

# FIVE REASONS WHY THE 'ELECTRIC' FIAT 500 IS THE COOLEST SMALL 'EV'



In 2018 if you want a small city EV, you have a choice of cars that can be best described as not very good looking at all. Once you're behind the wheel, the obvious visual issue is solved as you can no longer see it. This leads us to the second glaring problem: the fact that they are all terribly boring to drive. So, if you want a small compact EV to zip around your chosen city then you should probably give up and buy a bicycle. But wait! There is another way.

This is the Electric Fiat 500, and it is the brainchild of London classic car dealer **Classic Chrome Ltd**. It's a fully fledged city EV with more cool than all of its rivals put together.



## TESLA TECHNOLOGY IN A TINY 500



Yes, before you shake your head in disbelief, this tiny car packs a trio of Tesla batteries in its arsenal giving it 16kWh of juice, which is good for some 60-75 miles of range depending on driving style. Perfect for daily use in the vast urban sprawl. This setup takes a shade over seven hours to charge via a 1.5Kw charger. To complement this, there is an optional 2.5Kw charging system that completes the task in just over four hours.



## IT TAKES WHAT CAME BEFORE AND IMPROVES IT MASSIVELY



The original 500 was powered by a tiny straight-twin engine (from 479cc to 594cc) producing around 14-17 horsepower, which is not very quick. To remedy this issue the ICE unit is replaced with a brushless AC20 electric motor producing 47 horsepower and 70lb-ft of torque.

This may not sound like a lot, but in a car that weighs in at less than 500kg, it's enough. To keep all this electrified pace in check, this 500 has a front disc brake conversion because the original braking system was described as 'terrifying.'

To keep the modern era theme going, it also features stronger driveshafts and uprated rear suspension to ensure it can take on the worst a city can throw at it.

## YOU WON'T FIND A SINGLE SPEED GEARBOX HERE



A majority (almost all) of EVs are equipped with a single speed gearbox due to the massive torque outputs involved. With the Electric 500 though, things get really smart as it retains its original four-speed manual box.

This is mated to the electric motor with an uprated clutch. It's an odd sensation at first, as you change gear without any engine noise whatsoever. Around town though, you will likely never need to change as you can drive it using the second or third ratio with ease thanks to the torque of the electric motor giving more than enough pulling power. In fact it is very quick and great fun drive!



## THE INTERIOR IS JUST AS YOU WOULD FIND IN A 1965 FIAT 500



The only additions you will find in the cockpit are new controls for the electric heater in place of the original levers between the seats for the choke and starting the car.



## ALL OF THE COOL FACTOR AND THEN SOME



Certain cars get a reaction wherever you go. The Electric 500 is one of these cars as it just creates a positive reaction wherever you happen to be driving it.

When you stand it next to the current crop of city EVs, it just has them all beat on looks and charm with absolute ease. And let's be realistic, would anyone in their right mind really pick a Smart FourTwo Electric Drive over this retro looking Electric 500?



## A SMALL EV THAT IS ACTUALLY FUN TO DRIVE



As mentioned earlier, the Electric 500 is a very small car. Despite my 6'2 of height I managed to fit in just fine. Once inside you're greeted with a classically retro two-spoke steering wheel and a strip of metal that doubles for a dashboard, with a speedo, a battery charge indicator and that's pretty much it.

All of this simplicity leaves you to get on with the business of driving, which around town is enormous fun. The instant torque of the electric motor allows you to keep pace with modern machinery as you whirl your way around the city in silence.

While a ton of horsepower is fun, the Electric 500 goes to show that small power and clever engineering combined with a dose of retro greatness makes for a fantastically useable, daily driver that oozes cool.







The Electric Fiat 500 is available from [Electric Classic Cars](#) via [Classic Chrome](#). Prices start at £25,000 for the standard car.







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