

# free car mag

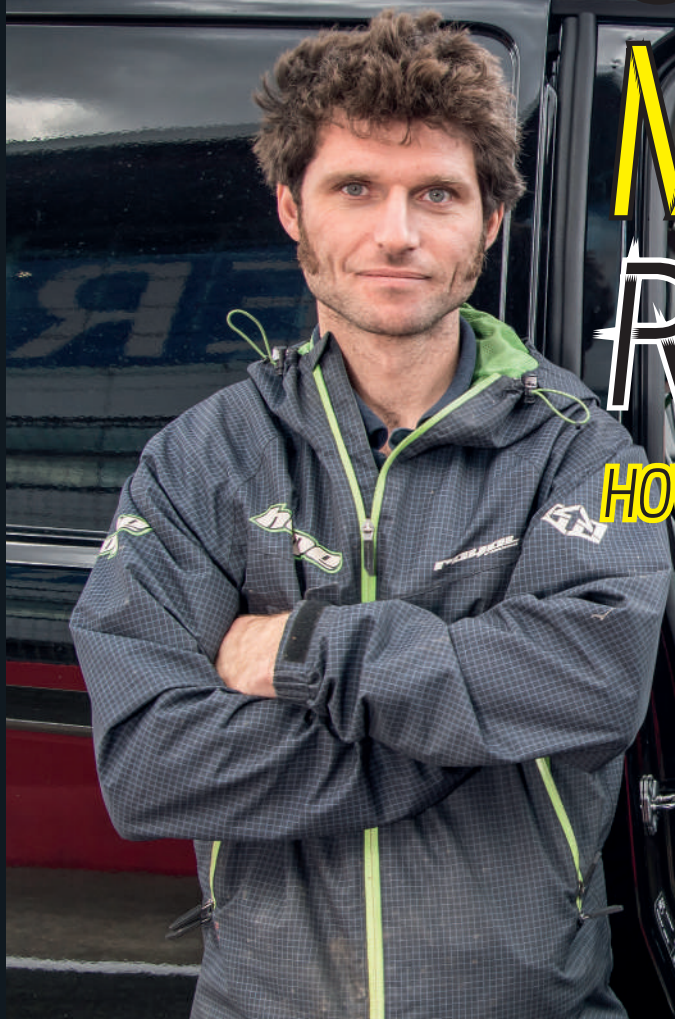
SHORTLISTED  
FOR NEWSPRESS  
MAGAZINE  
OF THE YEAR  
2016 & 2017

Get The  
Love



## GUY MARTIN'S ROBOT VAN

HOW HIS TRANSIT DROVE ITSELF...



We take a look at the self driving phenomenon and are not completely convinced. Is it Robot Car Wars?



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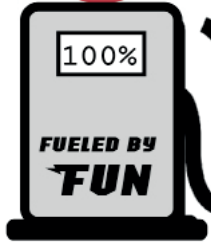
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ISSUE 56 / 2018

# his time...

**S**elf driving cars. Autonomous vehicles. Robot cars. Whatever you call them, they are pretty much in the news all the time. The car industry has decided that someone else doing the driving is what we have all been waiting for. Free Car Mag does not remember being asked. If we want to wait, we will join a bus queue, or buy a ticket for a train, or hire a taxi. However, Guy Martin was curious enough to find out more and we find out just what went into making his Transit work on its own.

There are new stories about self-driving cars every single day and most are a bit dreary and predicting a future which is coming quite as fast as the technology and car companies believe.

Because us human beings still enjoy the thrill of driving we thought it was important to point out the stunning cars available from the good people at Alpina. The Gunther 911 is another driving machine which defies the apparent trend to getting someone else to do all the hard work in the driving seat.

Indeed, we took the driving of a SEAT Arosa, no bad pun intended, but certainly delivered. We liked the easy to live with baby SUV.

Free Car Mag wish everyone a happy Valentines day which turns up this month and explains the presence of a Citroën C3 on the cover because of the romantic French manufacturers' involvement with First Dates Hotel on Channel 4. Yes we said romantic.

● Cover photos AB Dynamics & Citroën



## James Ruppert

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Fred Sirieix takes an autonomous Fiat 850 to the First Dates Hotel

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the media  
chose to  
focus on the  
lack of belts  
not the music



## LOOK MUM, NO SEATBELTS, SKEPTA + ROLLS-ROYCE

Skepta, has conceived and recorded a track in its entirety from inside the New Rolls-Royce Phantom. Joseph Junior Adenuga, better known by his stage name Skepta, was inspired by the phenomenal serenity afforded to those who are conveyed in Phantom, recording 'Skepta RR' while being chauffeured along the banks of Lake Lucerne and through the mountains of Switzerland. Skepta, said, "The Phantom really takes you away. I stepped in the car and there was no need to think. It was like sitting in first class on a plane minus the noise. Comfortable and silent, a perfect space to make music." Sadly the video is no longer available, but I am sure you can find it.

Rolls  
Royce  
Phantom



## THE 'ARCHITECTURE OF LUXURY'

Torsten Müller-Ötvös, Chief Executive Officer, Rolls-Royce Motor Cars, said, "I want to welcome Skepta to the World of Rolls-Royce. He has shown a unique and exciting appreciation of the marque and interpreted Phantom's credentials as the world's quietest and most luxurious motor car with an exceptionally creative track and film."



## Phantom in Mayfair



## ALL-NEW PHANTOM LAUNCHED AT H.R.OWEN

Rolls-Royce is Britain's most iconic motor car brand, and the Phantom has been its premier model since the first-generation car was released in 1925 – when it was judged as 'The Best Car in the World' by cognoscenti. As such, Rolls-Royce Motor Cars London based its launch evening around the theme "because the world needs icons". Lining up alongside the eighth-generation model in the showroom were displays from fellow iconic luxury brands, including the likes of Jimmy Choo, House of Garrard, Perrier Jouet and Love or Nothing Baby. Rolls-Royce Motor Cars London invited Phantom customers and long-time clients to the event, as well as special guests. Mayfair's Cantonese delicacies specialists Hakkasan provided exquisite food, while one of the evening's icons Perrier Jouet supplied champagne.





Caterham recently confirmed their best sales year since 1996 with over 600 orders made.

## SIR CHRIS HOY + '60-SECOND DONUT CHALLENGE'

Joining Caterham to celebrate 60 years of the Seven, Sir Chris took on the '60 Second Donut Challenge' at Donington Park. Sat inside Caterham's most powerful model, the Seven 620R, Sir Chris completed a record 19 consecutive donuts in the time allocation. "Everyone knows I spend a lot of time in cars these days but I've never had much practice donuting," admitted Sir Chris. "But when someone tells me there's a record up for grabs that certainly focuses my mind. "During the attempt I just kept going, putting everything I'd learnt into practice. You lose sense of time when you're in a spin, so I was shocked when I was told I'd completed 19 in 60 seconds – it was more than I expected." Watch Sir Chris set his latest record here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oB3SAI2oCqk&feature=youtu.be>



SPOTTED  
OUT AND  
ABOUT

## FEATURING THE CATERHAM 620R

The beastly 620R was the chosen Seven for the record attempt, as its supercharged 2.0 litre Ford Duratec engine and limited slip differential made the perfect combination for successive spins. Also contributing to the success of the record was the set of ultra-high performance Avon ZZS tyres that were bolted to the raucous 620R. Offering the ultimate in grip in wet and dry conditions, the ZZS has a full racing tread compound and is road legal.



