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THE LEXUS ES

The Lexus ES has enjoyed three decades of success in the mid-size saloon category and is now forging a more ambitious path with its seventh generation model. Long renowned for its comfort, refinement and luxury appointments, the latest ES builds on its established strengths with an all-new chassis that allows for a more dynamic exterior design and even better driving performance.

It stands as a further expression of Lexus's design direction and commitment to crafting vehicles that provide more excitement and emotional connection, helping bring its future vision to a wider audience. The ES is more spacious, quieter and safer than ever before, while a new generation of customers is being introduced to a saloon with sharpened performance, class-leading safety technology and a level of craftsmanship rarely found in this market segment.

THE ROOTS OF THE ES

The original ES launched the Lexus brand in 1989, alongside the LS flagship saloon. Since then, its popularity has been built on class-leading comfort and Lexus's commitment to delivering a human-centred experience, expressed through intuitive driving behaviour and a driver-focused cockpit.

Lexus has gained valuable insights by listening to the opinions of luxury car buyers and applied the intelligence gained to extensive testing of the ES on different types of roads worldwide.

READY FOR EUROPE

The seventh generation model is the first ES to be introduced to the UK and Western and Central Europe. It follows the LS flagship saloon and LC luxury coupe in carrying forward Lexus design that has a much stronger emotional quality. The eye-catching styling, made possible by the use of an all-new Global Architecture-K (GA-K) platform, has particular appeal to customers in the region, together with a more engaging driving experience and even higher safety provisions. The UK, Western and Central European markets offer the ES 300h, powered by a fourth generation self-charging hybrid system. In other global markets, ES is available with different petrol engine options, as the ES 200, ES 250 and ES 350.

NEW DIMENSIONS IN ES DESIGN

- 'Provocative Elegance' design concept, underpinned by use of the new Global Architecture-K platform
- Spacious and comfortable cabin that represents the future of Lexus interior design

EXTERIOR DESIGN AND THE CONCEPT OF 'PROVOCATIVE ELEGANCE'

The ES is built on the all-new Global Architecture-K (GA-K) platform, giving Lexus the opportunity to explore new territories in mid-size luxury saloon design. The car is longer (+65mm), lower (-5mm) and wider (+45mm) than its predecessor. The longer wheelbase (+50mm) allows the wheels to be pushed closer to the car's corners, with wider front and rear tracks. Its stance and proportions reflect its new-found performance capabilities and give the car the kind of eye-catching appeal that will make people take a second look.

Yasuo Kajino, the ES Chief Designer, describes the new look as 'Provocative Elegance': "The ES has always been an elegant luxury saloon. For this generation, we have added daring design elements that challenge buyers' traditional expectations," he said.

The GA-K platform allowed for a lower bonnet line, which gave Kajino's team the freedom to produce a distinctive silhouette with a strong downward slant, creating a dynamic yet fluid shape. Up front, the ES's face is dramatically different, with variations according to model grade. The ES Premium Edition and Takumi versions display elegant bars that radiate from the centre of the signature Lexus spindle grille, while the F Sport model – featured for the first time in the ES range – adopts a black cross-hatch pattern of interlocking 'L' shapes that correspond with cut-out sections at the car's front corners.

In a model update for 2022, the frontal design was revised with a new treatment of the spindle grille with fewer vertical bars and the introduction of L-shaped elements. Slimmer units were added for both the single and three-eye LED headlights.

In a break with past generations, the design features a rearward-sloping, fast roofline that emphasises the vehicle's lower stance and slippery aerodynamics. The rear end is clean and sharply chiselled, with LED lamps that wrap around the quarter panels to generate a continuous styling line when viewed from any angle. F Sport models add a rear boot lid spoiler, badging and a dark lower rear bumper valance to add emphasis to the look. Different 18 and 19-inch alloy wheel designs are available for the ES Premium Edition and Takumi grades, with the F Sport version running on 19-inch wheels that are similar in appearance to those found on the Lexus LC coupe. New wheel designs were introduced for 2022.

CABIN DESIGN THAT REPRESENTS THE FUTURE OF LEXUS INTERIORS

When designing the look and feel of the ES's cabin, Kajino's team's starting point was the Lexus Future Interior concept, which blends a driver-centric cockpit with a spacious and comfortable area for the front passenger. The driver's focus is kept on the road ahead by locating the centre display screen, instrument panel and, where fitted, head-up display in a tight cluster within their field of view. Lexus calls this concept 'Seat in Control,' a simple idea that says from the moment you get in, all the controls you need are within reach and all the information you want is in plain view. Arm rests slide comfortably under your elbows and buttons can be pushed without taking your hands off the wheel.

The colour head-up display is another means of reducing driver distraction. Fitted as standard on the ES Takumi and available for the F Sport as part of the Takumi Pack option, this projects relevant vehicle information onto the windscreen in the driver's line of sight and is fully adjustable to suit the driver's preferred parameters. In addition to basic functionality, such as speed, fuel level and shift position, the display can also present speed limit signs, Lane Tracing Assist warnings and navigation directions.

What the driver sees is enhanced by what they feel. The driving position in the ES has been refined with a more natural steering wheel angle, revised pedal positions and even a power-adjustable seat as standard. The steering wheel itself is borrowed directly from the LS and has an ergonomically shaped rim and integral heating elements. Heated front seats are also standard for the driver and front passenger, along with a new suction-type ventilation (Takumi grade and Premium option pack) that draws directly from the air conditioning system for a quicker cooling effect.

Rear passenger comfort has long been a hallmark of the ES and the new model upholds this quality, in spite of the sleeker, sloping exterior roof line. A lower hip point and carefully configured headlining preserve headroom while the longer wheelbase ensures generous legroom.

MULTIMEDIA SYSTEMS

Ease-of-use, convenience and even wider functionality defined the new multimedia systems introduced to the ES for 2023.

The eight-inch Lexus Link Connect (F Sport) and 12.3-inch Lexus Link Pro (other grades) provide faster response, more intuitive operation and access to more functions. Both also use touchscreens for easy and intuitive control. New features include cloud-based navigation, improved recognition of voice commands and wireless smartphone integration using Apple CarPlay (a wired connection can be used for Android Auto).

