

free car mag

SHORTLISTED
FOR NEWSPRESS
MAGAZINE
OF THE YEAR
2016 & 2017

**Corsa
25 Years**



WHY YOU MUST WATCH

JAMES MARTIN'S AMERICA



Inside!



Free Car Mag's very own Lorry comes
back from the menders and we tell
you how much that cost...



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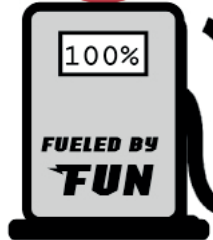
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ISSUE 57 / 2018

his time...

One thing we've noticed recently is just how good car telly is getting. That's why we've put James Martin on the cover with that magnificent Pontiac. We know that he is a petrolhead, but combining that with proper cookery and the ability to entertain, makes this one of the best series on telly at the moment.

Top Gear is back, which is good. They seem to be enjoying themselves, which can only be good for us, the viewer. And finally there is Car S.O.S. which is the hands on approach to cars. You can learn something, plus there is always a very human element to it. Catch our interview with the lads (Fizz and Tim) in the film & telly section.

You might just have noticed an awful lot of Land Rovers in this issue. We love Landies, which is why Free Car Mag own what we call 'The Lorry'. Rather alarmingly we've spent a rather large fortune making it better again and we don't regret a penny. Actually compared to the cost of the Anniversary model and what those Land Rover specialists are charging for tarding up and old Defender, The Lorry is great value.

We also love the Vauxhall Corsa, one of the most important and iconic small cars which is part of the UK landscape. You either learnt to drive in one, went shopping in your mum's, or fitted a great big drainpipe exhaust to a cooking Merit. So we join in with a well deserved celebration of the little hatchback hero.

And finally, Free Car Mag now has Bangernomics in it.



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James Martin joins that well known cowboy outfit
Free Car Mag

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Peter
Fonda &
The Cohen
Brothers



FILM LEGENDS AT THE 2017 SUPERBOWL

"Easy Driver" pays homage to a series of legends: true to the original of the cult film from 1969 no one else except its main actor and Mercedes fan Peter Fonda and the song "Born to be wild" by Steppenwolf. Directed by Oscar-winning duo Joel and Ethan Coen, the film unites the legendary actor with the new Mercedes-AMG GT Roadster. Together they rediscover the sense of freedom and adventure that Fonda used to experience on his motorbike trips across the vast American plains. The Mercedes-AMG GT Roadster allows the driver to sense the closeness of the road and the sound of its 4.0-litre V8 biturbo engine at its most extreme. It's a sports car that is "Built to be wild" and you can watch the film here: <http://mb4.me/easydriver>.

Bikers
having
fun in
their Bar



'EASY DRIVER' WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT THEN?

The film shows how a group of hardcore bikers, still clinging on to the old dream of freedom on two wheels, have to learn just how much times have changed. The tough bikers are having a good time in a run-down bar on the legendary Route 66. As their anthem, "Born to be wild" plays non-stop in the background, anything goes when it comes to winning the arm-wrestling contest. A whole "wall of fame" is devoted to their hero, Peter Fonda. High spirits prevail. The good mood ends abruptly when the bikers notice that their bikes have been blocked in by a new Mercedes-AMG GT Roadster. Driven by Peter Fonda.



Peter
Fonda



WHO IS BEHIND 'EASY DRIVER'?

The idea and script for the film "Easy Driver" stem from Mercedes-Benz's lead agency in Europe, antoni. Realisation of the concept was done together with Merkley+Partners, the agency responsible for Mercedes-Benz in North America. Together they were able to secure Joel and Ethan Coen ("Fargo", "The Big Lebowski", "No Country for Old Men") to direct. The Oscar award-winners added numerous ideas of their own to the original script, along with their own special humour. Filming, with a cast selected by the legendary Coen brothers themselves, took place not far from Los Angeles.



