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car
mag

SHORTLISTED
FOR NEWSPRESS
MAGAZINE
OF THE YEAR
2016 to 2018

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The Look



Johnny English Strikes Again...

& WE FIND ROWAN'S VIRAGE



There is plenty of Aston Martin action
featuring Bond's DB5 with all the
gadgets and so much more...



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ISSUE 64 / 2018

At this time...

Aston Martins, there are absolutely loads of them in this issue and we make no excuses for that. They are wonderful vehicles and it is great that we are in a purple patch right now, with new models, lots of jobs and a ton of excitement. We have though stuck to the old ones mainly because the electric Lagonda pictures were not very revealing. Instead we stick to the pretty old stuff and there is another reason for that, Johnny English.

It is very difficult to be funny about anything these days, but you can still rely on Rowan Atkinson to find everyone's funny bone. If any genre deserves to be poked with a stick, then the secret agent one offers so much gadget related opportunity. Hence Johnny English Strikes Again. The third instalment and quite possibly the best yet. For Free Car Mag it is the wonderful Aston Martin V8 which we enjoy as much as the gags.

The extra exciting Aston Martin connection that we made was bumping into Mark Dixon. As you can read on page 14 is the story of how he came to acquire Rowan Atkinson's old Virage and what he plans to do with it.

Meanwhile we plan to launch a campaign to get Guy Martin to front the next James Bond film. We are reading his brilliant book at the moment and if you want an action man, here he is. Otherwise if Rowan does not fancy doing Johnny English - Yet Again, I'm sure Guy will.



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Mr. Atkinson, we have located your Aston Martin Virage...



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PeninsulaHotels.
@
TheQuailEvents

THE QUAIL, CLASSICS + HOLLYWOOD + JAY LENO

Now in its sixteenth year, the world-renowned automotive lifestyle event, The Quail, A Motorsports Gathering, was held at Quail Lodge & Golf Club in beautiful Carmel Valley, California. Recognized as one of the most highly influential international events during the historic Monterey Car Week, The Quail, A Motorsports Gathering, featured one of the world's finest and rarest collections of vintage automobiles and motorcycles. A Fireside Chat Series also took place featuring InStyle Magazine's editor-in-chief, Laura Brown and luxury women's shoe designer, Tamara Mellon, who discussed the parallels between fashion and the automotive industry.



Spotted
out and
about



ERIC BANA, ANGELA SARAFYAN + GARRETT HEDLUND

Actors Eric Bana, Garrett Hedlund and Angela Sarafyan attend The Quail, A Motorsports Gathering, organized by The Peninsula Hotels, in Carmel Valley California. What a great place to be, not least because we spotted Jay Leno (above) as the MC surrounded by some of the most beautiful cars ever made. The great pictures via: www.adamswords.com.



French
Ambassador
Spoilt



DS 7 CROSSBACK JOINS THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS

His Excellency, Jean-Pierre Jouyet, Ambassador of France to the United Kingdom, met with Alain Descat, Managing Director DS Automobiles UK for the arrival of the new official French Embassy car - DS 7 CROSSBACK Ultra Prestige - a top-specification flagship model with the latest PureTech 225hp petrol engine. The French Embassy DS 7 CROSSBACK car was specially chosen for official duties and as the transportation for the Ambassador of France to the UK primarily for its alluring presence, French automotive savoir-faire and for its sector-unique features, like the DS Active Scan suspension for optimised ride comfort.



PIPPA FUNNELL & HER NEW SSANGYONG REXTON

Top British horsewoman, and member of three GB Olympic teams, Pippa Funnell MBE has taken delivery of her new SsangYong Rexton Ultimate. "I am really excited about driving the new Rexton and delighted to be continuing my relationship with SsangYong. In the equestrian world it is essential to have a reliable 4-wheel drive vehicle that's capable of towing a large horse or work trailer loaded with heavy jumps around the farm, and to get me to events often in wet, muddy conditions." Rexton and new Musso are both covered by an industry beating 7-year 150,000 mile warranty. All other SsangYong vehicles are covered by a 5-year limitless mileage warranty and customers can upgrade to the 7-year warranty if they prefer.



Mitsubishi
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£34,255
33 miles range on
electric power
£2500 Plug in
Grant

EDINBURGH RUGBY STARS JOHN BARCLAY & WP NEL

Official Partner to Edinburgh Rugby since 2013, Mitsubishi Motors in the UK are proud to have the famous three diamond logo feature on the back of the club's historic jersey and shorts and are committed to supporting the team's on and off field ambitions. Barclay, Nel and Brown will help Mitsubishi Motors in the UK and Edinburgh Rugby activate the partnership for the benefit of supporters, and it's a role that Barclay is looking forward to getting involved with in his first season with the club. John Barclay said: "Mitsubishi Motors is a brand that holds the same values as myself and the club I'm so proud to represent. The long-standing partnership is a great example of commitment and I'm excited to be able to play a part over the coming season."



SPOTTE
OUT AN
ABOUT

SUZUKI AND MK DONS KEEP THE BALL ROLLING

Suzuki's decision to extend its long-standing relationship will see the sponsorship funds invested into MK Dons' award-winning initiatives within the local community, helping, in particular, individuals with disabilities who Suzuki already provide discounts to when choosing to lease a car through the Motability Scheme. You'll be seeing the iconic logo all over MK Dons shirts and just about everywhere else.



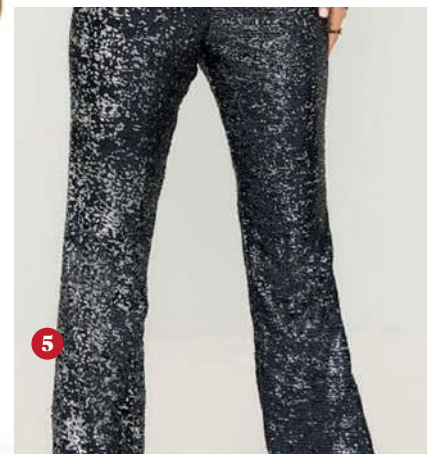
Get the look

DUA LIPA AND JAGUAR MAKE MUSIC

British/Kosovan singer-songwriter Dua Lipa has collaborated with Jaguar to make music in a completely new way. Using Jaguar's custom-made software, she created an exclusive remix of her latest track, 'Want To' and empowered fans all over the world to create personalised remixes using their own data – from the way they drive, the songs they listen to, or by tapping a rhythm on a mobile. "I'm so excited to collaborate with Jaguar and push the boundaries of music and technology for my fans. It's pretty mind-blowing that anyone can create their own unique version of my single 'Want To' based on the way they drive a Jaguar, or what music they listen to." <http://remix.jointhepace.com> Never mind the music music, let's get Dua's fabulous look if we can.

Dua Lipa

- 1 Jaguar I-Pace £62,925
- 2 Sequin Boots ASOS £34.00
- 3 Seiko Gold Tone £159.00
- 4 Sequin Top H & M £17.99
- 5 Trousers Pretty Little Thing £25



A full-page background image of Rowan Atkinson as Johnny English. He is wearing a dark blue suit, a white shirt, and a dark purple tie. He is leaning against the hood of a red Aston Martin V8. The setting is a car garage with other cars visible in the background.

Johnny English

THE FOOL ENGLISH

Excellent news, our favourite secret agent is back with a bang, a crash and quite possibly a wallop, or two. Plus there is a lovely Aston Martin V8, with gadgets. Johnny English Strikes Again is in cinemas on October 5th and Free Car Mag will be there...