Cloud-based navigation gives access to real-time road and traffic information for easier journey planning and avoidance of delays. It can also be used to access information on local fuel prices and parking. If cloud connection should be lost, the Lexus Link Pro package includes an embedded navigation system.

The multimedia functions also include the “Hey Lexus” on-board assistant. This responds to voice commands, for example to make a phone call, adjust the audio and climate control and search the internet. It can respond to informal comments, for example adjusting the air conditioning in response to “I’m cold.”

An upgraded data communications module (DCM) allows the vehicle to communicate with mobile networks and the internet. This enables connection to e-Care, a diagnostic service that provides advice to drivers in the rare event their car experiences a technical failure. Through the e-Care health check report, Lexus can monitor the vehicle at all times and share the data with Lexus retailers. The customer’s preferred Lexus centre can then make contact to schedule servicing at the ideal interval.

The DCM upgrade also makes it possible for owners to access their car remotely using the Lexus Link smartphone app. This can lock or unlock the doors, operate the hazard lights and the set the air conditioning to warm or cool the cabin before making a journey.

Inside the new ES, the centre console has been revised, providing two cup holders and USB-A and USB-C ports for playback and device charging respectively. For convenience, the wireless charging tray has been moved from inside to outside the console box.

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ELEVATED COMFORT

- ES maintains the model’s long-held reputation for excellent cabin spaciousness and quietness
- Seats designed for perfect body holding and comfort
- Painsstaking measures to secure ultimate cabin tranquillity through noise blocking, insulation and absorption

Roominess and quietness are long-established as core qualities of the Lexus ES saloon. The all-new model sustains this reputation, with undisputed class leadership in spaciousness thanks in no small part to a 1,022mm couple distance – which is best in class.

The quality of the cabin has been secured with a forensic approach to designing the best seats in terms of comfort and body holding, regardless of the shape or size of the occupant, and to achieving the quietest and most tranquil interior ambience.

Lexus knows there is a direct link between quietness and quality and that a calm and peaceful cabin is a key element in the *omotenashi* hospitality that defines its vehicles. The ES takes on-board quietness to a higher level, using new technologies and design features first seen in the Lexus LS limousine to enhance its established reputation as one of the most serene models in its class.

To achieve its goals for the ES, Lexus focused its efforts in three areas: countermeasures to tackle noise and vibration at their source; sound insulation, to prevent noise intruding in the cabin; and sound absorption, making extensive use of special materials to soak up unwelcome noise. The advances made with the all-new model surpass anything achieved before, delivering a calm and welcoming environment at all times, from the moment you enter the car to cruising at high speed.

Perfecting the ideal seats – a three-year design project for the new ES

Great seat design is a critical part of any new car's development and Lexus undertook a three-year project to produce the ideal seats for the ES, working through numerous prototypes to find the best combination of support and comfort, no matter the size or shape of the occupant.

For the design team this meant ensuring you feel at ease and your posture is just right with full support for your lower back, whether you're highway cruising, or pushing the new ES through bends on a twisting country route. For the driver, there was the added requirement for the seat to communicate how the car is behaving, but with no unpleasant vibrations.

The seats have a simple structure, with polyurethane foam wrapped around an iron frame. It's the flat cushion and raised side sections that support the hips and keep the body stable, while subtle depressions in the cushion's surface allow for smaller occupants to enjoy the same level of body-holding as larger people. In typical Lexus attention to detail, a thin, soft layer added to the top of each seat lets your head sink into the cushion, adding to the feeling of stability.

Where the ES F Sport is concerned, the designers took their inspiration from the LC coupe to produce seats that offer even greater body holding. Leading engineer Takeshi Kawano explained: "It's because the ES F Sport is such a sporty car that I felt we needed to stabilise the driver's body so that they wouldn't move at all, even when driving on a racing circuit at full speed. We've tested the seats, and we can tell you that even when going around a corner at high speeds, the driver's position barely changes."

Creating a whisper-quiet cabin

No detail was too small when it came to giving the ES a perfectly quiet and calm cabin environment. Lexus engineers took three years to achieve their goal, using the LS flagship saloon as their benchmark. They knew it was important not produce the kind of deadening, disconcerting silence of a recording booth, but to produce a comfortable, undisturbed ambience that lets you enjoy the audio system to the full, or share a conversation with ease.

To eliminate potential noise sources, the ES underwent extensive wind tunnel testing, leading to tiny but telling adjustments to the position of the door mirrors, wipers and other parts that intruded in the airflow over and around the car. The next step was insulation measures to prevent external sounds getting into the car, filling openings or sealing them with sheet metal. Finally, noise absorption materials were added in key areas, such as the suspension towers, wings and underfloor to soak up sounds and vibrations.

When calculating what needed to be done, the design team had to take into account factors such as road conditions or the weather, which can change from moment to moment. It was a huge challenge that took a lot of time and patience, but the results succeed in making the famously quiet Lexus ES a more tranquil vehicle to travel in than ever before.

A NEW ERA IN SELF-CHARGING HYBRID POWERTRAIN PERFORMANCE

- Fourth generation of the self-charging Lexus Hybrid Drive system, featuring new 2.5-litre engine, new transaxle and new battery
- Total system output 215bhp/160kW, combined cycle fuel economy from 52.3 to 53.2mpg
- Hybrid control system designed to provide accurate and linear acceleration response, with drastic reduction in “rubber band” effect
- New 2.5-litre engine achieves world-best peak thermal efficiency of 41 per cent (allied to a specific engine output)

FOURTH GENERATION LEXUS HYBRID DRIVE SYSTEM

The ES 300h is equipped with a fourth generation self-charging Lexus Hybrid Drive system that can deliver exceptional fuel efficiency, responsive performance and minimal emissions for a mid-size luxury saloon. It couples an ultra-efficient 2.5-litre Atkinson cycle four-cylinder petrol engine with a lighter, more compact and more power-dense electric motor. Total system power is 215hp/160kW and combined cycle fuel economy is from 52.3 to 53.2mpg (WLTP combined).