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Channel 4

## Get the look

### FRED SIRIEIX + FIRST DATES HOTEL

We have a quick chat with Fred in the TV section, but what advice would he give to a first dater? " Well, I think you have to look at the people and know who you are talking to, who is asking the question. You have to ascertain what they are saying, and also what's behind it. You have to give them an honest answer and response, but also, bearing in mind them as people. I think sometimes people have mental blocks. It's important to be subtle and yet truthful. So it's finding the right balance, and being quite measured with your answers, so that it helps people. Because obviously, if they're asking for help, they may be having trouble. I'm very mindful of the responsibility that I have." Let's get Fred's look...

#### Fred

1 Fiat 850 Car & Classic.co.uk £7995

2 Henley Brogues Debenhams £70.00

3 3-Piece Suit Hugi Boss £419.00

4 12 Roses & Chocs Prestige Flowers £19.99

5 Shirt ASOS £9.50

1



5



1



4



# GUY'S ROBO TRANSIT



AB Dynamics, a leading supplier of automotive test systems, has enabled Guy Martin to build a self-driving Ford Transit for a Channel 4 programme. [ABD.UK.COM](http://ABD.UK.COM)



Not the inside of a Transit, but this is what the dashboard of a converted autonomous vehicle looks like.

**A**B Dynamics supplied a variety of systems including pedal, steering and gear change robots to the project, which followed Guy as he built and tested the vehicle.

"I never realised so much development went on in this country," said Guy. "Jeremy and the boys [at AB Dynamics] were boffins, impressive and the science and grasp of the data they got from the Tranny [Transit] was amazing. Even Nigel the dog let his poker face slip and I could tell he was impressed, which is rare. Thanks for the chance to meet and learn from you boys."

The robots used in the project are the same as those used by the world's 25 largest vehicle manufacturers. AB Dynamics designs and manufactures a range of automotive test equipment, from steering robots to ADAS targets and one of the world's most advanced driving simulators.

"Taking part in Channel 4's Rise of the Robots season has been a fantastic way to showcase the level of advancement in autonomous technology," explained

Jeremy Ash, AB Dynamics Commercial Manager. "It was great to work with Guy to develop his self-driving Transit and show him what driving robots are capable of. We will soon be seeing more widespread adoption of advanced driver assistance systems (ADAS), of which autonomy is a challenging and exciting extension. We work closely with manufacturers and safety organisations, such as Euro NCAP, to provide the systems that test and help advance this technology."

AB Dynamics currently works with vehicle manufacturers to enable vehicle control in testing scenarios where accurate and precise regulation of vehicle inputs is essential. Its recent development of the advanced Vehicle Driving Simulator (aVDS) gives manufacturers the ability to safely test ADAS and autonomous systems in a virtual world with a driver-in-the-loop. The aVDS is capable of replicating an almost infinite variety of scenarios to test vehicles and systems before real world validation, providing manufacturers with significant cost and time-saving advantages.

The programme, shown last November, features an in-depth look at the current state-of-the-art autonomous technologies, including 'Level 5' autonomous vehicles. Guy examines the technology currently used also looks at the morality of autonomous technology. To do this, Guy completes a morality test designed to help software engineers program the vehicle for emergency scenarios. Finally, Guy goes up against a prototype Roboracer in a Silverstone duel.





Self Driving Ubers? Not exactly, these Volvos are self driving compatible, but can they deliver fully autonomous by 2021?

# Volvuber

£50K MINICABS WITH THE ULTIMATE AIM TO PUT THOUSANDS OF DRIVERS OUT OF WORK, SEEMS ODD

The base vehicles are developed on Volvo Cars' fully modular, in-house-developed Scalable Product Architecture (SPA). SPA is one of the most advanced car architectures in the world and is currently used on Volvo Cars' top-of-the-line 90 series cars as well as on the new XC60 mid-size SUV.

The non-exclusive agreement enhances the strategic partnership between Volvo Cars and Uber announced in August 2016, and also marks a new chapter in the convergence of car makers and Silicon Valley-based technology companies.

"The automotive industry is being disrupted by technology, and Volvo Cars chooses to be an active part of that disruption," said Håkan Samuelsson, President and Chief Executive of Volvo Cars. "Our aim is to be the supplier of choice for AD ride-sharing service providers globally. Today's agreement with Uber is a primary example of that strategic direction."

Volvo Cars' engineers have worked closely together with engineers from Uber to develop the XC90 premium SUVs that are to be supplied to Uber. The base vehicles incorporate all the necessary safety, redundancy and core autonomous-driving technologies that are required for Uber to add its own self-driving technology.

"We're thrilled to expand our partnership with Volvo," said Jeff Miller, Head of Auto Alliances, Uber. "This new agreement puts us on a path towards mass-produced self-driving vehicles at scale."

At the same time as providing Uber with AD-compatible cars, Volvo will use the same base vehicle in the development of its own independent autonomous-car strategy, which is planned to culminate in the release of its first fully autonomous car in 2021.





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Volvo Cars are determined to use real people to develop autonomous technology, just not yet. Maybe 2021

**T**he first two families, the Hains and the Simonovskis from the Gothenburg area, would have received the Volvo XC90 to use in the Drive Me project.

These families were due to supply Drive Me with invaluable data by allowing engineers at the company to monitor their everyday use and interaction with the car, as they drive to work, bring the kids to school or go shopping for groceries.

The Volvo XC90s were fitted with Volvo's latest driver-assistance technology, as well as an array of cameras and sensors to monitor their behavior and provide the car with information on its surroundings.

During these first stages, the families will keep their hands on the steering wheel and supervise the driving at all times when using their cars. But, over time, all participants in the Drive Me project will gradually be introduced to more advanced assisted-driving cars, after receiving special training.

Even then, Volvo realised that testing these more advanced cars will initially take place in controlled environments with supervision from a Volvo Cars safety expert would be essential.

At this point Volvo seem to have reconsidered this programme and not just restructured but delayed its implementation.

"WE ARE FINDING THAT THERE WERE MORE ISSUES TO DIG INTO AND SOLVE THAN WE EXPECTED."

# DriveMe?

INSTEAD OF GETTING FULLY DRIVERLESS, LEVEL 4-READY CARS, THEY WILL BE LEVEL 2 SEMI-AUTONOMOUS

*Ford and Virginia Tech Develop Signals That Enable Autonomous Vehicles to Communicate with People*

# undercover

Ford's Transit Connect simulated autonomous driving on public roads in northern Virginia USA – home to a density of traffic and pedestrians – in 2017, with researchers capturing video and logs of people's reactions. More than 150 hours of data over approximately 1,800 miles of driving was collected in an urban environment, including encounters with pedestrians, bicyclists and other drivers. External signals were activated more than 1,650 times at various locations around Arlington, including at intersections, parking lots, garages and airport roadways. Researchers will use all of this data to understand how other road users change their behaviours in response to the signals a self-driving vehicle employs.

To simulate a fully self-driving experience, researchers developed an innovative seat suit to conceal the human in the driver's seat. Designed to look like an ordinary driver's seat to others, the suit creates the illusion of a fully autonomous vehicle, which is essential for evaluating real-world encounters and behaviours between van and other road users. The team then went to work experimenting with three different light scenarios to test the signalling of the vehicle's intent:

- Yielding: Two white lights that move side to side, indicating vehicle is about to yield to a full stop
- Active autonomous driving: Solid white light to indicate vehicle is driving autonomously
- Starting to go: Rapidly blinking white light to indicate vehicle is beginning to accelerate from a stop

THIS MIGHT LOOK DAFT BUT IT IS IMPORTANT WORK. WE WILL NEED A COMMUNICATION STANDARD



Two companies with one aim, to bring self driving cars to the world by 2021.