ATKINSON'S KNOWLEDGE OF CARS IS ENCYCLOPEDIC. WHEN WE FIRST MEET JOHNNY HE'S DRIVING A TRIUMPH DOLOMITE SPRINT...

The UK is in peril. Five days before the PM is to host her first G12 summit, MI7's security is breached and every agent in the field identified and exposed. The only hope of finding the perpetrator is to bring an agent out of retirement, but with most of them either dead or close to it, the head of MI7 is left with only one choice, and his name is English... Johnny English.

Casting aside his job as a teacher, Johnny English accepts his mission, but things have changed since he was last in the field; guns and gadgets have been replaced by digital phones, sports cars by electric hatchbacks. English is aghast, but quickly finds a way around this new protocol, reasoning that it takes an analogue approach to catch a digital mastermind. And so, blowing the dust off the fully loaded Aston Martin, digging out the exoskeleton suit and magnetic boots, arming himself with transmitter sherbet dips and exploding ear buds and retrieving Bough from the forgotten basement of MI7, English embarks on his mission.

In 1992 Barclaycard began a hugely memorable series of television adverts. Featuring Rowan Atkinson as a bumbling MI7 agent, Richard Latham, he stumbles from disaster to disaster because – unlike his sidekick Bough – he doesn't have a Barclaycard to help him out. The campaign produced seventeen different adverts and ran for five years, earning Rowan Atkinson a BAFTA Advertising Award for best actor in 1992 and securing Barclaycard as the market leader. Ten years later the character would have his first screen outing as JohnnyEnglish.

Traditionally, Atkinson has usually taken several years between

producing sequels for his most famous characters, the hapless Mr. Bean and Johnny English, to ensure they remained fresh and didn't stagnate. When it came to a third Johnny English film, Atkinson gradually began to warm to the idea. "If you think you can have another go at something, you tend to think 'Why not have another go?'" he says, "as long as you feel mentally and physically capable of doing the job."

A man who perhaps was more in his prime in the pre-digital days, Johnny English remains the perfect symbol for the analogue world. With Johnny brought back to MI7, the plot and characters began to be fleshed out for a story that takes Johnny English from London to the French Riviera and finally Scotland. As Atkinson explains, the script development comes down to two factors: "Is this an appropriate joke for Johnny English and is it good enough. His task is to ensure the tone of the ideas remain consistent with the Johnny English character – 'this spy who's not as good as he thinks he is'."

Johnny English Strikes Again sees the return of Bough, Johnny English's MI7 underling. As played by Ben Miller, the character was introduced in the 2003 original movie but did not return for Johnny English Reborn. As Miller puts it, the analogue Johnny English – a man who prefers an old-fashioned car to a computer-equipped one – flourishes in an adventure where technology can track your digital footprint. "In order to not be tracked in the digital world, they need an analogue spy. So Johnny, who's been on the scrapheap, is suddenly right back in the thick of things, and he's the guy Britain needs to do the job."



Bough plays an important role in the story, keeping the mission on track and Johnny out of his scrapes. “The important thing to understand about Bough,” says Miller, “is that he is hopeless in situations where he has any responsibility. He has zero ability to improvise, which Johnny is so brilliant at. And he just hero-worships him. He is very competent, but has no leadership qualities at all and I’ve always found that quite funny. Whenever we are doing a sequence, Bough is like a rabbit in the headlights, just hopelessly unable to do anything without Johnny. Johnny’s the swan. Bough is the swan’s legs,” he laughs.

For Atkinson, it was the chance to revive a working relationship forged on the first Johnny English movie. “There are very few people I feel more at ease with as a comedy partnership,” he says. “Tony Robinson, who plays Baldrick in *Blackadder*, he was definitely one. We connected and I’ve got a very similar relationship with Ben. I think we just play off each other extremely well.”

With a number of key supporting roles, *Johnny English Strikes Again* afforded the chance to reach out to some fantastic talent. None more

so than Emma Thompson, who plays the Prime Minister.

“Emma was a bit of a coup for us to get because she is a masterful actor,” says Atkinson, “but she also comes from a very similar comedy tradition to myself.” Thompson’s early work was in sketch-comedy, and she even co-starred with Atkinson in the 1989 romantic comedy *The Tall Guy*, penned by Richard Curtis.

Emma Thompson was delighted to be part of the team. “I thought the script was very well written and very funny: simple but charming. A good story, kind and funny and silly. There’s not really enough silly in the world!”, she says. “I love Johnny English. He really is the anti James Bond. He’s a very good antidote to the extremely overpowering and frankly quite tiresome male role models out there.”

“I think she’s done us proud,” Atkinson continues. “You need someone who’s strong and serious and believable as a Prime Minister. It can’t be a comedy Prime Minister. And yet, of course, we do want our Prime Minister to have a twinkle in her eye and a sense of the absurdity of this man, Johnny English.”



Ready.



Another key cast member was Olga Kurylenko, who plays Ophelia, who – when Johnny first meets her – is working as Volta’s (the baddie) assistant. “In the beginning she’s a mysterious character,” says Kurylenko. “You don’t know what she’s about and who she is.” While her true identity is only revealed later on, Johnny English falls for her. “He’s immediately attracted to her and he thinks he’s going to have some sort of romance,” the actress adds. Needless to say, Johnny is way off the mark.

Following on from Tim Pigott-Smith and Gillian Anderson, who played Johnny English’s superiors in the first two films respectively, James was an ideal choice, says Atkinson. “It’s perfect for us the way that he does it because he’s very strong and very straight and that’s just what you need, and he just has to deal with Johnny as best he can.”

For a scene where other retired agents are also brought in to help with the cyber-attack crisis – until an accident caused by Johnny seals their doom – the production turned to some of Britain’s most distinguished performers. Charles Dance plays Agent Seven, Michael Gambon is Agent Five and Edward Fox takes on the role of Agent Nine. “I don’t often get asked to play comedy,” says Dance, “In this business you are what you are seen to be, and if you are seen to be austere and villainous, the odds are you will be asked to do it again. So on the rare occasions when I am asked to do a bit of comedy I jump at it.”

“It’s a funny idea to get three old fogies who are known to the audience for other reasons to become these agents,” agrees Fox. It’s rare indeed for such esteemed actors to have such minor roles in a major feature. How do they feel about that?

“It’s a relatively small but significant scene. The whole plot hinges

on the outcome of this scene,” says Dance wryly.

“Oh, it’s a very important scene!” insists Gambon.

Any spy movie worth its salt requires some sleek automobiles and a Johnny English movie is no exception. Atkinson, a noted car enthusiast, calls it a “gift” during the writing process to consider what Johnny might be driving. “We’ve always been contemporary with the previous Johnny English films, with whatever car we gave him to drive,” he says. “But there was an excuse here to go back.” The team selected an Aston Martin V8, finished in Storm Red, an exact replica of a car that Atkinson bought for himself back in 1981.

“I thought this would be a perfect car for Johnny English,” laughs Atkinson. “And it looks great, I think it’s such a wonderful tomato red [colour] in the sunshine of the Cote D’Azur. And it was great fun to revisit the past in a contemporary way.”