The engine is all-new and incorporates fast-burn combustion technology that helps make it the most thermally efficient engine to feature in a production vehicle (with thermal efficiency as high as 41 per cent with a top-level specific output). The result is more power without increasing emissions or fuel consumption. Features that help achieve such results include straight intake ports, increased valve angles and laser-clad valve seats. A variable-capacity oil pump, multi-hole fuel injectors, VVT-iE electric intelligent variable valve-timing on the intake valves and a variable cooling system also contribute to the engine's heat and combustion management. No fewer than 60 prototypes were built to achieve the best possible performance and more than 10 million kilometres of road testing were carried out.

Designed specifically to work with the 2.5-litre engine, the new transaxle has a multi-axle arrangement of the electric motors in place of the previous coaxial set-up, which reduces the overall length of the package by nearly 30mm. The traditional planetary gear set has been replaced by a parallel shaft gear and a multi-function gear that incorporates a power split planetary ring gear, parking gear and counter drive gear into a single compact unit.

The nickel-metal hydride battery that powers the electric motor has been relocated from the boot to underneath the back seat. This was made possible by a 120mm reduction in the height of the battery and the adoption of a more compact cooling system. Moving the battery

under the seat not only frees up extra boot space, it also improves the car's front-to-rear weight distribution for better handling.

Several new features have been incorporated into the ES 300h to improve overall driving satisfaction and engagement. The hybrid control system is designed to deliver a more linear acceleration feel by aligning engine speed more closely with vehicle speed, reducing the "rubber band" feel commonly associated with hybrid systems. Engaging the Sport drive mode further enhances acceleration by boosting torque at lower speeds, while paddle shifts can be used to move through six simulated gears for more precise control.

CHASSIS AND SUSPENSION INNOVATIONS FOR EXCELLENT RIDE, HANDLING AND COMFORT

- Dynamic performance underpinned by front-wheel drive GA-K platform
- New suspension design with Dynamic Control Shocks with world-first ultra-low velocity valve
- Highly responsive rack-assist Electric Power Steering
- Extensive chassis testing on European roads and high-speed racetracks

The engineering team for the Lexus ES, led by Chief Engineer Yasuhiro Sakakibara, had a clear goal: transform the model's image. That meant turning a saloon known primarily for comfort and quietness into one that is equally capable of delivering class-leading handling and power that you can feel and hear.

According to Sakakibara, the ES has been built to deliver a fundamentally higher level of performance than any of its predecessors. He said: "We knew that this ES had to feel responsive and easy to drive, no matter what kind of road it was on. That can only be achieved with a solid foundation."

The starting point was the new GA-K platform. It is an exceptionally rigid, front-wheel drive chassis that rivals the GA-L rear-wheel drive platform used for the LC coupe and LS saloon in terms of torsional stiffness. Various grades of high-tensile steel reduce weight compared to previous platforms, while enhancements such as an all-new multi-link rear suspension design, rack-mounted electric power steering and a V-brace behind the rear seat gave the engineers the flexibility to tune the ES with a new-found precision.

The chassis team sought to create a sense of comforting predictability coupled with a feeling of quick response to every movement.

SUSPENSION THAT ADAPTS TO ITS SURROUNDINGS

With a solid base to build on, Sakikabara's team turned its efforts to designing a suspension that could be tuned to deliver both exceptional comfort and precise handling. The resulting design uses MacPherson struts at the front and a trailing arm, multilink set-up at the rear, with anti-roll bars at each end.

Yoshiaki Ito, chief test driver, described the ES's heightened level and refined definition of comfort: "We want every kind of driver to feel a sense of complete control when they are behind the wheel. It's a level of comfort that goes beyond merely delivering a smooth ride."

Although the design of the front suspension is similar to the previous ES, several changes have been made to improve overall responsiveness. The angle of the strut itself has been revised to better align it with the load path from the wheel for improved ride quality, while an increase in castor angle (+2 degrees) and caster trail (+8mm) help improve straight line stability. New Dynamic Control Shocks are capable of responding to even the smallest movements thanks to a non-overlapping auxiliary valve that allows damper oil to flow in either direction before entering the main valve (see separate story below).

The rear suspension design has a trailing arm, multilink setup that also benefits from the responsiveness of the new Dynamic Control shocks. Higher placement of the trailing arm mounting point and a larger bushing size result in improved control over road irregularities. Wider spacing of the anti-roll bar bushing mounts also contributes to overall roll reduction.

Detailed changes were introduced for the 2022 model year, with the rear suspension's performance improved with a new dual-sheet structure for the braces providing higher rigidity and torsional strength. This results in linear response that is more closely aligned with the driver's intentions, for example when making high-speed motorway lane changes.

The ES F Sport is equipped with a new Adaptive Variable Suspension, details of which are given in the F Sport chapter of this press kit.

More precise steering inputs are delivered by a new rack-assist type electric power steering system. Unlike the previous ES which used an assist motor mounted on the steering column, the new set-up puts the assist motor directly on the steering rack, which returns more precise feedback to the steering wheel. The new lay-out also allows for greater steering wheel adjustability with 30mm of additional tilt and 40mm of additional telescopic range.

Innovations in suspension design

Lexus's determination to take the ES's famous smooth, quiet and refined ride to a higher level prompted a world-first engineering solution: a new Swing Valve Shock Absorber fitted with an ultra-low velocity valve. Simply put, this makes sure the right level of damping force is provided, even when there's just the slightest movement in the wheels and suspension, for example when pulling away slowly.

The secret to the system's effectiveness is the way the oil flow is controlled inside the new valve arrangement. The additional ultra-low velocity valve allows for operation at very low speeds, with the main valve coming into play at low and higher speeds. In each case, supple ride comfort is the result.

The development team also came up with a new double wishbone rear suspension, with components located with pinpoint accuracy to gain the rigidity needed for excellent steering response and handling stability. The complete chassis system was put through rigorous testing on European road surfaces of all types, as well on high-speed race tracks.

CLASS-LEADING SAFETY PROVISIONS WITH LEXUS SAFETY SYSTEM+,

- Significantly enhanced Lexus Safety System+ with additional cyclist and night-time pedestrian detection functions
- Highly rigid body thanks to deployment of new Global Architecture - K platform

Key to the ES's excellent safety performance is the latest version of Lexus Safety System+, an advanced package of active safety technologies (featured as standard on all versions of the car sold in the UK). The development of Lexus Safety System+ demonstrates the brand's commitment to making sure the benefits of advanced safety technologies are not limited to high-end, high-specification models, but are made available across the board.