MERCEDES-AMG GT ROADSTER

Not only an impressive package the new Mercedes-AMG GT Roadster packs a punch, with its V8 engine, producing 476 hp, 630 Nm maximum torque. Able to go from 0 to 62 mph in 4.0 seconds, the Mercedes-AMG GT Roadster is perfect for any speed enthusiast. With its stunning sports car performance the Mercedes-AMG GT Roadster is perfect for long drives and exploring the scenery along the way. The perfect balance of beauty and performance delivering everything you could ask in one beautiful package.



SUPERBOWL 2018 WITH DINOSAURS

Advertising in America is something else. Especially at Superbowl time. Free Car Mag only knows, understands and loves proper football, but these are ads between their inferior version of the game are nuts. Jeep Jurassic even has Jeff Goldblum driving the Jeep whilst being chased by a great big T Rex. Obviously there is a subtle plug for the upcoming Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom which is coming our way in June.

Meanwhile watch it right here: <https://youtu.be/oM0ljrWUUXc>



SPOTTED
OUT AND
ABOUT



...AND VIKINGS, ABSOLUTELY LOADS OF THEM

The All-New Dodge Ram 1500 is designed to take on the most epic adventures, including this one - hauling a horde of Vikings across the Icelandic tundra, towing a massive Viking ship, all while singing a fast-paced version of Queen's "We Will Rock You." Their journey continues over sea as they row their Viking ship with their beloved truck in tow to America but are in for a shocking surprise. Luckily, they are driving the only truck that is indeed "built for the unexpected." Watch it here: <https://youtu.be/cqg5oc20nxk>



Tom Brady
American football
quarterback for the
New England Patriots
of the National
Football League

Get the look

TOM BRADY AND ASTON MARTIN

Tom Brady, record-breaking National Football League star and one of the most renowned and respected athletes of all time joins with the British luxury car maker. "Aston Martin exemplifies dedication to the craft of car making through a meticulous attention to detail. While 104 years of heritage are reflected in each hand-built car, with product from the DB11 to the Aston Martin Valkyrie, this brand is primed to excel for the next 100 years as well.

"As a long-time fan and driver I am honored to join the Aston Martin team at this special moment in the company's history." Brady will collaborate with the company's Chief Creative Officer Marek Reichman and they will explore their affinity for The Love of Beautiful via a new content series entitled Category of One. In the meantime can we get his look?

Tom

- 1 Aston Martin DB11 £144,900
- 2 Boots Debenhams £70.00
- 3 Jeans Burtons £35.00
- 4 Black Shirt River Island £18.00





THE ORIGINAL

Land Rover will celebrate its 70th anniversary year throughout 2018, starting with a unique restoration project: the original launch Land Rover

For years the whereabouts of this launch Land Rover was a mystery. The demonstration vehicle from the Amsterdam show was last on the road in the 1960s, after which it spent 20 years in a Welsh field before being bought as a restoration project; it then lay languishing unfinished in a garden. Following its surprise discovery just a few miles outside of Solihull, UK – where the car was first built – the experts at Jaguar Land Rover Classic spent months researching in company archives to unravel its ownership history and confirm its provenance.

The team behind the successful Land Rover Series I Reborn programme, which allows customers to own a slice of Land Rover history

with meticulously restored Series Is, will now embark on their most challenging project yet: a year-long mission to preserve this historically significant prototype and enable it to be driven again.