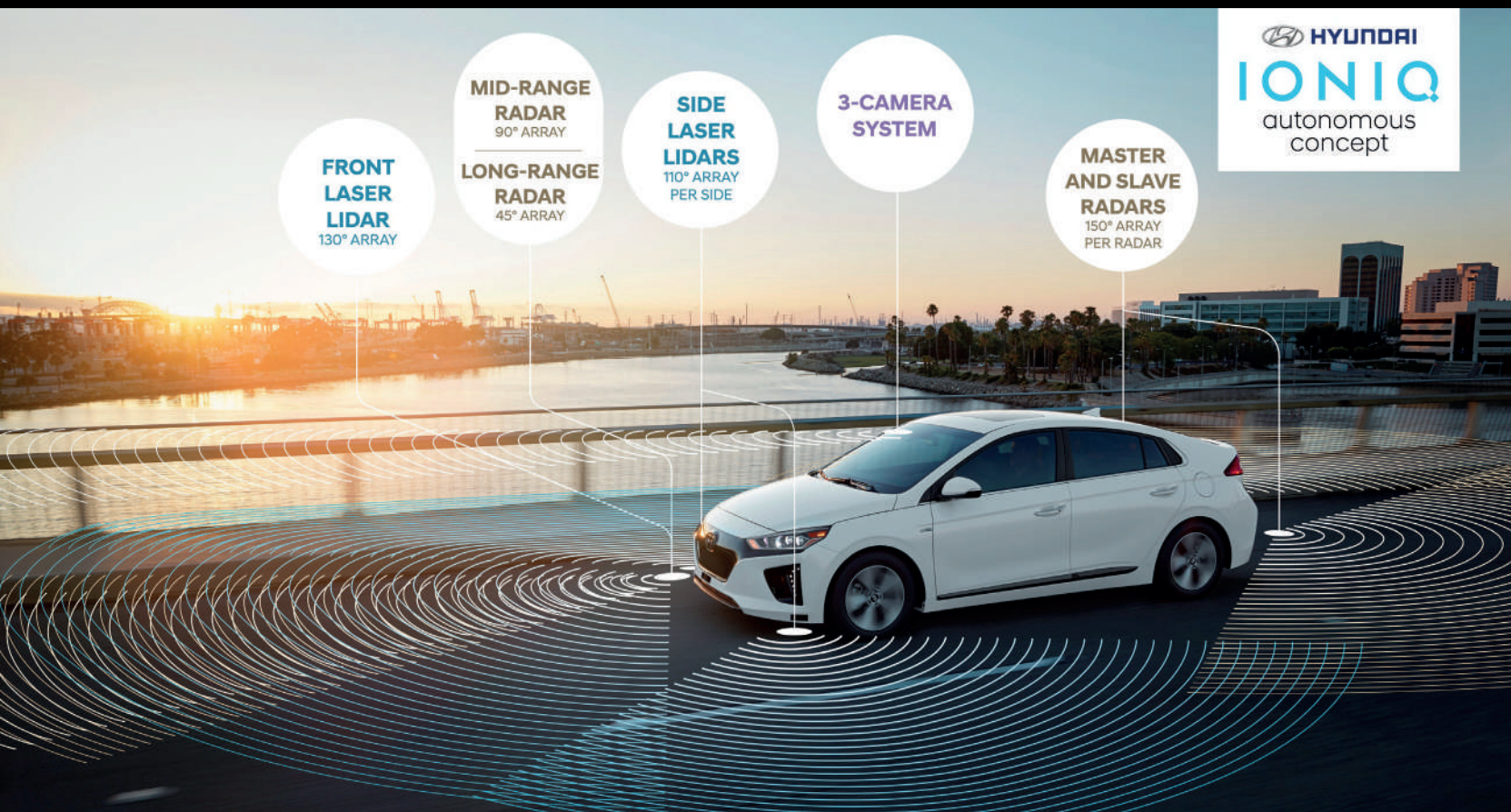
**H**undai Motor Company and Aurora, a leader in autonomous vehicle technology, announced a strategic partnership to bring self-driving Hyundai vehicles to market by 2021. This partnership will incorporate Aurora's self-driving technology into Hyundai vehicles starting with models custom-developed and launched in test programs and pilot cities. Over the longer term, Hyundai and Aurora will work to commercialise self-driving vehicles worldwide.


The partnership will focus on the ongoing development of hardware and software for automated and autonomous driving and the back-end data services required for Level 4 automation. Level 4 autonomous vehicles defined by SAE can operate without human input or oversight under select conditions. The goal of the partnership is to deploy autonomous driving quickly, broadly and safely.

For the last two decades, Aurora's founders have spearheaded the self-driving revolution, building teams and pioneering modern machine learning techniques now on the cusp of transforming transportation. Together, Hyundai and Aurora will move quickly to bring self-driving technology to market around the world.



# Learning Curve





Seventy one per cent of British drivers still want to be able to drive even if self-driving cars become commonplace according to a Mazda survey.

# driving future

**W**ith the recent announcements about investment in driverless cars there is one automotive manufacturer which thinks differently.

Mazda research carried out by Ipsos MORI reveals that the joy of driving is alive and well in the UK, with 71% of people surveyed saying they would still want to drive, even with self-driving technology available, whilst only 29% actively welcome the arrival of autonomous vehicles.

Mazda believes driving is a skill that people want to keep, it is an activity that can be fun as well as functional and many would like to see this skill retained for future generations.

The Mazda view is that autonomous driving technology should act as a co-pilot, available when needed to avoid accidents, but with the driver in control of the driving process allowing the pure exhilaration of driving and the freedom it represents to be experienced by our customers.

The research – which was commissioned as part of Mazda's Drive Together campaign – polled 11,008 adults across key European markets, including 1,002 in the UK, and reveals that across those countries an average 66% of drivers wanted to remain behind the wheel even if self-driving cars become widely available.

Interestingly, there is no evidence of greater support for self-driving cars in younger age groups across Europe: for example 18-24 year olds (33%) were no more likely to welcome self-driving cars than 25-34 year olds (36%) or 35-44 year olds (34%).

The research also reveals a significant emotional connection between car and driver as demonstrated by the following statistics: 70% of drivers questioned in the UK "hope that future generations

will continue to have the option to drive cars", while 62% of respondents stated that they have driven "just for fun" and 81% of those who enjoy driving saying it is because it "gives them independence".

In addition 55% stated that driving is about much more than just getting from A to B and 39% agree driving is in danger of becoming a "forgotten pleasure".

Mazda UK Managing Director Jeremy Thomson said, "It's heartening to see that so many British drivers still love driving – yes, self-driving cars are coming and yes they have a role to play, but for us, there is nothing quite like the physical pleasure of driving; the quickening of the pulse, the racing of the heart, the open road, the special moments to treasure and share".

"At Mazda we believe in putting the driver at the heart of everything we do and our current 'Drive Together' campaign focuses on the bond between car and driver. We call this Jinba Ittai, which is the Japanese phrase used to describe the perfect harmony between horse and rider. It is this human-centric philosophy that underpins our business and helps us create cars that bring the driver and their car closer together".

Adding, "If you look at the car industry in general, we believe that many manufacturers are taking a lot of driving pleasure away from drivers. At Mazda we are fighting against this and it's clear from the research that there's still a huge percentage of drivers who just want to be behind the wheel. In a world that questions the act of driving and devalues the role of the car and the role of the driver through technological changes, we will continue to challenge convention for the love of driving".



*Free Car Mag has been rather sceptical about the whole self drive phenomenon for some time, and we won't change. Go to [freecarmag.com](http://freecarmag.com) for regular updates...*

**Just so you know, the Levels of Autonomous Driving are...**

**Level 1: Driver Assisted.** The driver does the crucial stuff, but the car can do radar controlled cruise, that sort of thing.