As implemented in the new ES, Lexus Safety System+ adds new capabilities and increases the range of driving scenarios in which it can provide extra alerts and safeguards to help prevent an accident from happening. The new features include additional daytime cyclist and night-time pedestrian detection as part of the comprehensive Pre-Collision System (PCS).

Already capable of detecting vehicles and pedestrians in the car's path, the PCS now addresses one of the most common accident scenarios on the road today by being able to identify cyclists as well. The system has also been enhanced to detect pedestrians at night by increasing the radar's sensitivity and dynamic range.

Upgrades to the car's radar and camera sensors on the 2022 model improved the system's ability to detect these hazards. Further improvements and extensions to the functionality of the Lexus Safety System+ include Intersection Turn Assist, which detects a high collision risk with traffic approaching from the opposite direction when making a turn, and pedestrians crossing the road in the car's path of travel.

Emergency Steering Assist is another new addition which recognises when the driver is making a sudden manoeuvre to avoid an obstacle, such as a pedestrian in the car's path. The system assists the steering movement, while keeping the car stable and in its traffic lane.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies have been applied to improve the Lane Trace Assist, giving smooth and continuous assistance to keep the car optimally positioned in its traffic lane. Lane Trace Assist works in co-operation with the Dynamic Radar Cruise Control to manage the car's speed for cornering while at the same time keeping it centred in its lane.

The cruise control system can now determine the appropriate speed for an approaching bend, automatically decelerating the vehicle. It has also gained an all-speed tracking function, controlling acceleration and deceleration to maintain a constant distance to the vehicle immediately ahead.

The combination of Dynamic Radar Cruise Control and Lane Tracing Assist corresponds to Level 2 automated driver support (as defined by the Society of Automotive Engineers) – aimed at enhancing safety while the driver remains in control of the vehicle.

Another new safety advance offered in the ES is a two-stage Adaptive High Beam system (AHS). This not only turns the headlight high beams on and off automatically for the driver, its 24 individual LED light array can adapt the light pattern to provide an enhanced field of illumination while reducing glare for oncoming drivers.

For the 2022 ES, Lexus introduced its BladeScan Adaptive High-beam System, which focuses the light beam from the LED headlights using a fast-rotating mirror to give a much wider field of illumination when using dipped lights. The system is part of a new three-eye LED headlight arrangement that is standard on the Takumi grade and included in the Premium and Takumi option packs.

The ES also has impressive passive safety provisions, underpinned by the quality of its ultra-rigid GA-K (Global Architecture - K) platform. In the cabin, occupants are protected by an array of 10 airbags.

SUPREMELY IMMERSIVE AUDIO EXPERIENCE WITH MARK LEVINSON PUREPLAY

- 17-speaker Mark Levinson PurePlay system delivers a new level of immersive audio quality
- Performance achieved through precision staging, world-class speaker design and advanced tuning and decompression technology
- First use of Mark Levinson PurePlay in a vehicle
- 10-speaker Pioneer audio also specifically designed for the ES's interior

The Mark Levinson PurePlay concept makes its debut in a 17-speaker Surround Sound System specifically designed for the ES (standard on Takumi grade and Takumi pack option). Its world-first architecture has been created to immerse each individual in the car in the most powerful, precise and pure audio experience yet.

PurePlay leverages multiple unique approaches to deliver outstanding in-vehicle performance with precision staging, world-class speaker design and placement, and unparalleled tuning and decompression technology.

The ultra-quiet interior provides an ideal environment in which to enjoy the quality of the system. Mark Levinson was involved from the start of the new car concept programme, so that it could contribute to securing the best possible acoustic quality in the vehicle's interior.

The array of speakers – two more than in the previous generation ES – includes 14 90mm Unity speakers, installed at seven points around the cabin, in a line from the instrument panel, through the top of the door panels, effectively surrounding the driver and passengers.

Placing the speakers at shoulder level enhances the acoustics and creates a tonal synergy. These perfectly timbre-matched locations deliver a consistent tonal colour between all the mid-range speakers and tweeters, effectively creating two identical sound stages for the front and rear passengers. As a result, each person in the car is enveloped in sound, creating a listening experience that is consistent in every seating location.

The system also features two nine-inch elliptical woofers in the front doors and a powerful 265mm subwoofer – the largest ever installed in a production Lexus – behind the rear seats. There's pleasing attention to design detail as well, with the visible speaker grilles finished with an organic pattern inspired by the veins of a leaf.

Mark Levinson makes use of impressive technology to achieve both superb reproduction quality and energy-efficient performance. This includes new Quantum Logic Surround to help build an accurate and full-bodied acoustic stage and high-clarity sound definition. The ES's audio system also benefits from ClariFi 2.0, which plays sound as close to the original as possible, particularly with music from low-quality sources, such as highly compressed digital files.

Technology apart, the human ear remains an essential tool: the ES's system is tuned by a team of expert acoustic engineers with exceptional aural sensitivity. Their skills help ensure that the sound produced evokes the authentic emotional quality of the music being played.

BESPOKE PIONEER AUDIO SYSTEM

The ES is also offered with a 10-speaker audio system (standard on ES Premium Edition and F Sport grades), designed specifically for the vehicle by Pioneer. It integrates a number of advanced technologies to provide accurate reproduction of any sound source, creating a real-life, immersive soundscape that adds another layer of enjoyment to any journey.

Pioneer's digital signal processing technology can produce CD-quality sound from compressed MP3 audio files, with clear sound even when playing at low volume.

The architecture features 90mm CST speakers on the left and right of the instrument panel that combine both a tweeter and a mid-range speaker. A single source is thus used to play back the full mid to high range, giving realistic reproduction of vocals and the effect of the artist singing live in front of the listener.

The speakers are positioned at the optimum angle to create a dynamic and rich sound field, with sound efficiently delivered to the listener both directly and reflected off the interior window glass. The result is a wide, deep, three-dimensional sound.