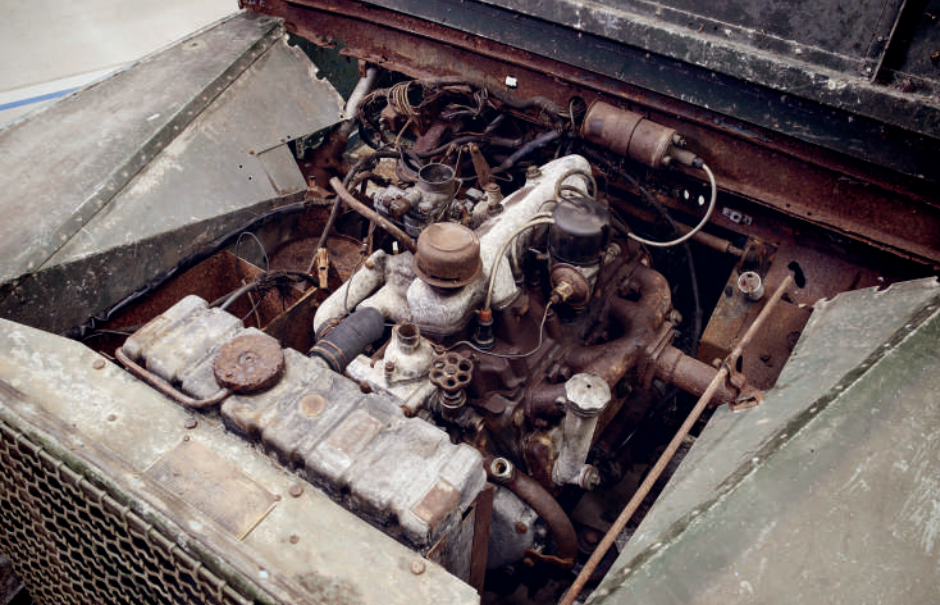
The Jaguar Land Rover Classic team will follow a dedicated process to restore the launch vehicle, which has a lot of special features that are unique to the 48 pre-production Land Rovers that were produced prior to the mass production vehicles, such as thicker aluminium alloy body panels, a galvanised chassis and a removable rear tub. The patina of its components will be preserved, including the original Light Green paint applied in 1948.

Tim Hannig, Jaguar Land Rover Classic Director, said: “This Land

Rover is an irreplaceable piece of world automotive history and is as historically important as ‘Huey’, the first pre-production Land Rover. Beginning its sympathetic restoration here at Classic Works, where we can ensure it’s put back together precisely as it’s meant to be, is a fitting way to start Land Rover’s 70th anniversary year.”

Previous owners of this historic vehicle are being invited to Jaguar Land Rover’s Classic Works facility to share their experiences and to witness its loving restoration.

This landmark project, representing the earliest beginnings of the Land Rover story – which led to more than 67 years of continuous production of iconic Series I to Defender vehicles at Solihull.



Happy Anniversary

AVAILABLE:
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FROM:
£150,000

Land Rover launches a V8 Edition to celebrate 70th Anniversary in style.

The Defender Works V8 pays homage to the early high-powered engines in both the Series III Stage 1 V8 from 1979 and subsequent Defenders including the 50th Anniversary Edition, which are highly sought after by enthusiasts and collectors today.

Defender Works V8 is the most powerful and fastest version that Land Rover has ever created. The 5.0-litre naturally-aspirated petrol V8 powertrain produces 405PS and 515 Nm of torque (the standard Defender delivered 122PS and 360 Nm). The Defender Works V8 will accelerate from 0-60mph in 5.6sec, while top speed is increased to 106mph.

Tim Hannig, Jaguar Land Rover Classic Director, said: "It's fitting that we've been able to release the full potential of the iconic Defender, whose much-loved shape remains synonymous with Land Rover, 70 years since it was seen in public for the first time.

"The idea of reintroducing a V8 Defender was something we were discussing as far back as 2014, when we were still building the Defender in Solihull. We knew the demand was there for a powerful and fast Defender; the Land Rover authenticity is the ultimate finishing touch for discerning clients purchasing these collector's edition Defenders."

The V8 powertrain will be fitted to 150 specially-selected and re-engineered Defenders for the 70th Edition, complemented by an eight-speed ZF automatic transmission with sport mode, uprated brakes and handling kit (springs, dampers and anti-roll bars), plus exclusive 18-inch diamond-turned Sawtooth alloy wheels and 265/65 R18 all-terrain tyres.

Eight standard body colours include two satin finishes – contrasting with a Santorini Black roof, wheel arches and front grille – finished with machined aluminium door handles, fuel filler cap and Defender bonnet lettering. A comprehensive lighting upgrade includes bi-LED headlamps.

Full Windsor Leather interior trim covers the dashboard, door panels, headlining and Recaro sports seats. Land Rover Classic's own Classic Infotainment System is also fitted. Both 90 and 110 wheelbase Defender Works V8 derivatives will be available to purchase direct from Land Rover Classic, with prices starting from £150,000 for a 90 in the UK.

