

LAMBORGHINI COUNTACH (CLASSIC)

PRE-PURCHASE PROTOCOL · BUYER CHECKS · SPECIALIST PPI · RED FLAGS

Compiled from public sources, the classic Countach family, its Model File and specialist review · Personal use only · v2.1

WHAT THIS CHECKLIST IS, AND WHAT IT IS NOT

This checklist is written for enthusiasts who want a base of knowledge: enough context to follow what a PPI specialist tells them, to read an inspection report a dealer hands over, and to understand what is being discussed in videos and forums. It does not replace the diagnosis or judgement of a qualified specialist or workshop, and it is not a tool for saving the cost of one. If you are not deeply familiar with these cars technically and are unsure about a vehicle's condition, our standing recommendation is simple: commission and pay a qualified PPI specialist of your choice, whether an official dealership, a marque specialist, or an experienced supercar specialist who knows the brand. The checklist gives you context; the specialist gives you the verdict.

A · BUYER CHECK · IDENTITY & PAPERWORK

- ☐ Identity before everything: chassis, engine and gearbox numbers against Polo Storico/register data; version and sub-series attributed by chassis, never by look.
- ☐ Original delivery market established: ORIGINAL EURO vs ORIGINAL US vs FEDERALIZED/DE-FEDERALIZED: build sheet decides, not the current bumpers.
- ☐ QV: downdraft carburettor vs US fuel injection as documented spec (455 vs 420 CV).
- ☐ Wing history: period-correct, factory/period accessory, later replica, drilled body, removal history: an LP400 with a later wing is not original configuration.
- ☐ Wheels and tyres: variant-correct spec; magnesium wheels with repair history disclosed.
- ☐ Restoration file: photos before/during, stripping, chassis and rust repairs, parts sourcing: documentation outranks mileage.
- ☐ Valve clearance, carb service and fuel-line dates on record; ethanol-compatible lines documented.
- ☐ Ownership chain, storage periods, overheating events, accident history in writing.
- ☐ Original colour and interior vs current state; over-restoration assessed as a value question.
- ☐ Polo Storico certification status: weighted extremely high in this price class.

B · BUYER CHECK · AT THE CAR

- ☐ Cold start mandatory: start duration, choke, oil pressure, smoke, chain noise, misfire: a pre-warmed car is a red flag (cold start unavailable).
- ☐ Fuel smell = stop: never accepted as "old Italians smell like that".
- ☐ Full warm-up standing: temperature curve and fan cycles observed: continuously climbing = red flag.
- ☐ Gearbox cold: 1→2 slowly, 2→1 carefully. Warm: 1→2, 2→3, 3→2: crunch, baulk, jump-out: the box is loud by nature.
- ☐ Clutch: bite point, slip, judder, pedal return: heavy is normal, sudden change is not.
- ☐ Short drive, then temperatures at all four wheels: one hot wheel = dragging caliper.
- ☐ Steering: brutally heavy parking is normal: heavy at speed is a finding.
- ☐ Scissor doors: rise, hold, latch, alignment; pop-ups both, end stops, aim.
- ☐ Underbody look: tubes, outriggers, sills, composite covers, leak map.
- ☐ Gaps judged historically: hand-built asymmetry is authentic, dramatic asymmetry is an accident indicator.
- ☐ Interior originality and switchgear function; A/C state recorded as a condition point.

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C · SPECIALIST PPI SCOPE (MINIMUM)

- ☐ Order: identity/Polo Storico → cold visual and leak inspection → chassis corrosion/accident → wheels, tyres, brakes, suspension → fuel system → cold start → carb/injection diagnostics → cooling test → gearbox/clutch road test → full heat soak → hot start → post-drive leak inspection.
- ☐ Frame corrosion where it hides: borescope/endoscope under fiberglass covers, thickness assessment, partial exposure on suspicion.
- ☐ Accident forensics: tube diameters, welds, repair pieces, pickup geometry; uniball vibration as a hint.
- ☐ Carburettors: synchronisation of all twelve channels, shafts, floats, linkage: before ANY rebuild verdict.
- ☐ Compression and leak-down across all twelve cylinders.
- ☐ Engine/gearbox weep hole: DRY or WET recorded.
- ☐ Valve clearance evidence (QV: 48 valves): budget reserve if undocumented.
- ☐ Fuel system end to end: tanks, crossover, pumps, hoses by age, venting.
- ☐ Cooling: fans, relays, thermostats, grounds, water pump.
- ☐ Suspension joints and bushings; brake hydraulics and handbrake; magnesium wheels by NDT where original.
- ☐ Paint and structure survey across aluminium/fiberglass/steel: edges, fasteners, filler, stress cracks.
- ☐ No module scan exists to save you: this PPI stands and falls with a genuinely experienced historic Lamborghini specialist.

D · PRICE & INVESTIGATION ITEMS

On a classic Countach, deferred maintenance is the normal finding: the question is scope, not existence. Structure and identity are the price.

- ☐ Recommissioning package (carb sync, fluids, hoses, brake service) is expected on standing cars: quote it, price it.
- ☐ Fuel lines of unknown age: replacement priced as safety, not haggling.
- ☐ Clutch findings: access-dominated labour: quote before purchase.
- ☐ Second-gear synchro wear: known finding, priced as gearbox-out work.
- ☐ A/C dead: real money with bad access: quote, not shrug.
- ☐ Trim and bushing availability checked BEFORE agreeing a restoration plan.
- ☐ Over-restoration and wrong-spec parts: value deductions, not repair items.
- ☐ Structural findings: stop, specialist assessment, re-negotiate or walk.

E · RED FLAGS · WALK-AWAY OR ESCALATION

- Structural frame corrosion or repair without documentation.
- Identity doubts: numbers, sub-series or delivery market not matching the story.
- Fuel smell, undiagnosed.
- Evidence of major overheating without documented repair.
- Seller refuses a genuine cold start.
- A "restored" car without a restoration file.
- Over-restoration sold as originality.
- Welded or doubtful magnesium wheels without NDT.
- A car whose problems cannot be named, quantified and priced.

F · FIRST WEEK OF OWNERSHIP

- ☐ Fuel and coolant hoses of unknown age replaced before real driving.
- ☐ Battery maintainer, fluids, brake exercise plan for a standing classic.
- ☐ Insurance valuation, Polo Storico contact and the archive file opened; PPI report archived.

"With a Countach you buy version, identity and structure. Everything mechanical can be repaired: a wrong identity and a rotten frame cannot, at any sane price."

Deep dive: Supercar Models Paper 24 · Model File 24 · Owner's Intelligence series.