DIGITAL SIDE-VIEW MONITORS

- Conventional door mirrors replaced with compact, high-resolution digital cameras relaying real-time images to monitors inside the vehicle
- Protected against rain, snow and dirt to ensure optimum images in all driving conditions
- Safety enhanced with automatic extended view when the driver uses the turn indicators, reverse gear or on demand, eliminating blind spots
- Available as an option for the ES 300h Takumi model

Lexus is continuing its commitment to making advanced technologies available to its customers for even higher levels of safety and convenience with the introduction of Digital

Side-view Monitors for the ES 300h luxury hybrid saloon. The feature became available in the UK as an option on the ES Takumi model from spring 2020.

Initially introduced in Japan in 2018 as a world-first for a high-volume production car, the system replaces conventional door mirrors with compact, external, high-resolution cameras linked to in-car monitors. These provide an enhanced view of the area behind and immediately alongside the vehicle in all driving conditions, reducing or eliminating the driver's blind spots and adapting automatically to give an extended view when the car is turning or reversing. For the 2022 ES, the monitors were revised to ensure clearer images are shown in poor light conditions – at night and when driving in rain, giving better light and shade definition.

Ergonomic design

The ergonomic design of the system allows the driver to check the view around the car with less left-right head movement, in line with Lexus's aim of reducing the driver's workload. The two five-inch colour monitors are positioned at the base of the front pillars, closely aligned to the door mirror height, so they fall within the driver's intuitive line of sight. This means the driver doesn't have to significantly change their natural mirror-checking action.

The cameras are housed in slim, aerodynamic casings that complement the elegant lines of the ES and, being smaller than the door mirrors, reduce wind noise and intrude less in the driver's forward diagonal view.

The units have built-in heaters to avoid freezing or misting, and are located so they are not vulnerable to being obscured by raindrops or snow. If necessary, the driver can activate the demister using a dashboard switch to ensure clear view at any time.

The system has a luminescence sensor which automatically reduces glare from the headlights of following vehicles during night-time driving, giving the driver a much clearer rearward view.

Automatic extended view

When the driver uses the turn indicators or selects reverse gear, the monitors automatically present an extended view of the area alongside and behind the car, eliminating the blind spot and helping safer manoeuvres. An icon in the corner of the screen alerts the driver to the change in aspect. When the turn, lane-change or parking action is completed, the system automatically returns to its standard setting. The driver can also switch to extended view manually, or turn the function off.

The system can be adjusted using controls on the driver's door panel, like those for conventional door mirrors. A menu function gives access to the system's settings, including

brightness and – a feature unique to the Lexus system – automatic retraction of the camera units when the car is parked. It also incorporates a Blind Spot Monitor.

Automatic reference lines

The Digital Side-view Monitor system also helps the driver position the car safely when parking or driving, automatically adding reference guidelines to the images.

When parking, the lines indicate 20 and 50cm distances from the rear bumper, and 50cm along each side of the car. These are shown on the live image and also in an icon on the display depicting the car's position viewed from above.

When highway driving, the driver is helped to judge safe distances from other traffic with reference lines indicating 5m, 10m and 15m on the road ahead when driving at speeds up to 44mph (70km/h). At higher speeds the distances are 5m, 10m, 15m and 30m.

THE FIRST ES F SPORT

- The first ES generation to offer an F Sport version
- Exclusive sports-themed styling and equipment features
- Interior trim inspired by traditional Japanese *katana* sword-making techniques
- Adaptive Variable Suspension and additional Sport S and Sport S+ drive modes help deliver a more engaging driving experience

The seventh generation ES is the first in the history of the executive saloon range to be available as a Lexus F Sport model. It is distinguished by exclusive, sports-themed exterior and interior design features, wheels colours and equipment features.

Going beyond sporty looks, the ES F Sport also benefits from special chassis tuning and the provision of Adaptive Variable Suspension (AVS). The result is a more engaging driving experience, but without sacrificing the comfort and refinement that are intrinsic to the traditional quality and character of the ES.

EXCLUSIVE F SPORT DESIGN ELEMENTS AND CABIN APPOINTMENTS

The ES F Sport is distinguished at a glance by a wealth of sporty detailing that complements the car's low, eye-catching lines. The bespoke features include a close-mesh pattern in the signature spindle grille made up of interlocking 'L' shapes, set within a jet black frame.

The same black plating is also applied to the rear combination light surrounds, while the model also adopts a discreet, integrated boot lid spoiler, lower rear bumper valance and F Sport badging.

The car is fitted with 19-inch forged alloy wheels, similar in design to those found on the Lexus LC Coupe.

The cabin features sports front seats embossed with the F Sport emblem and a striking new aluminium Hadori trim, inspired by traditional Japanese *katana* sword-making techniques (see separate story, below). The F Sport steering wheel and the shift lever are wrapped in highly tactile perforated leather and there is a set of sports-style aluminium pedals. Also exclusive to the F Sport, the leather upholstery can be specified in a bold Flare Red colour.

F SPORT WITH EXTRA CAR CONTROL FEATURES

For an even higher level of dynamic performance, the ES F Sport adopts Adaptive Variable Suspension (AVS) in place of the Dynamic Control Shocks and adjustable dampers featured on other versions. Similar to the system first introduced on the Lexus LC coupe, this provides 650 levels of automatic, seamless adjustment to the damping force at each wheel to deliver optimal ride quality and precise control on any road surface.

Adjustments are based on information from sensors that measure both linear and vertical G loads, vehicle speed, steering angle, yaw rate and master cylinder pressure, in addition to information from the engine control computer and skid control computer. For the 2022 model, the adaptive system has been refined with a new actuator and changes to the internals that together expand the range of damping force, improving the car's response, stability and ride comfort, with more linear steering and suspension feel

AVS brings with it additional Sport S and Sport S+ settings for the Drive Mode Select system. Throttle response and the transmission program are made sharper in Sport S, while for even sportier driving, Sport S+ mode adjusts the throttle, transmission and steering parameters along with the adaptive dampers.