Kerr calls Atkinson’s knowledge of cars “encyclopedic”, which comes in useful for fleshing out Johnny English’s character. “He is very specific about the car that Johnny would be driving at any point. So even when we first meet Johnny he’s driving a Triumph Dolomite Sprint. It’s no Aston Martin, but it’s the affordable classic that he as a geography teacher would have. And so he still loves that car even though it’s not the car he then has for the rest of the movie.”

When it came to Johnny’s Aston Martin, production designer Simon Bowles was already conceptualizing the car’s hidden gadgets, including rocket missiles. “I played with them,” he recalls. “Should they come out of the boot? Should the boot lift up and out? Should they come out from the wings? Or should they be from the bonnet? Obviously the bonnet has a lovely advantage as you can actually see the missiles rising out of the bonnet with Johnny and Bough right there behind it.”



Get set...



Fire!

There are no two Aston Martins that are the same, each one made is bespoke, so the team had to purchase another one for stunt rocket launcher car, turning it into a replica of the original. “We found a black one with a red interior so we had to completely re-upholster and re-spray the car,” says Simon Bowles, production designer. Even more than the first two films, plans were afoot to make the cars integral to the story. “There’s a lot more car action that people can expect, a lot more driving,” estimates Paul Herbert, the film’s Stunt Coordinator, who has worked on all three of the Johnny English films. The first of the two major sequences was in the South of France, where Johnny is in his Aston Martin embroiled in a chase with an electric and eco-friendly BMW i3, driven by Ophelia. Olga Kurylenko, who had worked with Herbert on *The Death of Stalin* (2017), was delighted to get behind the wheel. “I was a bit sad they didn’t let me drive like a maniac more,” she laughs. “I would have loved to do all the stunt driving. Driving like a maniac is my thing! I love it! And it’s a great car.”

Atkinson, meanwhile, spent a day at Longcross Studios in the UK, where the stunt team helped him get familiar with driving the Aston Martin. Despite being a competent driver, there were times when he had to let the stuntmen take the wheel. “If he had his way he’d

basically be doing all of the stunts on the film,” laughs Clark. Another chase scene sees Johnny pursued by Volta’s men, escaping in a vehicle alongside a learner driver. With so much dialogue in the scene, the car was controlled by a stunt driver sitting in a pod above the vehicle. “It’s a little bit unnerving for the actors at first,” says Herbert, “when they’re sitting in there and the car is going left and right and turning and they’ve no control.”

With Rowan Atkinson as Johnny English, the jokes will always be free-flowing. “I enjoy visual jokes and I enjoy silly movement and I enjoy falling over,” says Atkinson, who seems delighted that Johnny English Strikes Again features plenty of the above.

One of the funniest scenes involves Johnny mistaking a sleeping pill for the Instant Release High Energy Pills. Dressed in white, a homage to *Saturday Night Fever*, he catapults himself across the dance floor, limbs moving in all directions. For Atkinson, it felt like a crossover to another of his most famous characters. “It’s the kind of dancing that probably Mr. Bean would do, but of course we can excuse it by the fact that Johnny English is on drugs while he’s doing it...prescription drugs in a sense, but nevertheless he’s sort of on cloud nine. So that’s how we can get Johnny English to do very un-Johnny English things.”



The Johnny English Strikes Again Gadget List

Johnny English (the 'Hero'):

1. Shoebox Inflatable Boat
2. Exoskeleton Suit
3. Magnetic Boots
4. Sherbet Dip Transmitter
5. Aston Martin with built in rockets and gas dispenser
6. Instant Release High Energy Pills
7. Total Knockout Sleep Lozenges
8. Low intensity exploding ear buds

Ophelia (the 'English' Girl):

1. USB lipstick
2. Compact mirror unlocking device
3. Garroting watch

Volta (the 'Baddie):

1. Transparent laptop
2. See-through gun
3. Holographic communications unit



Johnny English Strikes Again is in cinemas on October 5th.



The English Patient



Mark Dixon did some MI7 level undercover work and tracked down the Aston Martin that used to belong to Johnny English, a.k.a. Rowan Atkinson, comedian, actor and diehard petrolhead.



WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE CONNECTION WITH ROWAN ATKINSON?

Mark Rowan Atkinson owned the car from new and sold it after about 15 months. I have the original DVLA documents as well as an Aston heritage certificate confirming his ownership. He wrote about the car in Car magazine of May 1990 and it featured on the front cover. Some good photos of the car when new as well as him behind the wheel. He commented how delighted he was to have an Aston which had a heater that works!

AND THE BACKGROUND TO THE VIRAGE?

Mark The Virage was an expensive car when new, costing around £120k. Due to the early 90s recession and competition from other brands, not many were sold. It is believed there were around 340 Coupe sold of which only 170 were RHD and of those about 70 were manuals. In the UK today there are only around 40 manuals. This is chassis 10 one of the early ones.

HOW DID YOU FIND THE CAR?

Mark I purchased the car privately this year, which had been purchased at auction in 2016. I discovered the car at Chicane Aston in Hampshire where I get my DB7 serviced. The story goes that an Oxford student was buying and selling cars to fund his studies. He went to the auction in 2016 to buy a Porsche 911 but missed out and as a reaction bought the Virage. I don't think he understood what he was buying and hoped to make a quick buck by flipping it. It was clear that the car was at the stage that it needed restoration work and investment, which he was not prepared to do. Having done some basic work to get it running he decided to sell.

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST IMPRESSION WHEN YOU SAW THE VIRAGE?

Mark I felt I couldn't see it deteriorate further given its provenance but I also think it is a pretty unusual combination of Litchfield black and light interior and now becoming rare especially in manual form. There simply isn't anything like it on the road and I kind of like the boxy style of the period and some of the last hand build cars from Newport Pagnell. For many years people didn't spend any money on Virages due to the low market values. I made a deal and purchased the car.