**Level 2: Partial Automation.** At least two automated functions, but the driver still has the control.

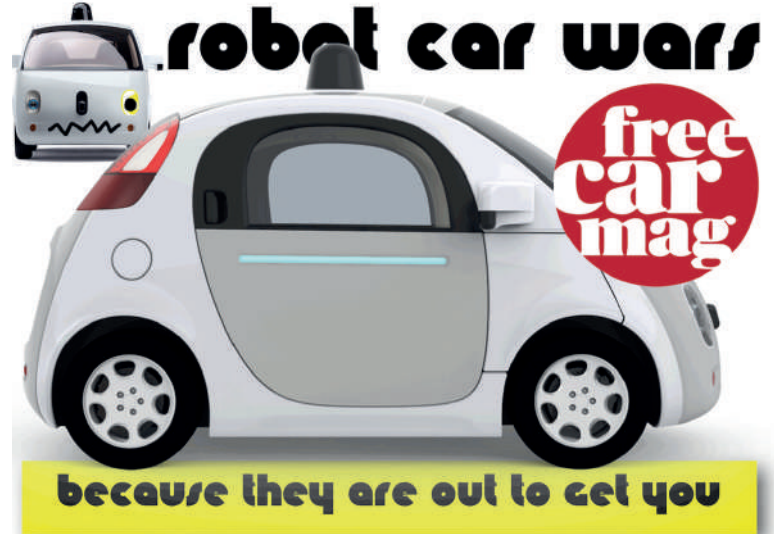
**Level 3: Conditional Automation.** Where the car manages the safety critical driving function, so they get to work the brakes. The driver is still in charge of the operation though.

**Level 4: High Automation.** This is full, self-driving mode, the cockpit still exists but does not get used.

**Level 5: Fully Autonomous.** The car drives itself and may no longer have a recognisable dashboard, or even steering wheel. The driver is out of the picture.

This is what we are up against, but as the features have shown over the last few pages, getting beyond Level 3 is proving to be a problem.

For the time being we will be questioning where we are going and most importantly, who is actually in the driving seat.



# FCM Campaign





# KRAFTWERK

The Gunther Werks 400R. It's a supermodel and it's looking good.

The idea for the Gunther Werks 400R sprang from the mind and passion of one individual, Peter Nam, the founder of Vorsteiner, a firm known for its advanced composite body styling packages for the great and the good of the supercar world.

Just 25 400Rs will ever be produced, a minuscule number no doubt helped by its eye-watering asking price of \$525,000 – a figure which doesn't include base 993! Not that the lucky 25 buyers will be in any doubt as to the calibre of the work they're investing in, with the Gunther Werks production process being akin to a complete, nut-and-bolt recreation of a Porsche classic. The aim? To create the 993 GT3 which Porsche never could.

There was only ever one option when it came to propulsion duties, an air-cooled 'flat-six' mounted in the rear of the car, albeit one heavily modified from the Stuttgart original. A full 4.0L in capacity, the high-revving, deliciously old-school boxer pushes a mighty 400bhp and 450nm of torque, and all without a turbo in sight. All that shove is then routed through a six-speed Getrag transmission and Limited Slip Differential, both custom designed and specified for this application.

KW's long-standing association with Porsche's most beloved offering meant that it was better placed than anyone to lend its expertise to the project, something reflected in the suspension setup now found on each and every 400R; KW 2-way adjustable

Clubsports with aluminium uniball top-mounts, not to mention uprated Anti-Roll bars and polyurethane bushes.

KW Clubsports boast 2-way adjustability and a 16-setting rebound adjuster knob. This enables owners to dial in their desired setup, with broad scope for increased influence over wheel and tyre loads, grip and, in a wider sense, handling. KW's 2-way Clubsport's also boast independent compression dampening via an adjustment wheel with 12 'clicks' governing low-speed dampening.

Gunther Werks opted to add one of KW's Hydraulic Lift Systems, allowing the 400R to rise up a full 40mm at the press of a button. there's no danger of clouting bodywork.



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TORQUE (LB FT):  
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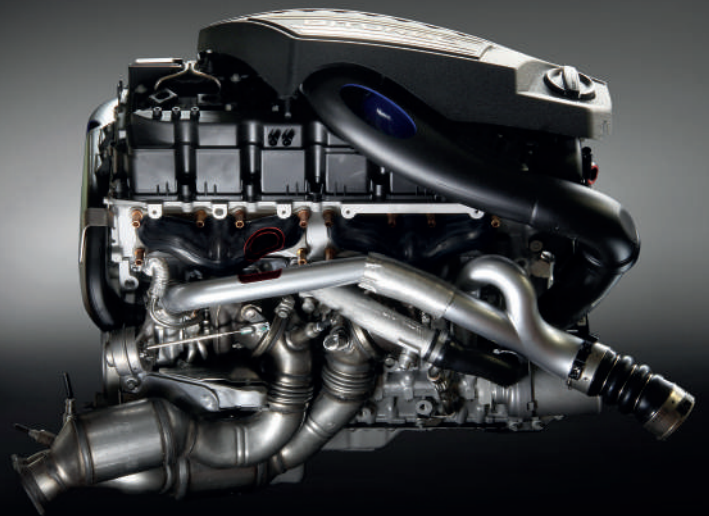
# Brilliant B4

AVAILABLE:  
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The new B4 S Bi-Turbo, available as Coupé and Convertible, provides a unique combination of comfort, refinement and very high performance that is a hallmark of ALPINA's extensive engineering development. The manufacturer is famed for developing high-performance versions of BMWs, and its new model doesn't disappoint.

With two new ALPINA-specific turbochargers and an uprated cooling system, power climbs from the previous model's 410bhp to 434bhp and torque leaps from 600Nm to 660Nm, giving the luxury four-seater a top speed of 190 mph and acceleration that will take it from 0-60mph in just 3.9 seconds.



# Seventh heaven



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**A**LPINA's new supersaloon is now available in the UK with a final specification that pushes top speed to an astonishing 205 mph, up from the 193 mph predicted at the Geneva launch. With an ALPINA-optimised 4.4 litre V8 delivering 608 hp (up from 600 for the show car) and 800 Nm, the new B7 Bi-Turbo joins the exclusive group of cars with effortless 200 mph performance.

At the heart of the new B7 Bi-Turbo is a heavily-revised, direct injection V8 breathing through two specially-developed, twin-scroll turbochargers located between the cylinder banks, operating in parallel to deliver up to 1.2 bar with minimum inertia. Particular attention has been paid to airflow optimisation, with a new wide-bore intake system providing shorter intake paths and optimised radii to allow near-instant throttle response. Pistons and spark plugs are updated to ALPINA specifications.

Inside, the new B7 Bi-Turbo can be specified with an almost limitless range of options and leather trims, individually-crafted in ALPINA's saddlery. Standard equipment on UK-market cars includes high-end Nappa leather, a leather-covered instrument panel, ceramic applications on selected control elements, soft close doors, a full-colour Head-Up Display and a rear view camera.

Wheels are 20" ALPINA Classic 20 spoke in a new design made from high-strength, forged aluminium with visible wheel bolts and no centre hub covers. We love it.



# B5, now live



TOURING  
AVAILABLE:  
NOW  
FROM:  
£91,000

With a top speed beyond 200 mph, the new ALPINA B5 Bi-Turbo Touring is expected to be the world's fastest production estate, offering a unique combination of comfort, luxury and ultra-high performance. Available in the UK from £91,000 (Saloon £89,000), the B5 Bi-Turbo sets a new price point for entry to the 200 mph club. Both cars are powered by ALPINA's 608 hp V8.