Inspired by the fine traditions of Japanese sword-making

Lexus has a great reputation for seamlessly combining contemporary styling and materials with craftsmanship and aesthetics rooted in Japanese tradition. Such is the case with new Hadori aluminium trim featured exclusively in the ES F Sport. It's directly inspired by a centuries-old method of polishing the long, curving blade of the *katana*, the sword wielded by Japan's famous *shogun* warriors.

Designer Toshihide Maseki recruited experts in the ancient craft to produce a prototype by hand. This was then replicated using machine technology, right down to capturing minute, randomly created lines that give the technique its special, hand-crafted look.

Maseki explained: "Although being refined is an important quality in craftsmanship, a product is incomplete without the addition of more human, more instinctive elements that are not based on simple calculation. Being machine-made but artisanal, being refined but having impact – these may seem like contrasting elements, but through a lot of trial and error, we were finally able to achieve this combination."

UK MODEL RANGE

The introduction of the Lexus ES was an important milestone for Lexus in the UK, being the first ES model to be made available to British customers, offered exclusively a self-charging hybrid, with front-wheel drive.

The ES 300h is available in a range of three core versions: the entry-level ES Premium Edition, F Sport and the top-of-the range Takumi, a grade which takes its name from the Japanese master craftsmanship that is applied to every Lexus vehicle. An additional Premium Pack is available for ES Premium Edition and a Takumi option pack for the F Sport.

Core equipment features for each grade and option pack include: -

ES Premium Edition

Lexus Safety System+

18-inch alloy wheels (new design)

Bi-LED headlights with Automatic High Beam

Blind Spot Monitor and Rear Cross Traffic Alert with auto brake

Cornering lights

Four drive modes

Tahara man-made leather seat upholstery

Lexus Link Pro multimedia system with 12.3-inch touchscreen

Smartphone integration with Apple CarPlay (wireless) and Android Auto (wired)

10-speaker audio system with DAB

Access to Lexus Link connected services

Intelligent front and rear parking sensors

Power-adjustable, heated front seats

Sunroof

Power-adjustable, heated steering wheel

Rain-sensing wipers

Rear privacy glass

Reversing camera

Wireless charger

Power door mirrors with heating and auto-dimming functions

Smart entry

ES Premium Pack (in addition to ES Premium Edition)

Triple-eye LED headlights with BladeScan Adaptive High-beam System

Smooth leather upholstery

Heated and ventilated front seats with 10-way power adjustment

Memory setting for driver's seat

Wood and leather steering wheel trim

Power door mirrors with auto-fold, reverse tilt, auto-dimming and memory functions

Panoramic View Monitor with pedestrian alert

Aluminium scuff plates

Power sunshades

F Sport grade (in addition to ES Premium Edition)

19-inch F Sport alloy wheels

F Sport exterior styling elements, including grille and bumper

Additional Sport+ driving mode

Lateral performance dampers

Adaptive Variable Suspension

F Sport front seats and leather-covered steering wheel

Paddle shifts

Power door mirrors with auto-fold, reverse tilt, auto-dimming and memory functions

Aluminium trim inlays

Aluminium scuff plates and pedals

F Sport Takumi Pack (in addition to F Sport specification)

17-speaker Mark Levinson Premium Surround Sound system

Head-up display

Power sunshades

Hands-free power boot lid with kick-sensor

Panoramic View Monitor with pedestrian alert

Triple-eye LED headlights with BladeScan Adaptive High-Beam System

Card key

Takumi grade (adds to ES Premium Pack)

Triple-eye LED headlights with BladeScan Adaptive High-Beam System

Card key

Semi-aniline leather upholstery

Power sunshades

Head-up display

17-speaker Mark Levinson Premium Surround Sound system

Panoramic View Monitor with pedestrian alert

Power boot lid with hands-free kick-sensor operation

Windscreen de-icer

Option: digital door mirrors

Up to 10 years/100,000 miles warranty

In common with every new Lexus, the ES 300h is eligible for Lexus warranty protection for up to 10 years or 100,000 miles (whichever comes first). This comprises an initial three-year manufacturer warranty, followed by up to a further seven years of service-activated warranty.

For the first three years of the car's life, owners can have it serviced at a place of their choice. When the new car warranty period expires, they can then benefit from an additional 12 months (or 10,000 miles) warranty when their vehicle has a qualifying service at an authorised Lexus workshop. The warranty is provided at no extra cost, up to a limit of 10 years/100,000 miles. Terms and conditions apply; full details are available at www.lexus.co.uk.

ES timeline and UK sales

YEAR	MONTH	EVENT
1989		The first generation ES saloon launches the Lexus brand in North America, alongside the original LS flagship model.
2018	April	The all-new seventh generation ES is revealed at the Beijing Motor Show. Lexus confirms it will be the first ES to be sold in Western Europe.
2019	January	The all-hybrid electric ES range goes on sale in the UK.
2020	February	ES is the first Lexus in Europe to be offered with optional digital side mirrors.
2020	September	Premium Edition model is added to the ES range.
2021	April	A revised ES debuts at the Shanghai Motor Show.
	October	The updated ES goes on sale in the UK, featuring retuned suspension, enhanced Lexus Safety System+ functions, a 12.3-inch multimedia screen and revised equipment specifications.
2022	October	Revised equipment specifications and introduction of Lexus Link Connect/Lexus Link Pro multimedia systems with touchscreen operation.