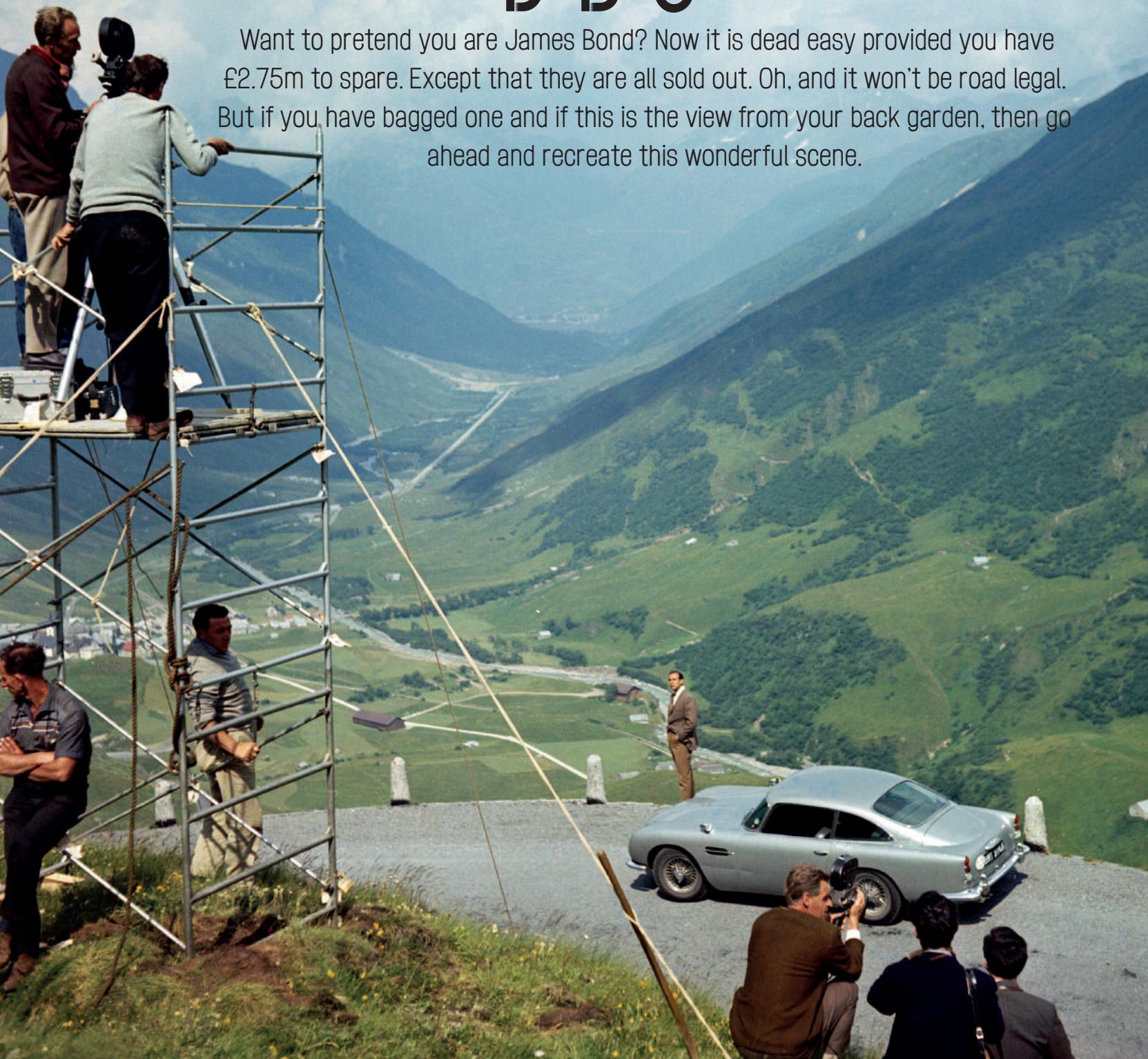
SO WHAT IS THE PLAN?

Mark The plan is to bring back the car to concours standard and like the original 1990 Atkinson magazine photos. Working with Aston specialists Chicane I have agreed a programme of works so the car will be ready next year. This includes a bare metal respray, chassis repairs, removing and overhauling all the suspension and some trim work. The engine and gearbox are actually very good and the car runs well but will be removed to clean up and allow the engine bay to be tidied up. All the original elements are there. Once I have the car completed it is very much my intention to drive and use it and attend car events. Don't believe in having a garage queen and like people to see this increasingly rare car. Would be great if I could reunite it with its original owner for a photo one day!

THANK YOU MARK FOR SHARING YOUR VERY SPECIAL VIRAGE WITH US. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING THE STUNNING RESULTS VERY SOON AND MAYBE GETTING MI7'S MOST SUCCESSFUL AGENT BACK BEHIND THE WHEEL...

DOPPELGÄNGER DB5

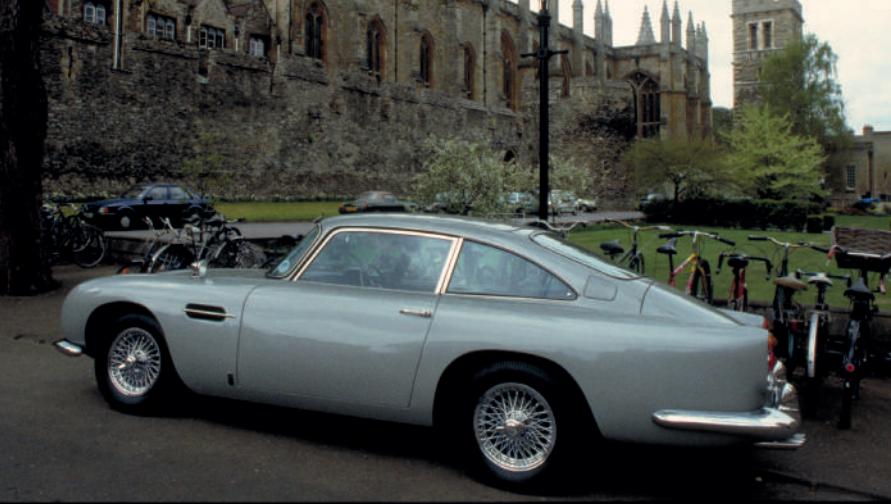
Want to pretend you are James Bond? Now it is dead easy provided you have £2.75m to spare. Except that they are all sold out. Oh, and it won't be road legal. But if you have bagged one and if this is the view from your back garden, then go ahead and recreate this wonderful scene.





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The iconic Aston Martin DB5 is back, thanks to a unique collaboration between Aston Martin and EON Productions, the company that produces the James Bond films.

A series of 25 Goldfinger DB5 continuation editions*, will be created for customers by Aston Martin Works and EON Productions. The Goldfinger DB5 continuation will be based on James Bond's legendary car from 1964 and built by Aston Martin Works at Newport Pagnell – the original home of the DB5. They will be authentic reproductions of the DB5 seen on screen, with some sympathetic modifications to ensure the highest levels of build quality and reliability.

This authenticity will extend to include functioning gadgets such as revolving number plates, no word on whether there will be machine guns or an ejector seat. The gadgets will be co-developed with Oscar®-winner Chris Corbould, special effects supervisor from the James Bond films. Officially sanctioned by Aston Martin and EON Productions, all the Goldfinger edition cars will be produced to one specification - Silver Birch paint - just

like the original.

Since its seminal appearance in Goldfinger the DB5 has featured in a further six James Bond movies: Thunderball (1965), again with Connery; GoldenEye (1995) and Tomorrow Never Dies (1997) with Pierce Brosnan and three appearances alongside Daniel Craig in Casino Royale (2006), Skyfall (2012) and Spectre (2015). James Bond and his DB5 have become two icons of popular culture and one of the most successful and enduring movie partnerships of all-time.

Such was its popularity, the DB5's movie debut even spawned a Corgi die-cast model, an astonishing 2.5m of which were sold in its first year of production (1965). Free Car Mag had one of course.

A further three full scale cars will be built – one each for EON and Aston Martin, plus another to be auctioned for charity.

Andy Palmer, President and Chief Executive Officer, Aston Martin, said: "The connection between Aston Martin and James Bond is something of which we are very proud and it is remarkable that the DB5 remains

the definitive James Bond car after so many years. To own an Aston Martin has long been an aspiration for James Bond fans, but to own a Silver Birch DB5, complete with gadgets and built to the highest standards in the very same factory as the original James Bond cars? Well, that is surely the ultimate collectors' fantasy. The skilled craftspeople at Aston Martin Works and the expert special effects team from the James Bond films are about to make this fantasy real for 25 very lucky customers."

Paul Spires, Managing Director at Aston Martin Works, added of the Goldfinger DB5 continuation editions: "The connection between Aston Martin and James Bond originated more than half a century ago. Creating 25 Goldfinger DB5 continuations and working with EON Productions and special effects supervisor, Chris Corbould, is something truly unique and a real career highlight for everyone involved here at Aston Martin Works."