A select number of high-performance upgrades inspired by Defender Works V8 will also be available to purchase soon from Land Rover Classic, including power upgrades for the TDCi diesel engine, fast-road suspension and braking kits.



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V8 Edition

PERFORMANCE
0-60MPH
5.6 SECS
TOP SPEED:
106 MPH



ENGINE CAPACITY CC: 4999
CYLINDERS: V8 NATURALLY ASPIRATED PETROL (EU5)
POWER PS: 405 @ 6,000 RPM
TORQUE: NM 515 @ 5,000 RPM
TRANSMISSION: 8-SPEED AUTOMATIC WITH PISTOL SHIFTER,
ALL-WHEEL DRIVE, TWO-SPEED TRANSFER BOX, HEAVY-DUTY
FRONT AND REAR DIFFERENTIALS, TORQUE-BIASING CENTRE
DIFFERENTIAL
SUSPENSION FRONT: LIVE BEAM AXLE, COIL SPRINGS,
TELESCOPIC DAMPERS, PANHARD ROD AND RADIUS ARMS.
ANTI-ROLL BAR
REAR: LIVE BEAM AXLE, COIL SPRINGS, TELESCOPIC DAMPERS,
'A' FRAME AND TRAILING LINKS, ANTI-ROLL BAR
BRAKES: FRONT - SERVO-ASSISTED 335MM DISCS, FOUR-PIS-
TON CALIPERS, REAR 300MM DISCS,
WHEELS & TYRES: 18IN DIAMOND-TURNED SAWTOOTH ALLOY
WHEELS, 265/65 R18 ALL-TERRAIN TYRES
STEERING: RECIRCULATING BALL, POWER-ASSISTED



now & then





V8 DEFENDER HISTORY

V8 POWERTRAINS IN THE LAND ROVER DEFENDER AND ITS PRODUCTION PREDECESSORS STARTED WITH THE SERIES III STAGE 1 V8 OF 1979. THE CARBURETTED 3.5-LITRE ROVER V8 PRODUCED 90BHP.

THE LAND ROVER ONE TEN FROM 1983, AND NINETY FROM 1984, USED THE SAME 3.5-LITRE ROVER V8 ENGINE AS THE SERIES III STAGE 1 V8, BUT IN 113BHP FORM, UPGRATED TO 135BHP FROM 1987.

FOR NORTH AMERICAN SPECIFICATION (NAS) DEFENDER 90S AND 110S ONLY, FROM 1992, A 182BHP FUEL-INJECTED 3.9-LITRE VERSION OF THE ROVER V8 WAS FITTED, ALONG WITH A FOUR-SPEED AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION.

IN 1998, THE FUEL-INJECTED 190BHP 4.0-LITRE V8 FROM THE SECOND-GENERATION RANGE ROVER WAS FITTED TO A LIMITED RUN OF 50TH ANNIVERSARY DEFENDER 90S, WITH A FOUR-SPEED AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION.

5.0-LITRE NATURALLY-ASPIRATED 2018 DEFENDER WORKS V8 IS THE FIRST OFFICIAL V8-POWERED LAND ROVER DEFENDER TO BE INTRODUCED SINCE 1998.



WORK IN PROGRESS



What could be better than a high tech future proof super car?

There's a new ultra-versatile commercial version of the Land Rover Discovery, which is handy.

Featuring 1,856 litres of flexible load space replacing the second and third row seats, the new Discovery affords driver and passenger premium levels of comfort and entertainment.

Available with Land Rover's Ingenium 2.0D SD4 240HP and 3.0D TD6 258HP engines, Discovery Commercial shares the fundamental underpinnings of the Discovery, from its wide-spaced double-wishbone design at the front to its advanced multi-link layout at the rear, the Discovery Commercial's suspension delivers more responsive handling without compromising Land Rover's hallmark all-terrain capability and makes all journeys confident, comfortable and engaging.