ES sales in UK markets in 2023: 1,866

Cumulative UK sales since launch (2019): 6,609

ES TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

HYBRID SYSTEM	
Type	Lexus Hybrid Drive, series/parallel, full hybrid
Full system power (bhp/DIN hp/kW)	215/218/160
ENGINE	
Type	4 cylinders, in-line, Atkinson cycle
Valve mechanism	4 valves per cylinder, DOHC with VVT-iW (intake) and VVT-i (exhaust)
Bore x stroke (mm)	87.5 x 103.4
Displacement (cc)	2,487
Compression ratio	14.0:1
Fuel system	Intake port (multi-point)
Fuel type	95 octane petrol, or higher
Max. engine power (bhp/DIN hp/kW @ rpm)	176/178/131 @ 5,700
Max. engine torque (Nm @ rpm)	221 @ 3,600 – 5,200
ELECTRIC MOTOR/GENERATOR	
Type	AC synchronous, permanent magnet
Max. power (bhp/kW)	120/88
Max. torque (Nm)	202
Max. voltage (V)	650
HYBRID BATTERY	
Type	Nickel-metal hydride (NiMH)
Nominal voltage (DC V)	244.8
Number of cells	204
TRANSMISSION	
Type	E-CVT
Motor reduction ratio	3.389
Differential gear ratio	3.389
Driven wheels	Front
PERFORMANCE	
0-62mph (sec)	8.9
Maximum speed (mph)	112
FUEL CONSUMPTION (WLTP)	
Combined (mpg)	52.3 to 53.2
Fuel tank capacity (l)	50
EMISSIONS (WLTP), INSURANCE, SERVICING & WARRANTY	
CO ₂ emissions – combined (g/km)	120-123
Insurance groups	31E – 36E
Service intervals	10,000 miles/annually
Comprehensive new vehicle warranty	3 years/60,000 miles
Hybrid warranty	5 years/60,000 miles (whichever comes first)
Corrosion/perforation warranty	12 years/unlimited mileage
Surface rust/paintwork	3 years/unlimited mileage
SUSPENSION	
Front	MacPherson strut

Rear		Trailing wishbone
BRAKES		
Brake type	Front	Ventilated discs
	Rear	Solid discs
Brake size	Front (diameter x thickness, mm)	305 x 28
	Rear (diameter x thickness, mm)	281 x 12
Parking brake		Electronic
STEERING		
Steering gear type		Rack and pinion
Turns lock-to-lock		2.7
Minimum turning radius	Tyre (m)	5.8 (17in wheels) 5.9 (18in, 19in wheels)
	Body (m)	6.2 (17in wheels) 6.3 (18in, 19in wheels)
Power steering type		Electric power steering (EPS)
EXTERIOR DIMENSIONS		
Length (mm)		4,975
Width (mm)		1,865
Height (mm)		1,445
Wheelbase (mm)		2,870
Track	Front (mm)	1,600
	Rear (mm)	1,610
Overhang	Front (mm)	1,005
	Rear (mm)	1,100
Ground clearance (mm)		150
Drag coefficient (Cd)		0.26
INTERIOR DIMENSIONS		
Length (mm)		2,053
Width (mm)		1,533
Height (mm)		1,145
Couple distance (mm)		1,022
Boot capacity – VDA (l)		454
WHEELS AND TYRES		
Wheels		18 or 19in alloy
Tyres		235/45R18 235/40R19
Spare		Tyre repair kit
WEIGHTS		
Kerb weight (kg)		1,680 – 1,740
Gross vehicle weight (kg)		2,150

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ES EQUIPMENT SPECIFICATIONS

SAFETY & HANDLING	ES PREMIUM EDITION	F SPORT	TAKUMI
Lexus Safety System+ with Pre-Collision System, Intersection Turn Assist, Emergency Steering Assist, Dynamic Radar Cruise Control, Lane Tracing Assist with Sway Warning, Road Sign Assist and Automatic High Beam	✓	✓	✕
BladeScan Adaptive High-beam System (in place of Automatic High Beam)	✕	Opt pack ²	✓
Driver & front passenger airbags	✓	✓	✓
Driver & front passenger side airbags	✓	✓	✓
Driver & front passenger knee airbags	✓	✓	✓
Rear outer passenger side airbags	✓	✓	✓
Curtain Shield airbags	✓	✓	✓
Front passenger airbag cut-off switch	✓	✓	✓
ABS	✓	✓	✓
Auto Glide Control	✓	✓	✓
Vehicle Stability Control (VSC)	✓	✓	✓
Traction Control (TRC)	✓	✓	✓
Vehicle Dynamics Integrated Management (VDIM)	✓	✓	✓
Hill Assist Control	✓	✓	✓
2x Isofix child seat anchors on outer rear seats	✓	✓	✓
Auto-location tyre pressure warning system	✓	✓	✓
Blind Spot Monitor and Rear Cross Traffic Alert with auto brake	✓	✓	✓
4 driving modes – EV, Normal, Eco, Sport	✓	✕	✓
5 driving modes – EV, Normal, Eco, Sport, Sport+	✕	✓	✕
Adaptive Variable Suspension	✕	✓	✕
Lateral performance dampers	✕	✓	✕
Active noise control	✕	✓	✓
INSTRUMENTS & CONTROLS	ES PREMIUM EDITION	F SPORT	TAKUMI
Colour head-up display	✕	Opt pack ²	✓
Intelligent parking sensors, 4x front, 4x rear, with braking function	✓	✓	✕
Intelligent parking sensors, 4x front, 4x rear, with rear pedestrian detection and braking function	✕	Opt pack ²	✓
Reversing camera with guidelines	✓	✓	✓
360° Panoramic View Monitor with pedestrian detection	Opt pack ¹	Opt pack ²	✓
Drive Mode Select control	✓	✓	✓
Smart entry and start	✓	✓	✓
Card key (in addition to standard keys)	✕	Opt pack ²	✓
Speed-sensitive electric power steering (EPS)	✓	✓	✓