Each Goldfinger DB5 continuation car will be priced at £2.75m plus taxes. First deliveries to customers will commence in 2020.

We
Need to
Weaken
the
Mixture!

PUBLISHED BY
VIRGIN BOOKS:
18TH OCTOBER
PRICE £20

THE NEXT 007?

"I can't stop biting off more than I can chew. Maybe I'm wearing everything out, but I believe the body is a fantastic thing and it will repair itself and I'll go again. If it's running too rich, I don't stop what I'm doing, just weaken the mixture and carry on."



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The campaign starts right here. Guy Martin should be the next James Bond. Here is the evidence. Since we last heard from him, between 12-hour shifts at his local haulage firm, and tatie farming in his new John Deere tractor, he has also managed to...

- Restore a 1983 Williams F1 car (then race Jenson Button in it)
- Help build a WWI tank
- Race in his last ever TT
- Ride with Vladimir Putin's favourite biker gang the Night Wolves
- Stand on top of Chernobyl's nuclear reactors
- Compete on the classic endurance circuit
- Save his local pub from closure
- Become a dad

Read all about these achievements in his brilliant new book and tell us what you think about the Free Car Mag to get him on our cinema screens. After all he's already infiltrated at the highest levels in Russia. See issue 62 for conclusive proof.



Plus we encounter a mechanic at the dentist, celebrate the new Toyota Century and Bentley Mulsanne



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visit to Moscow concludes with a passenger ride in an old air force jet plane, an experience normally enjoyed by Russians. And with Russian flying instructors apparently willing to hand over the controls, Guy ends up performing an aerobatic display in an Aero L-39 Albatros. This is a jet trainer developed in Czechoslovakia by Aero. Everything else is Russian.

English Heritage

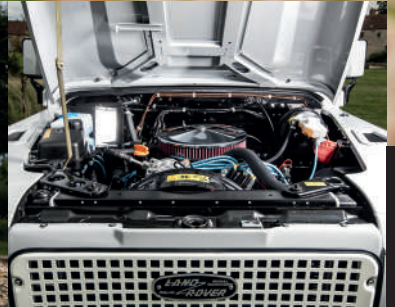


A Defender 110 reimagined by their customer and built by Arkonik. Surely this is the vehicle that any top secret agent should be driving. It comes as standard with quite a few gadgets, not least the fabulous winch. We want one and so should you. Here is the specification and detail pictures.





ENGLISH BUILT
AND HAND
ASSEMBLED
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Don't Fly, Drive Instead

Volvo Cars' 360c autonomous concept is the future

Imagine a world in which you travel long distances without the need for airports. A world in which you can avoid airport security, hours of queuing and waiting, and noisy, cramped airliners. What if, instead, you could take your own first-class private cabin that picks you up at home and takes you from door to door?

The basis of the 360c is a fully autonomous, fully electric car without a human driver. The concept capitalises on the freedom in design afforded by the absence of a steering wheel and a combustion engine, providing the ability to reimagine the traditional placement of passengers in rows of two or three.

The 360c presents four potential uses of autonomous driving vehicles – a sleeping environment, mobile office, living room and entertainment space – which all reimagine the way people travel. It also introduces a proposal for a global standard in how autonomous vehicles can safely communicate with all other road users.

“The business will change in the coming years, and Volvo should lead that change

of our industry,” said Håkan Samuelsson, President and CEO of Volvo Cars.

“Autonomous drive will allow us to take the next big step in safety, but also open up exciting new business models and allow consumers to spend time in the car doing what they want to do.”

The 360c represents a potentially lucrative competitor to short-haul air travel, a multi-billion-dollar industry comprising airlines, aircraft makers and other service providers. Shorter routes where the distance between origin and destination is around 300 kilometres are prime candidates for disruption by an alternative mode of travel.

“When the Wright brothers took to the skies in 1903, they did not have a clue about what modern air travel would look like,” said Mårten Levenstam. “We do not know what the future of autonomous drive will hold, but it will have a profound impact on how people travel, how we design our cities and how we use infrastructure. We regard the 360c as a conversation starter, with more ideas and answers to come as we learn more.”

MOTORING JARGON HELL

“This is just a complicated way of saying it’s got a heated windscreen. It’s clever because it doesn’t have tiny wires in the glass that regular systems use but it will still just stop your windshield freezing.”

VW Climate Windscreen

“This is the complicated name Mercedes gives to its semi-autonomous system. It combines automatic speed regulation with proximity control to a car traveling in front plus helps steering in a lane.”

Mercedes Distronic Plus

“The Mechatronic unit is a posh way of saying the brain of VW Group’s DSG gearbox. It operates the clutch and gears and is derived from a combination of mechanics and electronics.”

Audi Mechatronics

“Our ‘Lost in Translation’ campaign is focusing on making the whole industry easier to understand.”

Duncan McClure Fisher
Founder of motoreasy



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LAND ROVER CELEBRATES 70 YEARS: Range Rover Chassis Number 2 left the production line in late 1969. After time as a development vehicle, the vehicle was converted to a 6-wheeled Rapid Response fire vehicle by Carmichael & Sons of Worcester. What a reassuring sight when you needed to be rescued.



COLLEZIONE AUTOMOBILI LAMBORGHINI PRESENTS

On the occasion of Milano Moda Uomo fashion week, Collezione Automobili Lamborghini presented the 2019 Spring Summer RTW collection in the historic Palazzo Gavazzi in Via Montenapoleone 23, where in the unique setting of the courtyard a Huracán Performante and a Huracán RWD Coupé welcomed guests to the Lamborghini world to look at the Collezione Automobili Lamborghini 2019 Spring Summer Collection, whose must-have items share the same style codes of the Lamborghini super sports cars.

SuperLight Trench in breathable windproof and waterproof blue technical fabric, featuring hexagonal-pattern lining, under-collar, and quilted sleeves echoing the Urus seat stitching motif.

Techno Camo Blouson in jacquard nylon with exclusive Lamborghini camouflage

graphics a mat-glossy finish fabric, and a bold 3D motif.

The Supercar Jacket in supple back leather with hexagonal stitching on the elbows is a must-have essential for fast driving enthusiasts.

Khaki Cotton Jacket with visible stitching and sartorial details evocative of super sports car design and hexagonal-pattern lining.

Finally there are sweaters and polos with the URUS #sincewemadeitpossible claim embroidered on the left shoulder or under the collar; jacquard Mako cotton t-shirts and polos with hexagonal pattern; aluminum color cotton chinos and five-pocket khaki trousers in cotton with inlay stitching creating a triple Y motif forming the iconic Lamborghini hexagon.

www.lamborghini.com





TED BAKER

Oliver, a dress watch for all occasions.

Oliver is a simple yet decidedly stylish option for the modern man who wants to look sharp 9-5 and 5-9.

A domed glass lens brings prominence to the clean-cut sensibility of Oliver's dial which features a sweeping second hand sub-dial in a contrasting colour.