The result of thousands of hours of development at ALPINA's R&D centre and on roads from Death Valley to the Arctic Circle, the new B5 Bi-Turbo provides a combination of comfort, performance and driving pleasure that is so typically Alpina.





AVAILABLE:  
NOW  
FROM:  
£115,000

The heart of the new range is ALPINA's substantially revised version of BMW's N63TU2, 4.4 litre V8. To increase the power and torque without compromising responsiveness, particular attention has been paid to airflow optimisation, with a new wide-bore intake system providing shorter intake paths and optimised radii to allow near-instant throttle response. The standard turbochargers have been replaced by two specially-developed, twin-scroll turbochargers located between the cylinder banks, operating in parallel to deliver up to 1.4 bar with minimum inertia. Enlarged inlet and outlet diameters further improve gas flow, contributing to a wide, flat torque curve and excellent throttle response even at low engine speeds. By 2,000 rpm, the ALPINA V8 is already generating 670 Nm (494 lbft) of torque, swelling to an astonishing 800 Nm (590 lbft) plateau from 3,000 – 5,000 rpm.

"Our cars are for driving enthusiasts who value a blend of qualities that can only be delivered by immense attention to detail and a single-minded focus on one type of owner," explains ALPINA GB's Jonathan Noy. "The B5 Bi-Turbo is built with just one powertrain and one chassis specification, which allows our engineers to calibrate every component and every control system to work perfectly together without compromise. ALPINA's dynamics specialists have spent months honing the chassis, not hurling it around a race track but simply driving as customers would, on roads, enjoying every mile however fast or slow."





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Founder and CEO

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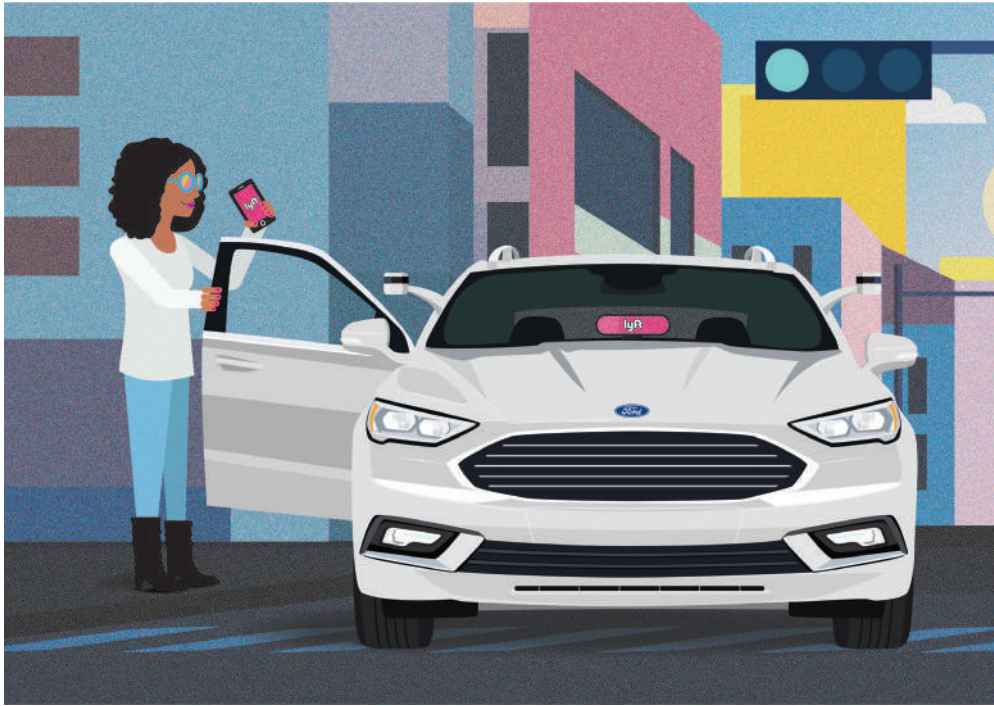
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Duncan McClure Fisher  
Founder and CEO

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# Ford and Lyft Team Up to make Self-Driving Cars...

...well relevant, mainstream and easy to use, let's see

Ford has announced a new partnership with Lyft, a transportation networking company, in a significant step toward bringing self-driving vehicles to the masses. Self-driving vehicles will have an impact on how people and goods will move more efficiently in the future. The magnitude of that impact – and how quickly self-driving vehicles can benefit society – depends largely on businesses, government and the public working together. The partnership with Lyft will help both companies progress toward a more affordable, dependable and accessible transportation future. Ford continues to make progress on developing self-driving technology – through its self-driving vehicle and Argo AI's virtual driver system – simultaneously building the infrastructure and systems necessary to make it easier for people to access. Lyft has a network of customers, growing demand for rides and strong knowledge

of transportation flow within cities. Ford has experience with autonomous vehicle technology development and large scale manufacturing. Both companies have fleet management and big data experience. Combining the capabilities of Ford and Lyft will allow the effectively share information to help make the best decisions for the future for consumers.

The focus of the partnership is in building a service based around the actual needs and wants of people. Placing a high priority on safety and dependability to build consumer trust in the experience that self-driving technology will one day enable. As part of the development of a joint technology platform, Ford will deploy human-driven vehicles on Lyft's network to test the interface and ensure compatibility with Lyft's customer-facing platform, the Lyft app. Developer teams from both companies are already working together, programming systems so they can communicate with one another.

## SELF DRIVING QUOTES

**"New generations of electric, connected, and autonomous vehicles will offer our customers, and the country, a new era of safer, easier, and less polluting travel – a roads revolution."**

Jim O'Sullivan, Chief Executive, Highways England

**"Driverless cars do offer a promising alternative to driving and would reduce the number of road fatalities due to human error."**

Anjali Chabra, Senior Research Manager, YouGov

**"I expect the first self-driving cars to reach the market – and to be used on UK roads – by 2021."**

UK Transport Secretary Chris Grayling

**"We're still very much in the early days of making self-driving cars a reality."**

Bryan Salesky, CEO, Argo AI



Have your say  @freecarmag1

# TOP 5 USED ODD TAXIS

Self driving cars don't really exist yet and anyway the Audi A8s and Teslas that you can get with an autonomous system cost rather a lot of money. Instead the nearest we will get to a self driver is getting someone else to take us to the shops, or station, yep that would be a taxi. So which motors could you hail?



## TX

Coming soon. The all-new electric zero-emissions-capable TX showcases its eCity technology for the first time, comprising an advanced battery electric powertrain with a small petrol generator. Applied to the TX, the technology allows for a range of over 640km including well over 120km range with zero emissions for inner city operations.



## VAUXHALL VIVARO

We think that this was an April Fool prank in 2015, but the Kebabi Vivaro Van could certainly help us all after a night out. Based upon the 9-seat Combi model, this class-defining Vivaro features two gas-fired spit rotisserie grills, salad bowls integrated into the arm rests, chilli dispensers and of course a tasty selection of sauces.



## LAND ROVER

If only we could hail one of these. However, back in 2015 a specially modified Defender was part of nostalgic celebration film shot in London to commemorate 67 years of this iconic vehicle as it entered the final phase of production. A prestigious charity auction for this 2,000,000th Defender raised an astounding £400,000.



## TX4

One of the last TX4 taxi black cabs to be made in Coventry was transformed into a mobile 'art car' by Popbangcolour's Ian Cook. The 'Two Tone' Taxi, a reference to the music scene that originated in the city, is the tenth 'Art Car' Cook has created, who paints using radio controlled cars, tyres and wheels. Magnificent.



