: the notchy gearbox and the poor interior. Both of those negative points seem to have been remedied. The IPS 'box is pretty smooth and is designed to avoid shifting gears mid-corner – it suits the Evora. Yes, some serious petrol-heads will hate automatics, but there are paddle shifters behind the steering wheel which make up for it.

The cabin looks and feels better screwed together than the Evora of two years ago. There is still a vague smell of glue, but I like that. It reminds you that the car is hand-built – not put together in some faceless factory in the middle of Europe – but made right here in England.

Behind the wheel, the car is sedate when you want it to be and a complete brute when you floor it. It propels you from 0-62mph in 5.5 seconds and on to a top speed of 155mph. Occasionally the Evora seems a little juddery when it's working out which gear to shift into if you lift off the gas quickly, but this is rare. Most of the time the engine and gearshifts feel smooth while the seats inside the 2+2 cabin support you well.

Maybe I'm biased. I am from Norfolk after all – but I wish the guys down at Lotus all the best with this latest Evora. I can't wait to see what's next on the horizon from the legendary sports car builders at Hethel.

## PROS 'N' CONS

- Looks ✓
- Excitement factor ✓
- Power ✓
- Not cheap ✗

## FAST FACTS

- Max speed: 155 mph
- 0-62 mph: 5.5
- Combined mpg: 32.1
- Engine: 3.5-litre V6 petrol
- Max. power (bhp): 276 at 6,400 rpm
- Max. torque (lb/ft): 258 at 4,600 rpm
- CO<sub>2</sub>: 208 g/km
- Price: £51,100 (IPS £1,500 option)