£175

www.tedbaker.com



MIO MIVUE C330 £89.99

As a dashcam the full HD 1080 pixel camera records your journey, functioning as your personal eyewitness on the road. So in case of an accident, you'll always have recordings of what happened. The integrated GPS tracks your route, including speed, longitude, latitude. The new MiVue C330 perfectly combines a dash cam with GPS tracking and safety camera data, which makes it the ideal solution for everyone who wants to feel safe while driving.

www.mio.com



CARLY TUNING APP £145.00

BMW drivers can now unlock extra performance in under 10 minutes with a new engine tuning app. Carly - Connected Car, a world market leader in mobile vehicle electronics, has unveiled its first Android app for motorists to change their vehicle engine mapping by phone. Results from Carly's own testing have shown improvements in acceleration; reducing 0-60 mph times by up to 25 per cent.

www.my Carly.com



VALEO CLIM SPRAY £15.99+

One of the Free Car Mag vehicles had a bit of aroma issue recently and we tried all sorts of stupid remedies short of burning incense candles on the move. Nothing seemed to shift the lingering whiff of damp dog. Until we used this product. It was difficult to find, but all we did was set the air con to recirculate and put it on full blast, then press the automatic button on the can, shut the door and stand outside for 15 minutes.

www.valeoservice.co.uk

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Limited Edition Super Coupe' that's very yellow

LEXUS LC

Never mind the Naples Yellow paint job, the LC Limited Edition benefits has advanced performance and handling features that are part of the LC Sport+ specification. Agile, secure handling and superb responsiveness are delivered thanks to Lexus Dynamic Handling and Variable Gear Ratio Steering (VGRS) with four-wheel steering, which independently controls front and rear wheel steering angles, and a Torsen limited-slip differential.

Inside a driver's head-up display, an Alcantara headlining, 13-speaker Mark Levinson Reference audio system and 10-way power adjustment for the front seats, which are wrapped in semi-aniline leather. Oh yes, and even more yellow. The black door panels feature warm yellow Alcantara inserts. The same yellow shade is also used for contrast stitching details on the white leather seats, instrument panel, steering wheel and centre console arm rest. Yellow enough for you? Matches Free Car Mags mood.





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Super value SUV with added spec

DACIA DUSTER

Here is the new and very improved Duster. Completely restyled, not one body panel is carried over from the previous car. Four trim levels across a ten version line-up. The dashboard and interior have been totally revised for enhanced comfort and quality. The centre console accommodates a higher-positioned (+74 mm), driver-focused MediaNav multimedia touchscreen display for clear and easy access. Climate control is now available for the first time. The All-New Duster is also available with Blind Spot Warning. Four ultrasound sensors located on either side of the vehicle both front and rear detect any other vehicles, including motorcycles and trucks, coming from the rear or the side. A warning light flashes in the door mirror housing if any danger is detected and is safer with a reinforced vehicle frame, new seat frames, curtain airbags and automatic headlight activation. Quite a package.



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Practically Perfect Combination

VAUXHALL COMBO LIFE

The latest addition to the Vauxhall range makes longer trips more comfortable and enjoyable for the whole family, thanks to three ISOFIX child seat brackets on the second-row seats of all models, and the optional panoramic glass roof. The Combo Life raises the bar for safety and comfort in this segment. It is fitted with technologies and driver assistance systems such as Driver Drowsiness Alert, Rear View Camera with 180° bird's-eye view, Head-up Display, and IntelliGrip, as well as improved comfort features such as heated seats and a heated steering wheel. We think you need at least one of these in your life.

WANTED: SUPERCOUPE'

David Stephenson is very taken with a Mercedes CL500 Coupe as they can be such great value for money.



A CAR FOR THE HEAD BMW 645CSI

A German V8 for not a lot of money which is also stylish, well that could be a BMW 645CSI. This model is not just a cool coupe, it is also great value. Best to go for the petrol version, especially as David does not plan to do lots of miles. In that case we came across a dealer with a part exchange vehicle they were keen to move on. A 2004 model with 100,000 miles, finished in black for just under £5,000. It looked like the cream interior needed a deep clean.

A CAR FOR THE HEART MERCEDES CL

I understand that the Mercedes CL is the ideal for David and it is a very impressive continent crushing coupe which like the BMW can be bought cheaply. A word of warning about expensive cars at cheap prices is that when they go wrong they will cost a fortune to fix. A CL500 with a V8 engine is not a difficult model to find. We found several at trade sellers and the very best example was a 2005 with 107,000 miles and offered for sale at £4499. This included a three month warranty.

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AUTOMATIC CHOICE



Gunter Straub has brushed up on his driving skills and is looking for an automatic car to replace his beloved Golf.



A CAR FOR THE HEAD MITSUBISHI COLT

I think that Gunter would love to have another Golf, but let's be creative here and suggest something different and good value. We would politely suggest that he consider a Mitsubishi Colt 1.3 CZ2 AMT. It is a three door and being a Mitsubishi it will be very reliable indeed. At least it isn't another MINI, or Golf which can get rather boring. We found a 2009 automatic example with 48,000 miles with a full service history and just one careful owner. All this for just £3,000. Overall it will do 48mpg which is good.

A CAR FOR THE HEART MERCEDES A-CLASS

Gunter told me that he has always enjoyed driving Mercedes, though at this point in his life he does not want to spend a lot of money, nor does he want to buy a liability. It has to be petrol engine and automatic. I would recommend an A Class. It is very small, and easy to park. Buying something like this from a dealer may be a way to go and we found a 2006 example with a very reasonable 49,500 miles for just £3495 with lots of recent work and tyres.



S-Class Cool

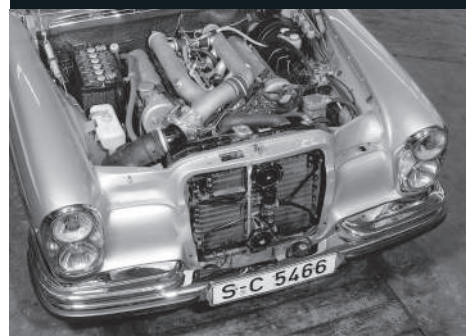
Here is a proper Bangernomics legend in the magnificent shape of the Mercedes S-Class in 1965. What it had in abundance was sheer presence and space. Convex side glass, and just more glass area overall, plus a lower rear floor meant that it seemed huge on the inside. There was also a 300SEL model, which had air suspension, which was four inches longer, which gave the back seat passengers extra legroom. Interestingly, the L did not stand for 'Long' as you would expect, but 'Luftfederung', which was German for air suspension. It was also given its own unique designation W109. Otherwise there was the usual combination of numbers and letters to distinguish each model according to engine size and specification. So in addition to the 300SEL, there was a choice of six-cylinder 250S, 250SE and 300SE. Three years later in 1968 there was a big change as the 2.8 litre engine was standardised across the range to make the 280S, 280SE, 280SEL and 300SEL, confirming that you couldn't always trust the number to relate to the engine size. Indeed, the L in the 280SEL did not have air suspension at all, so presumably the L now meant long.

To create the 6.3 all Mercedes did was install it's biggest engine, into its biggest

production bodyshell. It was inspired lunacy to take the 6.3 V8 from the weighty 600 and put it into something more svelte by comparison. They created the first luxury super saloon. It wasn't just fast it was extremely well behaved and refined due to the instantly responsive engine, standard automatic gearbox and the adjustable air suspension. Q-car, but really it was a Grizzly Bear in Teddy Bear clothing.

Most famously a 6.3 was used to film Claude Lelouch's film 'C' etait un Rendezvous in 1976. In a nutshell, it's all about a mad dash across Paris at daybreak that took just under 10 minutes. It is much more exciting than it sounds which explains why it became a cult film. In the pre Video age you had either seen it at some private screening or on some dodgy bit of ciné film at some mate's house. Many believed that because of the low positioning of the camera and engine sounds it must have been a Ferrari V12 of some sort. But no, it was Lalouche, a 6.3 and some timely dubbing his Ferrari 275GTB going through the gears. Rumour has it, he was arrested when the film was first shown, but it was worth it.

