

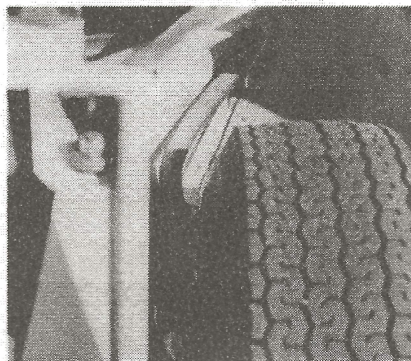
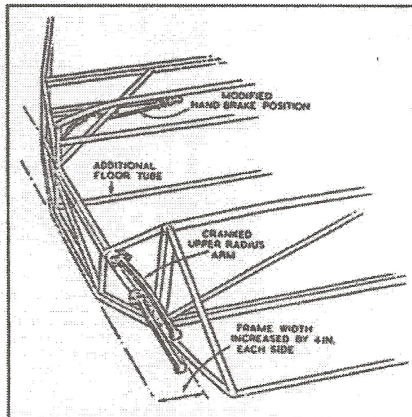
Lotus Eleven

Chassis Number 236

Auto Show Celebrity

The Lotus Eleven was one of the most successful sports racing cars of all time, and is the car that more than any other put Lotus “on the map.” The type won its class at LeMans three times, and twice at Sebring, scoring Lotus’ first win at each event, as well as participating and often winning at every other major international race including the Mille Miglia. The Eleven dominated 1100cc racing in Great Britain in 1956 and 1957, and in the US from 1957 through 1963 where it owned the G Modified class until the class was replaced by the 'CSR' class in 1964.

*The Lotus Eleven
Several magazines of the
period included this
sketch of the wide
cockpit modification. In
reality, the upper radius
arm was bent much
more radically.*



*The radically curved
radius arm of a side
cockpit Eleven.*

Wide Chassis Cars

It is generally believed that Lotus built eight special variants of the Mark Eleven for the 1956 Le Mans race, based on Colin Chapman’s interpretation of the FIA Appendix C regulations for sports cars. These cars were wider, in order to meet the required cockpit width regulations, and are known as “wide chassis” cars. Instead of the parallel chassis sides of the standard Eleven, the “wide chassis” car’s spaceframe siderails diverge at the cockpit, making the interior of the car wider. The external dimensions of the body are the same, although the wheelbase is one