Discovery Commercial comes exclusively with four wheel drive, automatic transmission, twin-speed transfer box, air suspension and a full-size spare wheel. Fitted solely with Discovery's front row seating; driver comfort and convenience remain unchanged with InControl

Touch Pro featuring as standard. The second and third row seating have been replaced with 1,856 litres of hard-wearing load-space. Accessed by a powered tailgate and benefiting from Discovery's innovative powered inner tailgate, Discovery Commercial's load-space measures 1,635mm long, 939mm high and 1,411mm wide. The boot aperture is large enough to accept loads measuring up to 1000 x 735mm. Discovery Commercial comes with Land Rover's unique Terrain Response systems which optimise the vehicle's engine, gearbox, centre differential and chassis systems to match the demands of the terrain. Optional Terrain Response 2 system enhances this even further by monitoring driving conditions and automatically selecting the driving modes ensuring loads are delivered whatever the terrain, whatever the weather.

Retaining the exterior design of Discovery, rear window concealment panels are masked by privacy glass

so Discovery Commercial can be undistinguishable as a commercial vehicle if desired.

Discovery Commercial features a host of technology, convenience features and driver aids necessary when transporting loads for business. InControl Touch Pro, cruise control and speed limiter, Autonomous Emergency Braking, Lane Departure Warning, heated windscreen and rear window, heated door mirrors, DAB radio, InControl Protect, Tyre Pressure Monitoring system, Hill Launch Assist, Dynamic Stability Control, Roll Stability Control, Cornering Brake Control, Gradient Acceleration Control, Hill Descent Control and Trailer Stability Assist all come as standard.





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COMMERCIAL S
2.0D £48,695
3.0TD6 £50,195
COMMERCIAL SE
2.0D £53,295
3.0 TD6 £54,695
COMMERCIAL HSE
2.0D £58,495
3.0 TD6 £49,995





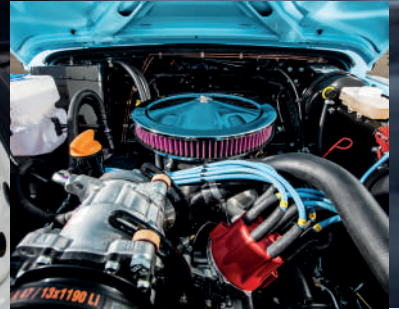
Pure Shores

A Defender 90 with an intriguing twist courtesy of Arkonik. It's the BAJA





ENGLISH BUILT
AND HAND
ASSEMBLED
ARKONIK.COM



EXTERIOR SPEC - ALPACA LEATHER TRIM | ELITE HEATED FRONT SEATS | ELITE LOC BOX | MATCHING DOOR CARDS | LEATHER STITCHED GEAR GAITER | 4 TIP-UP SEATS IN THE LOAD AREA | EVANDER WOODEN RIM STEERING WHEEL | ALLOY DOOR FURNITURE AND GEAR KNOBS | ALPINE® PREMIUM SOUND SYSTEM WITH APPLE® CARPLAY

INTERIOR SPEC - TAN XS SOFT-TOP | WHITE MODULAR 16" STEEL WHEELS | BF GOODRICH® AT TYRES | KBX FRONT GRILLE AND WING-TOP VENTS IN ZAMBEZI SILVER | ZAMBEZI SILVER CHEQUER PLATE | RAPTOR-COATED STEERING & FRONT DIFFERENTIAL GUARD | FRONT BUMPER DRLS | FIRE & ICE SIDE STEPS | NAS REAR STEP | OFF-ROAD PACKAGE INC. TERRAFIRMA® SUSPENSION WITH 2" LIFT KIT

Arkonik Defenders are ORIGINS for an elegantly original Defender, EDITIONS with enhanced features or a unique custom build with their BESPOKE service.





Ice Warrior

ARES Design have teamed up with JE Engineering and will make just 53 V8 Defenders





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ITALIAN
DESIGN
53 BUILT
€200,000+



BASE CAR MODEL YEAR: 2014
ENGINE TYPE: V8 SUPERCHARGED
DISPLACEMENT [CC]: 4698
POWER [HP]: 475
TORQUE [NM]: TBD
TRANSMISSION: 6 SPEED AUTOMATIC, FOUR WHEEL DRIVE
WITH REAR LIMITED-SLIP DIFFERENTIAL
SUSPENSION: COIL SPRING + FOX 2.0 SHOCK ABSORBER
BRAKE: AP RACING AND ELECTRONIC PARKING BRAKE
WHEELS: ARES 18" INCH
TYRES: 305/70R18 COOPER DISCOVERER
MUD TERRAIN: STT PRO
ALL TERRAIN: ST MAXX
MAXIMUM SPEED [KM/H]: 150 LIMITED
PRODUCTION: 8 WEEKS

www.aresdesign.com



before...