## HINDUSTAN AMBASSADOR

From the 20th Series of Top Gear and now a star exhibit at Beaulieu's World of Top Gear. Richard Hammond organised a world taxi shootout to find which could claim the crown as the world's best taxi. The winner was India's virtually indestructible Hindustan Ambassador. It is still possible to hail one in India.

**For more used car information and buying tips go to [freecarmag.com](http://freecarmag.com)**

# 3D PERSONALISATION WITH MINI

Using a new online store, customers will be able to transform their MINI into a uniquely personalised special by designing their own exclusive items. These innovative new upgrades will be available for UK customers throughout the course of 2018. The MINI Yours Customised product range will include the indicator inlays known as side scuttles, trims for the interior passenger side, LED door sills and LED door projectors.

These new personalised products will be designed by customers on a new website and manufactured using innovative new production techniques including 3D printing and laser lettering. New advanced production processes enables precise recreation of the customer's designs and will be delivered within the space of just a few weeks. Customers will be able to easily fit items to their vehicle themselves, or by a MINI retailer of their choosing. Upgraded items will be removable, allowing for customised MINIs to stay on-trend with future additional upgrades or that they can be restored to their original specification for resale.



# Black Magic

The Seiko Prospex new “Black Series” is inspired by the world of night diving, with functions which meet Seiko’s stringent standards for diver’s watches.

**W**ith a watch case fully protected by a hard black coating, this new limited edition design reflects the darkness of the deep sea. Like the light used by a night diver, the bright orange minute hand accurately indicates the exact time. Even in the dark, Seiko’s unique LumiBrite ensures reliable visibility.

The watch was designed and manufactured to withstand diving down to 200m and the crown has screw-down protection to prevent it from being pulled out accidentally.

Seiko’s solar technology converts all types of light into energy to power a watch thanks to a solar cell with high performance electricity generation. And the dial was designed for maximum legibility, even deep in the ocean where light does not penetrate.

**SSC673P1** Solar The hour markers are large, so as to allow the maximum surface area and depth for Seiko’s Lumibrite coating. **£369**

**SRPC49K1** Automatic Power reserve: 41 hours, 21,600 vibrations per hour and a unidirectional rotating bezel. **£429**

**SNE493P1** Solar Power reserve: 10 month Unidirectional rotating bezel **£349**

[www.seiko.co.uk](http://www.seiko.co.uk)



## TOP DRIVES FREE

A fun a game where your collectible card game skills and car knowledge will be put to the ultimate test. Open booster packs to earn cards of real-world cars, then put them to the test by racing them in various challenges! Our Top Drives cheats and tips will hone your skills and help you become the ultimate car manager.

Apple App Store: <http://apple.co/2vilXi6>

Google Play Store: <http://bit.ly/2g7OF2u>



## BMW & MINI PARTS ONLINE

BMW Group UK has launched a new digital shop for customers to purchase BMW and MINI Parts, Accessories and Lifestyle products online. Once the product has been selected, customers have the option to “click and collect”.

BMW shop: <http://shop.bmw.co.uk/>

MINI shop: <http://shop.mini.co.uk/>



## ALUTEC SHARK ALLOY WHEELS FROM 15" INCH £579

Wolfrace, one of Britain’s most beloved wheel makers, are also the exclusive distributor of Alutec alloy wheels. All Alutec alloy wheels carry full TUV approval (Germany’s notoriously stringent type approval process) and are supported by a warranty of up to 5 years.

[www.wolfrace.com](http://www.wolfrace.com)

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£15,595



**CITROËN fashionable edition in the showroom**

## ELLE C3 SPECIAL

Citroën has joined forces with ELLE, the famous fashion magazine, to bring an all new special edition to the range, Polar White body colour with an exclusive Soft Sand two-tone roof as standard, Gloss Black door mirrors and original touches of colour in Cherry Pink, which accentuates the fog light surrounds, Airbump® and rear quarter-light graphic. An exclusive interior ambiance that continues the Cherry Pink accents, visible on the stitching of the grey seat upholstery and on the dashboard surround. The specification includes ConnectedCAM Citroën™, Citroën Connect Nav, Citroën Connect Box with Emergency & Assistance system, Active Safety Brake, Driver Attention Alert, Collision Risk Alert and Intelligent Beam Headlights.

Two efficient PureTech petrol engines delivering top class performance along with the EAT6 six speed automatic gearbox. Plus ELLE logo on the front doors and a special central roof graphic. We love it.





New petrol power for Renault People Movers



AVAILABLE:  
NOW  
PRICE FROM:  
£22,005

## SCÉNIC + GRAND SCÉNIC

The new 1.3-litre petrol engine is now available on Scénic and Grand Scénic in the UK with a choice of two power outputs: the Energy TCe 115 in manual transmission, and the Energy TCe 140 in either manual or EDC automatic transmission. This new engine offers a significant improvement in driving pleasure, with increased torque at low revs and greater and constant availability at high revs, while reducing fuel consumption and CO2 emissions. Just so you know.. the Energy TCe 140 engine has a CO2 output of 122g/km (125g/km for Grand Scénic) and achieves 52.3mpg (NEDC combined cycle) (51.4mpg for Grand Scénic). The TCe 140 engine receives 240Nm of torque at 1,600 rpm. Meanwhile, the Energy TCe 115 – available in manual transmission only – has 220Nm of torque at 1,500 rpm with CO2 emissions of 122g/km (125g/km for Grand Scénic) and achieves 52.3mpg. Sorry, lots of figures but they are important...

Best. Roadster. Ever.



AVAILABLE:  
MARCH  
PRICE FROM:  
£25,595

## MAZDA MX-5 Z-SPORT

It has a deep cherry red fabric hood, 17-inch black BBS wheels, and Machine Grey Metallic paint. Plus it has sand leather seats, plus Z-Sport floor mats and scuff plates. Each car comes with an individually numbered Z-Sport plaque on the dash. Exclusive to the UK and limited to just 300 cars, it is based on the 2.0-litre 160ps Sport Nav, the £25,595 Z-Sport features a limited slip differential, Bilstein dampers and a strut brace. Obviously it will handle exactly as you would expect an MX-5 to. What's not to love?

**Buy Now**

AVAILABLE:  
NOW  
PRICE FROM:  
£16,295



**Groovy Compact Family Sports Utility Vehicle**

## KIA STONIC

Based on the latest Rio supermini and is powered by high-efficiency, high-technology petrol and diesel powertrains from Rio and the cee'd family. It was designed in Europe at the company's Frankfurt studios. There is a five-model line-up based on grade 2 and First Edition trim levels. All versions offer an extensive package of connectivity features, including links to Android Auto and Apple CarPlay via pre-downloaded smartphone apps, while advanced electronic driver assistance systems such as autonomous emergency braking, lane departure warning and automatic switching between high and low headlight beams are available. All models have 17-inch alloy wheels, air conditioning, all-round electric windows with an automatic function on the driver's side, roof rails, rear parking sensors, remote locking, electrically adjustable heated door mirrors and a 3.5-inch supervision cluster. There are body-coloured bumpers, door mirror casings and door handles, steering wheel-mounted audio.

32 [freecarmag.com](http://freecarmag.com)





Forester gets an important safety upgrade

AVAILABLE:  
NOW  
PRICE FROM:  
£28,995



## SUBARU FORESTER + EYESIGHT

EyeSight acts as a second pair of eyes for the driver and depending on the vehicle's speed, can completely avoid and significantly reduce the severity of accidents at high speed.

With safety one of the main objectives, EyeSight was also developed to lower carbon emissions by reducing incident congestion and subsequently lower the economic effects of sitting in traffic.