The Mercedes-Benz 300SEL 6.3 celebrated its premiere at the Geneva Motor Show in March 1968. Its top speed is 136mph. The car accelerates from 0 to 62mph in 6.5 seconds, and covers one kilometre from a standing start in 27.1 seconds. It was identical to the other W108/109 series. Only the "6.3" lettering on the right side of the boot lid, twin halogen headlamps and additional front fog lamps distinguished this flagship model. Inside, a speedometer with a larger scale, a rev counter in the standard version and different positioning of the clock set it apart from the standard S. The air suspension and automatic level control adapted itself and turned the S into sportscar. A total of 6,526 models were produced up to 1972.



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ABS-Class



The first car fitted with ABS, was an S-Class, here's how it all worked out

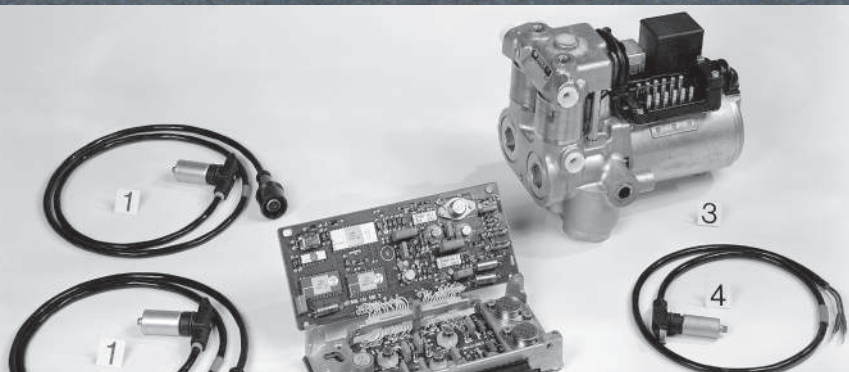
Maintaining full control over the car's steering even under emergency braking, because the wheels do not lock: that is exactly what the anti-lock braking system (ABS) can do. Mercedes-Benz and Bosch unveiled the innovation 40 years ago on the test track at the Daimler-Benz plant in Untertürkheim. Another reason why ABS was such a sensation was that it ushered in the age of digital technology and provided active assistance to the human behind the wheel.

Mercedes-Benz explained the principle of the anti-lock braking system like this in the brochure: "The anti-lock braking system uses a computer to monitor the change in rotational speed of each wheel during braking. If the speed slows too quickly (such as

when braking on a slippery surface) and the wheel risks locking, the computer automatically reduces the brake pressure. The wheel accelerates again and the brake pressure is increased again, thereby braking the wheel. This process is repeated several times in a matter of seconds".

What might have sounded complicated in an age of analogue electrics and electronics was simply convincing in practice: even in wet, icy, snowy or challenging conditions, ABS enabled the automobile to deliver the maximum physically possible braking force, without the wheels locking, while the vehicle remained steerable even under emergency braking.

The S in S-Class might well have stood for safety.



For more used car information and buying tips bangernomics.com

FCM 65

We never seem to go wrong with classic pictures of Mercedes-Benz and perhaps we should use that one of Nico Rosberg which we have been saving up. Maybe we ought to do some Christmas shopping ideas. Rather scarily there isn't long to go before Santa calls. Can't wait.



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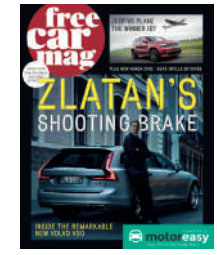
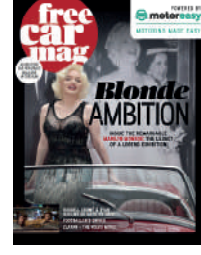
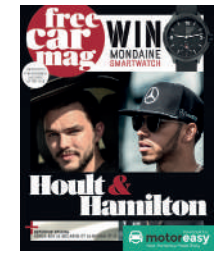
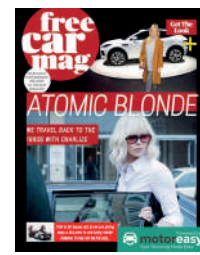
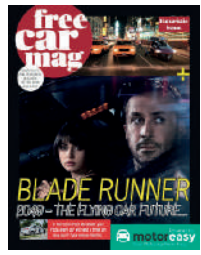
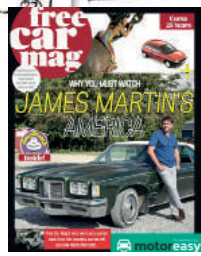
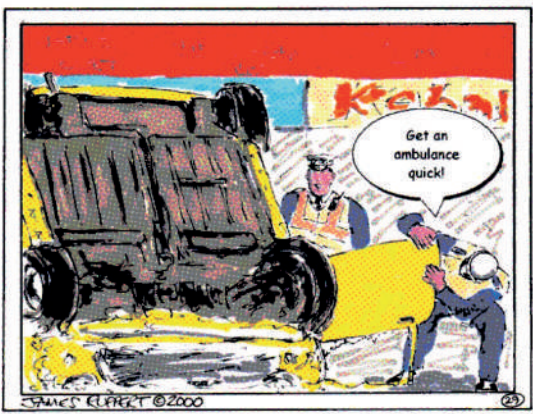
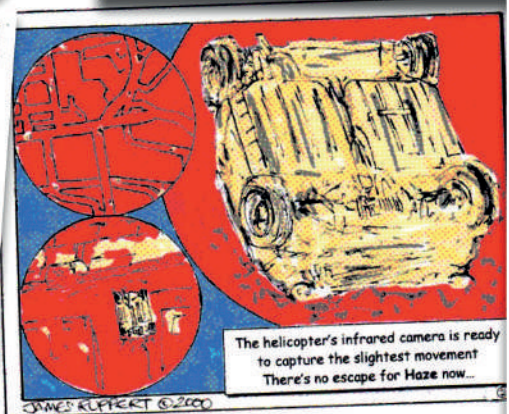
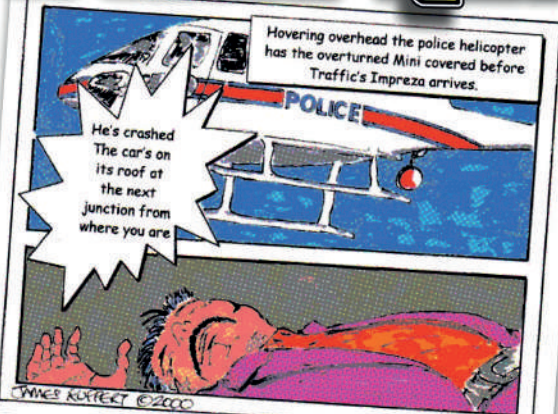
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SPENCER HAZE 9