Analogue clock with LED illumination	✓	✓	✓
Electronic parking brake	✓	✓	✓
AUDIO, NAVIGATION & INFORMATION	ES PREMIUM EDITION	F SPORT	TAKUMI
10-speaker system with CD player	✓	✓	✕
Mark Levinson 17-speaker audio system with 12.3in display and Remote Touch Interface	✕	Opt pack ²	✓
DAB radio	✓	✓	✓
Bluetooth	✓	✓	✓
Lexus Link Connect multimedia with 8in touchscreen	✕	✓	✕
Lexus Link Pro multimedia with 12.3in touchscreen	✓	Opt pack ²	✓
Smartphone integration: wireless Apple CarPlay, wired Android Auto	✓	✓	✓
Access to connected services via Lexus Link	✓	✓	✓
2x USB ports in centre console	✓	✓	✓
2x USB ports in centre console box	✓	✓	✓
2x USB ports in rear console	✓	✓	✓
12v accessory outlets (1 front, 1 rear)	✓	✓	✓
COMFORT & CONVENIENCE	ES PREMIUM EDITION	F SPORT	TAKUMI
Auto-dimming rear-view mirror	✓	✓	✓
Rain-sensing wipers	✓	✓	✓
Dusk-sensing headlights	✓	✓	✓
One-touch power front and rear windows	✓	✓	✓
Power boot lid operation with kick-sensor	✕	Opt pack ²	✓
Dual zone climate control with Climate Concierge and nanoe technology	✓	✓	✕
Triple-zone climate control with Climate Concierge and nanoe technology	✕	✕	✓
Electric rear screen sunshades	✕	Opt pack ²	✕
Electric rear screen sunshade and manual rear side sun shades	✕	✕	✓
Tie-down hooks x4 in boot	✕	✓	✓
Shopping hooks in boot	✓	✓	✓
Side storage beneath boot deck board	✓	✓	✓
Front centre arm rest with storage	✓	✓	✓
2 cup holders in centre console	✓	✓	✓
Rear arm rest with 2 cup holders and storage	✓	✓	✓
Map pockets on front seat seatbacks	✓	✓	✓
Wireless charging tray	✓	✓	✓
SECURITY	ES PREMIUM EDITION	F SPORT	TAKUMI

Anti-theft system with siren, intrusion and tilt sensors and immobiliser	✓	✓	✓
Remote central double locking with deadlocks	✓	✓	✓
Speed-sensitive auto door locking	✓	✓	✓
Locking wheel nuts	✓	✓	✓
Window etching with VIN	✓	✓	✓
SEATING, UPHOLSTERY & TRIM	ES PREMIUM EDITION	F SPORT	TAKUMI
8-way electrically adjustable front seats	✓	✗	✗
8-way electrically adjustable F Sport front seats	✗	✓	✗
10-way power-adjustable front seats	Opt pack ¹	✗	✓
Shoulder-mounted switch for power front passenger seat adjustment	✗	✗	✓
Memory setting for driver's seat	Opt pack ¹	✓	✓
Memory setting for front passenger seat	✗	✗	✓
Heated front seats	✓	✓	✓
Ventilated front seats	Opt pack ¹	✗	✓
Heated rear seats	✗	✗	✓
Power lumbar support (2-way driver and passenger)	✓	✓	✗
Power lumbar support (4-way driver, 2-way passenger)	Opt pack ¹	✗	✗
Power lumbar support (4-way driver and passenger)	✗	✗	✓
Driver and front passenger seats with adjustable cushion length and calf support	Opt pack ¹	✗	✓
Easy entry and exit steering wheel function	✓	✓	✗
Easy entry and exit steering wheel and sliding driver's seat function	✗	✗	✓
Fixed rear seat with through-hatch to boot	✓	✓	✗
Power reclining rear seat with through-hatch to boot	✗	✗	✓
Power adjustable steering wheel	✓	✓	✓
Transmission paddle shifts	✓	✓	✓
Leather steering wheel trim	✓	✗	✓
F Sport steering wheel with perforated leather trim	✗	✓	✗
Steering wheel with leather and wood trim	Opt pack ¹	✗	✓
Heated steering wheel	✓	✗	✓
Heated F Sport steering wheel	✗	✓	✗
Leather shift lever trim	✓	✗	✓
F Sport shift lever with perforated leather trim	✗	✓	✗
Tahara upholstery	✓	✓	✗
Smooth leather upholstery	Opt pack ¹	✗	✗
Semi-aniline leather upholstery	✗	✗	✓
Aluminium sports pedal set and foot rest	✗	✓	✗
Black grain trim inlay	✓	✗	✗
Black open pore walnut trim inlay	Opt pack ¹	✗	Opt
Brown open pore walnut trim inlay	Opt pack ¹	✗	Opt

Bamboo inlay	Opt pack ¹	×	Opt
Hadori aluminium trim inlay	×	✓	×
Aluminium front scuff plates with Lexus logo	✓	✓	✓
Aluminium rear scuff plates	×	✓	✓
Carpet mats	✓	✓	✓
LED ambient lighting	✓	✓	✓
EXTERIOR	ES PREMIUM EDITION	F SPORT	TAKUMI
Bi- LED headlamps with Automatic High Beam	✓	✓	×
Triple-eye LED headlamps with BladeScan Adaptive High-beam System	Opt pack ¹	Opt pack ²	✓
LED daytime running lights	✓	✓	✓
Cornering lights	✓	✓	✓
LED rear lamps and active brake lights	✓	✓	✓
Lane-change turn indicator function (3, 5 or 7 flashes)	✓	✓	✓
Automatic headlamp levelling	✓	✓	✓
Rear spoiler	✓	✓	✓
F Sport bumpers	×	✓	×
Rear privacy glass	✓	✓	✓
Electrically adjustable, heated, folding, wide-angle door mirrors	✓	×	×
Digital Side-view Monitors	×	×	Opt
Noise-reducing acoustic windscreen	✓	✓	✓
Windscreen de-icer	×	✓	✓
Electrically adjustable, auto-dimming, heated, folding, wide-angle door mirrors with reversing tilt function and memory	Opt pack ¹	✓	✓
Sunroof	✓	✓	✓
18in alloy wheels	✓	×	×
19in alloy F Sport wheels	×	✓	×
18in 10-spoke alloy wheels	×	×	✓
Tyre repair kit	✓	✓	✓
Metallic/mica//Sonic paint	Opt	Opt	Opt
OPTION PACKS	ES PREMIUM EDITION	F SPORT	TAKUMI
¹ Premium Pack: Triple-eye LED headlights with BladeScan Adaptive High-beam System, smooth leather upholstery, heated and ventilated front seats with 10-way power adjustment, memory setting for driver's seat, wood and leather steering wheel trim, power door mirrors with auto-fold, reverse tilt, auto-dimming and memory functions, Panoramic View Monitor with pedestrian alert, aluminium scuff plates, power sunshades	Opt	×	×
² Takumi Pack: 17-speaker Mark Levinson Premium Surround Sound system, head-up	×	Opt	×

display, power sunshades, hands-free power boot lid with kick-sensor, Panoramic View Monitor with pedestrian alert, triple-eye LED headlights with BladeScan Adaptive High-Beam System, card key			
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