EyeSight has two stereo cameras, mounted on each side of the rear-view mirror, and they use image recognition to capture three-dimensional colour images with clinical precisions. The technology can distinguish vehicles, motorbikes, bicycles, pedestrians, lane markings and road furniture and can differentiate between these and determine the general traffic conditions. The Forester just got better.

Zero Percent Finance Offers

AVAILABLE:  
NOW  
PRICE FROM:  
£17,000  
£199/MONTH



## SSANGYONG TIVOLI XLV

SsangYong has announced a 0% finance offer over 5-years across its Tivoli and Tivoli XLV ranges, as well as on the Korando SE and SE 4x4, and with just a 30% deposit. The XLV features a lengthened body and an expanded load capacity of 720 cubic litres of space. Comprehensively equipped, it also comes with a choice of either a 1.6 litre petrol or diesel engine, and with the option of a 6-speed manual or 6-speed Aisin automatic transmission, two-wheel drive or 4x4. These are great value family cars.



# Baby SUV Steps



## ***It's easy to drive***

This is a very good thing of course, but we found the steering and controls very light as we drove around town. The view out was good and the higher seating position meant that it was easy to park. Indeed, it's a compact little thing being 1543mm high, 1780mm wide and 4138mm long. It coped easily with rush hour traffic, a supermarket visit, then a run in the countryside. It stepped easily into each role.





### ***There's more in car Technology***

The SE Technology models upgrade with the Connectivity Pack Plus. This provides a larger, eight-inch colour touchscreen and proximity sensor and a navigation package that provides 3D map display and voice control. SEAT Full Link provides seamless connection with compatible smartphones using MirrorLink, Apple CarPlay and Google Android Auto. There's also a wireless phone charger, an additional USB port, two SD card slots and rear parking sensors.

**Find out much more at [www.seat.co.uk](http://www.seat.co.uk)**



### ***Engine Options***

There are three different petrol engines to choose from; 95PS 1.0 TSI, 115PS 1.0 TSI (available in manual and DSG) and the exciting 150PS 1.5 TSI EVO with active cylinder deactivation technology, which is exclusive to the FR trim. As for diesel options, the reliable 1.6 TDI will be available with 95 and 115PS. The 95PS version can be paired with a ve-speed manual transmission or seven-speed DSG, and the 115 PS with a six-speed manual gearbox. We drove the 95PS 1.0 TSI and quite honestly that was the best engine for tearing around town and country.

### ***There is plenty of space***

400 litres, 823 litres (with rear seats folded, 1,280 litres up to the roof).

### ***The UK line up***

The trims available are SE, SE Technology, FR, FR Sport, XCELLENCE, XCELLENCE Lux. Plus, two First Editions

### ***Prices***

Start from £16,555 on the road (including metallic paint and bi-colour roof) to £22,235 for an Xcellence First Edition.



### ***The Specification is impressive***

The range starts with the SE trim which includes 17" Alloy wheels • Metallic paint • Bi-colour roof

- LED Daytime running lights & taillights
- Driver Pack consisting of cruise control, hill hold control and tiredness recognition • Media System with 5.0" Colour touchscreen and USB Port
- Steering wheel mounted controls - FM/AM radio

# WORKING WAGON

Carl Thomas needs a 4 x 4 for some proper towing duties with a budget of £3000. Can be scruffy



## A CAR FOR THE HEAD MITSUBISHI SHOGUN

Carl is after a reliable vehicle then it should ideally come from Japan. A Mitsubishi Shogun Sport would be a very good idea. These have an excellent reputation for reliability. It is a working 4 x 4 rather than being a style icon, which is exactly what Carl needs. We found a privately owned 2007 2.5 Trojan model with 102K miles and recent servicing with lots of receipts for plenty of important work. It has two new tyres, battery, a cambelt change and also some suspension. The price was £3000.

## A CAR FOR THE HEART JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE

Should Carl decide to use the 4 x 4 for social, domestic and pleasure usage then an American Jeep might be a good idea. These are supremely comfortable and very distinctive. With a 3.0 V6 diesel engine, a Grand Cherokee will be more than up to the job of towing just about anything. We came across a 2007 3.0 CRD Limited as an unwanted part exchange at a dealer. It is well equipped with leather, electric seats and alloy wheels with 158,000 miles in smart condition for just £3000 but no warranty.



FREE CAR MAG  
CAN ANSWER  
YOUR CAR  
CHOICE  
QUESTION

# ITALIAN STALLION?



Carol Crosswaite wants an Alfa Romeo convertible. It is her dream car, but wonders whether it could be a nightmare.



## A CAR FOR THE HEAD BMW 3 SERIES

Alfa Romeos is that they are stunningly styled and sporty to drive, but the ownership experience can be less than brilliant. So if Carol wants a no-nonsense cabriolet, which is sporty, reliable with a folding metal roof, then the easy answer is to buy a BMW 3 Series. With £8000 to £9000 to spend it is easy enough to find a model from 2007. There was a 335i reduced by a £1000, but I thought that a 325i would be a more practical buy and slightly cheaper to run. £8000 bought a 50K mile example.

## A CAR FOR THE HEART ALFA ROMEO SPIDER

Alfas are so very pretty, so let's answer Carol's car buying prayer and buy the very best Alfa Romeo convertible on sale today. What she needs is an Alfa Romeo Spider, which is a very striking vehicle. I would in this uncertain climate and because Carol does not cover huge mileages, go for a petrol, rather than diesel-powered model. I found a 2008 example in red, arguably the best colour, with a full service history and recent expensive service and cambelt change, all for £8495, supplied by a dealer with a warranty.

MONDAYS  
10PM  
CHANNEL 4



FRED SIRIEIX  
INTERVIEW

MATCHMAKING IN ITALY

# FIRST DATES HOTEL

**First Dates Hotel is back for a second series, but it's not in the same place this time, is it?** No, we are in Italy this time, near Naples.

**What was it like there?** Oh, it's beautiful. Beautiful scenery, very nice and hilly, and you've got the sea not far away, it was fantastic.

**As a Frenchman, were you appalled that it had been moved from France?**

No! I love Italy, and it's nice to travel and to see different places and experience different people, and ways of being and living. It's really good there. I like the food. It was very good.

**For those who haven't seen First Dates Hotel, explain what the difference is from First Dates.**

Well, the major difference is that people come for a holiday, for two or three days. So when you are in the First dates restaurant, because you come in for one meal, some people could be finishing work at 11 o'clock, and come into the restaurant at 12, for their date. Whereas in First Dates Hotel, people are fully immersed, and the only thing they have to think about is their date. So they are completely immersed in the experience, and this is the best way to start romance blossoming.





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## ICE ROAD TRUCKERS

The spring thaw is in full melt mode as the drivers get one last lick before the ice roads close for the season. Steph Custance is the first to experience nature's wrath as she slips and slides deep into the trees off a slick road. Meanwhile Todd Dewey is struggling with a big load of construction material over a long and twisty trail. Art Burke is not a happy camper when he is pressed into service to retrieve a super heavy bulldozer over a rapidly melting ice crossing. Reno Ward takes a risky final run just to have his truck die on the ice. And Lisa Kelly is heading home when she gets an emergency call to come to the rescue before it's too late.



FILM  
ON ALL 4

## THE BEATLES EIGHT DAYS A WEEK

The Touring Years: (2016) Ron Howard's award-winning documentary charts the brief but wildly successful period the Beatles toured the world. Includes restored footage of their live performances. What we noticed was the fabulous Ford Classic, now a very rare model. All the Beatles had impressive car collections and this would have been a very good start. Before the Cortina there was this fantastic Classic.