Free Car Mag have a 1984 Land Rover Series III that we call The Lorry. It was looking rather sorry for itself so we had a whip round and sent it to a local care home





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...after

TOTAL COST OF
REBUILDING THE
FREE CAR MAG
LORRY
£17,964.91

THE DAMAGE...
TO SUPPLY AND FIT PARTS £6462.50
GALVANISED CHASSIS £ 1774.84
STAINLESS STEEL BRAKE HOSE £31.28
UPRATED SHOCK ABSORBERS £200.48
MANIFOLD £112.31
CLUTCH £161.04
FUEL TANK £145.51
STAINLESS STEEL EXHAUST £190.83
CLUTCH SLAVE CYLINDER £68.21
DOOR SEALS £99
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DOORS + FITTING £975
BULKHEAD REPAIRS £2145
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How Using a Racing Driver's Mindset Can Help You Win at Life...

Think like Lewis Hamilton and get his luxury lifestyle*

Whether you're giving a big presentation or in an important job interview, zoning into the same high-performance mindset as a racing driver could be the key to succeeding in high-pressure situations.

This is one of the findings of new research that seeks to uncover the secrets of racing drivers' brains. The study, commissioned by Ford, concludes that simple brain training techniques can help everyone reach peak performance both on and off the circuit.

Researchers from Ford and King's College London used EEG (electroencephalography) headsets to analyse the brain activity of professional racing drivers as they took on a racing simulator. Drivers included five-time FIA World Rally Championship winner Sébastien Ogier and three-time FIA World Touring Car Championship winner Andy Priaulx – racers who both know how to succeed under pressure.

Everyday drivers were monitored performing the same task – crucially, some had performed mental preparation exercises in the lead-up to the activity,

and some had not.

"The study data revealed that when travelling at high speed and in a state of high focus, racing drivers' brains performed up to 40 per cent better when it comes to ignoring distractions than yours or mine," said Dr Elias Mouchlianitis, neuroscience researcher at King's College London. Breathing and meditation exercises, plus a visualisation technique that uses keywords to describe the task ahead, saw improvements in their focus and performance by as much as 50 per cent.

"When things get tough and the pressure's on that's when you need to get in this zone, and the good guys, the successful racing drivers, are able to do that whether that's on the track or off it," said Priaulx. "Racing drivers aren't necessarily born with this skill; our experiment showed that simple mental training ahead of a task can help anyone to improve focus and ignore distractions, 'making them more successful at the task in hand.'"

* This is not 100% guaranteed. We think.

MOTORING NEWS QUOTES

"These tests on monkeys or even on humans are not ethically justifiable in any shape or form,"

Steffen Seibert
spokesman for Chancellor Angela Merkel on VW using monkeys and humans in Mexico to breath in vehicle fumes.

"Until we reach full production, by definition some elements of the production process will be more manual..and it has no impact on the quality or safety of the batteries we're producing."

Tesla spokesman
responding to claims that instead of robots, people are rushing around the factory putting cars together in order to reach targets

"This will be an extraordinary moment for these youngsters," "

Sean Bratches, F1
Commercial Chief on the replacement of grid girls with grid kids.



Have your say  @freecarmag1

TOP 5 USED

VAUXHALL CORSAS

We love the little Corsa at Free Car Mag. In the office the majority of us learnt to drive in one and as a first car it is also top of the pops too. The sensible thing to do is to tell you which model is the best buy but actually they are all great, here are five fun reasons why you should put a cute Cora into your motoring life.



