

Porsche High-Performance Driving Handbook, 2nd Edition

By Vic Elford
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Vic Elford is a living legend. Everyone says that when writing about famous people, but the chances are that if you know anything about Porsche history you have heard this Englishmans name. It is synonymous with other famous names such as Mille Miglia, Targa Florio, Monte Carlo Rally, Paris-Dakar, Monaco Grand Prix, 12 Hours of Sebring, 24 Hours of Daytona, Daytona 500, 24 Hours of LeMans, Trans Am and Can Am to name a few. He definitely has street cred as evidenced in the kind words found at the front of this book from Derek Bell, Brian Redman, David Hobbs and other notables of motorsports fame. We are fortunate to have him around and even more so that he so generously shares his knowledge and wealth of racing history with us.

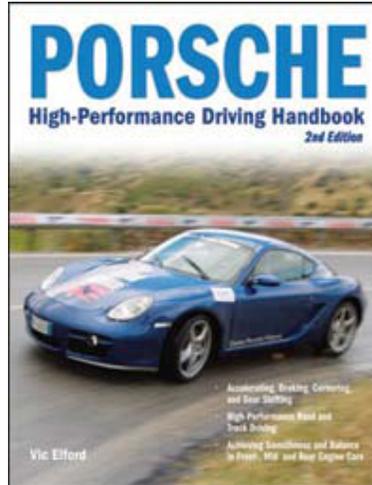
Vic Elford helped put Porsche as a manufacturer on the racing map with his driving skills at a time when cars were dangerous machines that took more than a few talented drivers to early graves. Elford was on the racing scene during the development of many of Porsches most successful racing machines. His talent was a contributing factor in the high level of achievement Porsche enjoyed from machines like the 910 and 917.

He's credited with the first Monte

Carlo Rally win in a Porsche and he backed it up this season with a stellar performance in the 2008 Historic Monte Carlo Rally. Elford mastered rally cars, sports cars, F1 cars and stock cars throughout his career and has remained devoted to the Porsche marque. So who better to pen the definitive tome on how to get the most from a Porsche?

When I first picked up this well illustrated paperback, I thought it looked a bit corny. It has over sized and over simplified diagrams that seem elementary. But for the enthusiastic driver who has an interest in learning the best method of extracting the performance in his or her Porsche it is a perfect introduction. In fourteen chapters Elford takes the most basic elements and gives them the proper level of importance needed in performance driving. Comfort, something very often overlooked gets a chapter (the first of course) to itself as do Balance and Smoothness. These are essential building blocks that get glossed over all too frequently.

The next section delves into the equipment and what one can expect from different types of drive trains and why. There is a dose of racing history in each chapter to keep the interest level



The archival photos intermixed with the basic diagrams showing suspension geometry and illustrating things like understeer/oversteer make it a diametric learning experience.

Next there are seven chapters on actually driving. These deal with topics like heel toe gear changes, car control, cornering and driving in adverse conditions. All very well illustrated with photos,

drawings and anecdotal wisdom from the author's personal experience. The final chapter "Putting It All Together" is a great tale that sums up what Elford wants us to gain from his effort. He genuinely wants us to be as enthusiastic in our driving as he is

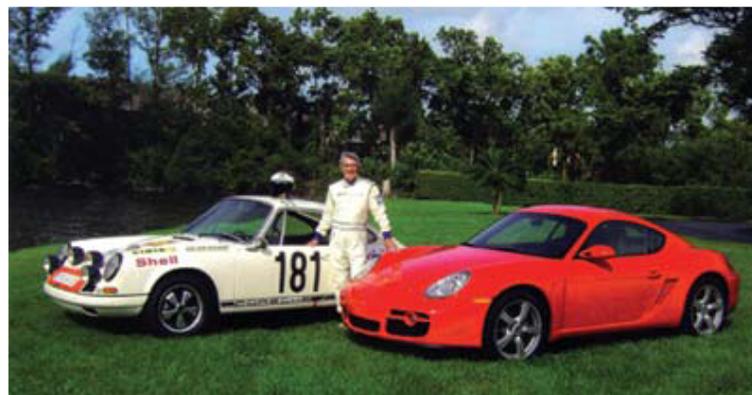
I think we, the enthusiast public, are quite fortunate that Vic Elford has been willing to bestow his wisdom upon us in such delightful fashion. He successfully combines the rich history of Porsche motorsports with his own illustrious racing career and a well organized primer on driving our favorite marque in the manner they were designed for.

There is a wealth of information between these covers both historic and technical and I'd bet the novice as well as the seasoned veteran would thoroughly enjoy Elford's slant on it all. I certainly did. It gets four stars from me.

photos courtesy Motorbooks Publishing



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appropriate and to further ingrain the Elford legacy in the reader. I think this is an excellent way to inject the history of both Porsche and racing into the learning experience.