THE CAR REVIVAL SHOW

# CAR SOS SERIES 5

One of the most successful motoring shows on TV, the heart-warming Car SOS is back for a FIFTH series! Master mechanic Fuzz Townshend and parts-blagging petrol head Tim Shaw set off on a mission to save decaying classic cars for their unsuspecting but deserving owners. The car is taken to the Car S.O.S. garage and carefully restored to its former glory, leading to the big, surprise reveal! Just a warning these reveals have been known to make grown men weep. In this episode Fuzz and Tim roll their sleeves up and get to work on Tony's 1962 Jaguar Mark 2 - which has been stored in a garage for nearly two decades - aiming to transform the much-loved vehicle, inside and out. Also look out for the restoration of an iconic 1967 Fiat 500, which has been rusting away in a damp garage, to its former glory for its owner, all-round petrolhead Duncan, taking a road trip to Turin in the process. And there is also a Sunbeam Alpine, one of the most stylish British sports cars of the 1960s, which the chaps restore for motor racing fan and ex-mechanic Ray.





BBC 4  
AND NOW BBC  
IPLAYER



BBC/Cinétévé

## WITNESSES

The frozen bodies of 15 men are discovered on an abandoned bus in the middle of the northern French countryside. Detective Sandra Winckler is part of the police investigation into this mysterious find, and soon enough her team discovers the one thing that linked the dead men - all 15 had at some point been involved with a woman named Catherine Keemer. But there's a twist - Catherine Keemer herself disappeared three years ago. In French with English subtitles What got our attention was the immaculate Opel Rekord. Wow. .



CHANNEL 4  
AND  
ALL4

## EXTREME CAKEMAKERS

This series lifts the lid on the successes and failures of a crazy, creative and elite group who go all out to produce the world's most delicious and breath-taking creations, turning cakes into works of art. Across the series, we see everything from a life size Shetland pony to a 4ft replica of the Statue of Liberty, a life size ball gown with edible peacock feathers to a 5ft edible Wizard of Oz mural. For our extreme cake makers, anything is possible. Even a MINI. It looks rather yummy.

## FCM 57

Land Rovers, there are going to be loads of those next time and not necessarily with Paul Smith, he was in Issue 7. There will be the full picture story of Free Car Mag's Lorry (a Series III) which has been restored. Plus lots of other 4 x 4s which aren't quite so cool. Better wear your wellies.



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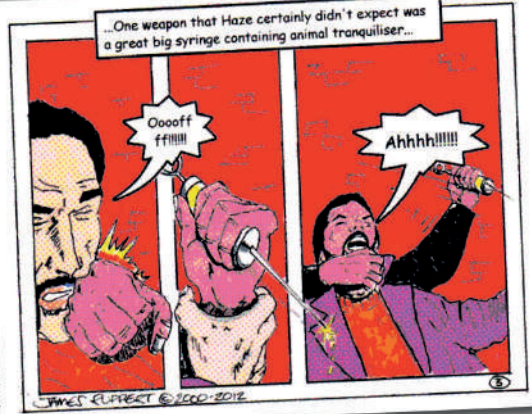
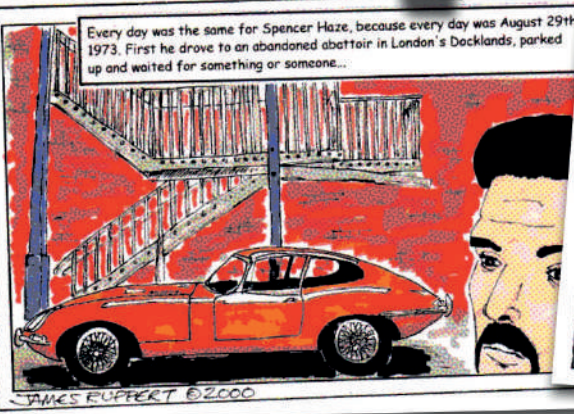
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# SPENCER HAZE

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



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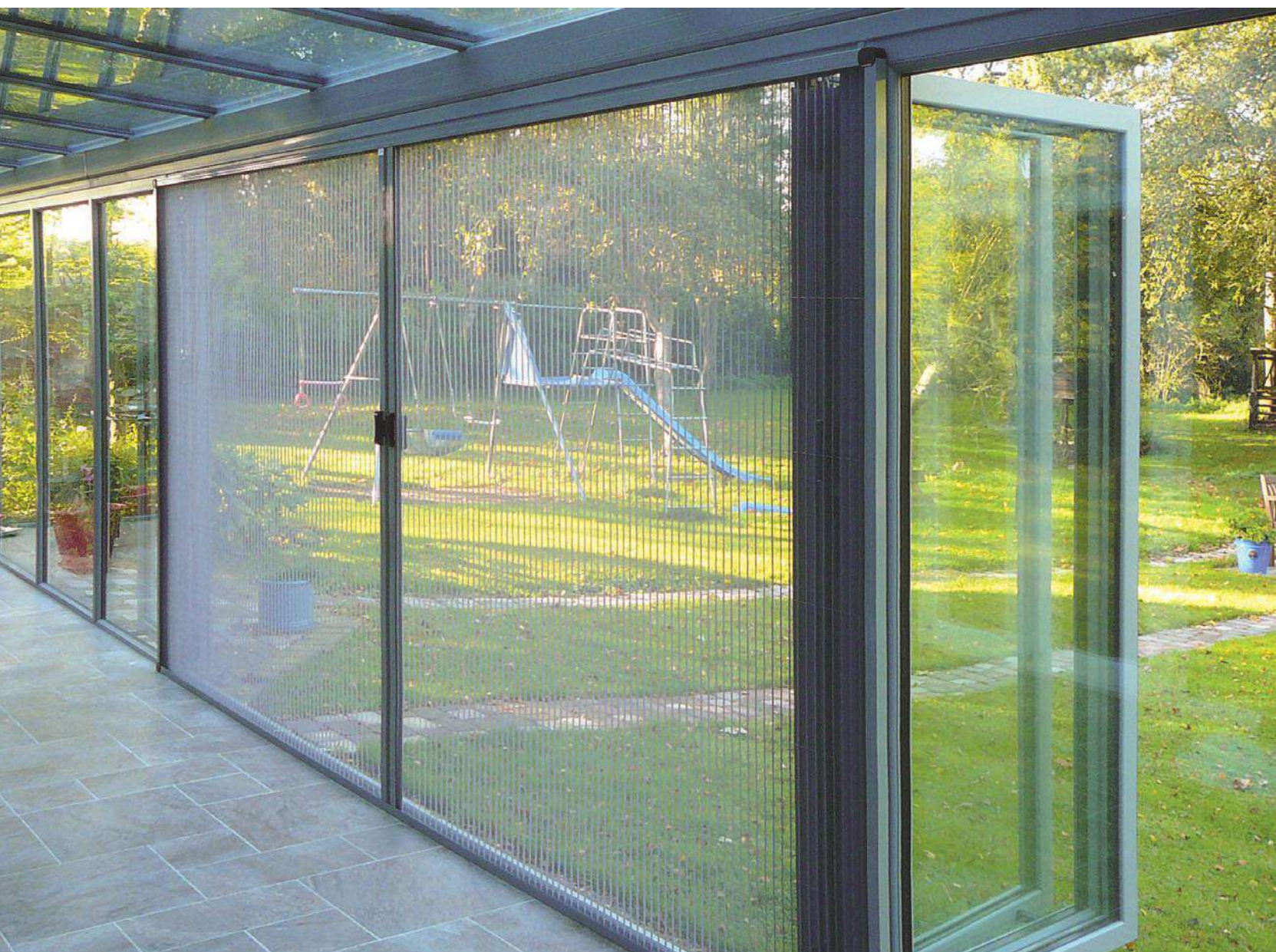
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