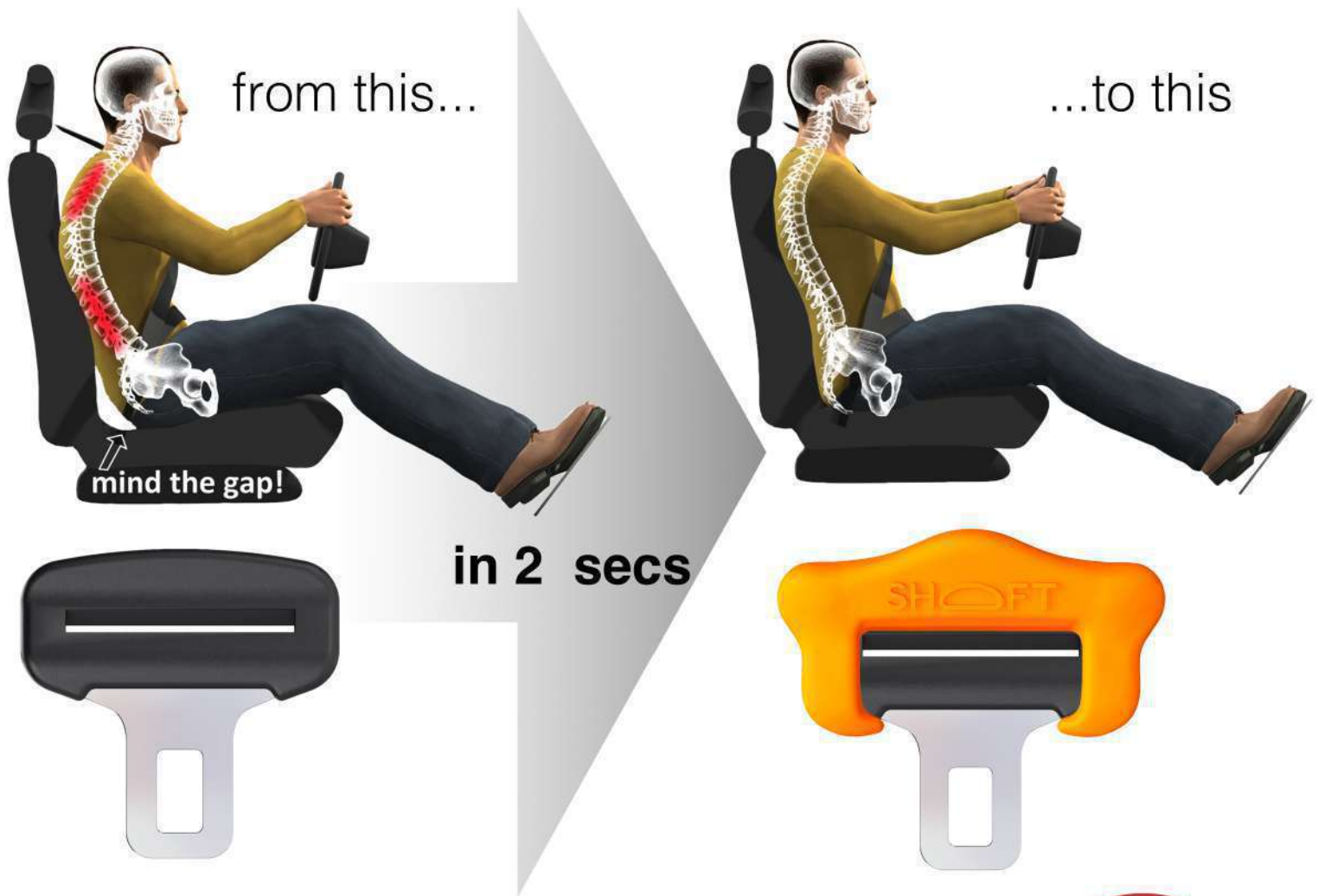
...is running out of time, a private eye from 1973 driving into the future...



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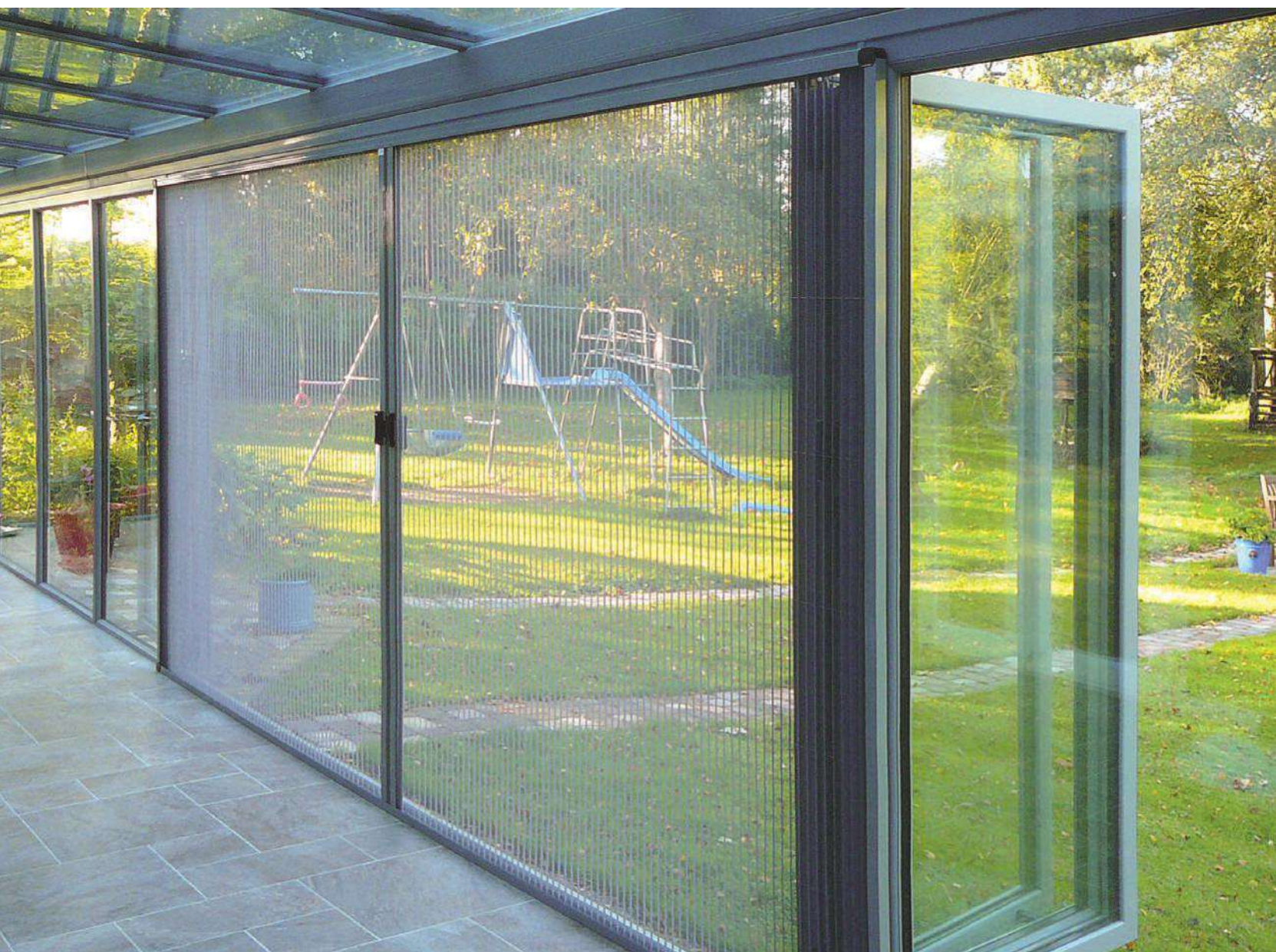


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