CORSAPHONE

To launch the Vauxhall UK Beatbox Championships in 2010 – the annual event that celebrates the country's best human beatboxers – Vauxhall Motors created a unique and bespoke, working Corsa-shaped microphone. Here is MC Zani with a Vauxhall Corsa and the bespoke Corsa microphone giving it some.



COP CORSA

If the police use Corsas as Panda cars then they must be good and Vauxhall is the only manufacturer to offer a one-stop shop for blue-light vehicles. Everything is done in-house from testing to converting. The factory converts 2,500 vehicles per year, including cars and vans, for use by Police forces, and Fire and Ambulance services nationwide.



VXR VS SUPERCAR

The Corsa VXR is a real pocket rocket with fierce acceleration of 0-60mph in 6.5 seconds and a top speed of 143mph. In 2015 Vauxhall proved that the VXR was rather more useful than a supercar. England football players past and present, went head to head in a supercar and Corsa VXR, testing which can manoeuvre first into a parking space. A Corsa win.



CORSA CAMO

The 'Corsa Camo-net' was a larky invention to cope with Flaming Yellow, Flame Red, Lime Green and Chilli Orange and designed specifically for use near National Trust premises and chocolate box Cotswold villages. Prim local objected to a colourful Corsa and this was Vauxhall's brilliant response. It would fold up easily into a back-pack or the boot.



CORSA ECOFLEX

Yes, we have saved the sensible Corsa until last. If you were going to buy a hatchback to cope with the everyday then the eco version is perfect. The Corsa 1.3 CDTi ecoFLEX (95PS) 3-dr model's CO2 emissions have dropped to just 98g/km, matching the best in class, and are complemented by a combined fuel economy figure of 76.3mpg.

For more used car information and buying tips go to freecarmag.com

SIMON CARTER 2018

Free Car Mag are sorting themselves out satorially for Spring and Summer, so where better to get kitted out than with the the nations' most stylish, and colourful gentleman's outfitter? simoncarter.net

Here is a collection imbued with a sense of Englishness, evoking the spirit of childhood holidays; of the seaside and pottering about on the river; of croquet on the lawn and honey still for tea.

Simon's renowned attention to fine detail and shows his flair for styling the modern gentleman. Printed shirts are at the fore – colourful, playful and distinctive they help set the Simon Carter collection apart. Alongside this are tailoring – suits as well as jackets – and accessories, including jewellery, leather goods, bags and watches. Footwear and underwear complete the set.

For the modern dandy, there are two and three-piece suits in lightweight Italian wool with contrast linings, adding vitality and sartorial flair to a business staple. While jackets come in linen and silk as well as wool, they are rich in colour and come with interesting detail: dodo shaped lapel pins, trims in the most striking shirt fabrics.



Get Carter



Not the most original headline, but these Simon Carter watches are fantastic works of art for your wrist with lots of design options.

On the left is the Simon Carter Leather Chronograph Watch. It comes in a red presentation box. It is 4.4cm across and 1.2cm deep. The movement is Quartz. **£149** www.simoncarter.net



SWAROVSKI CRYSTAL CUFFLINKS £65

Simon Carter has created memorable Swarovski crystal skull cufflinks in fresh shades of cool grey and gunmetal blue, accentuating the geometric design. Never has Memento Mori looked so glamorous, with a hint of Darth Vader's sinister mask, the pieces dazzle in a cool yet detached way - the perfect foil against our crisp white cuffs.

www.simoncarter.net



ROSE GOLD BEE TIE SLIDE £35

This has been inspired by his Simon's time as president of his university beekeeping society. The humble English honeybee is employed in various guises - re-emphasising Simon's love of the natural world. Laser-engraved tie-slide humorously traces the flight path of the bee in search for pollen. We still wear ties at Free Car Mag, so that's perfect.

www.simoncarter.net



PYRITE BLACK DIAMOND SWAROVSKI BRACELET £55

The Pyrite bead bracelet whilst so long dismissed as 'Fool's Gold' is now shown with mysterious qualities to great effect with the contrasting black diamond Swarovski skull. The iron in the mineral captures the body's energy with comforting warmth. That's good enough for us, so we will be wearing them around our office. There's no central heating, so it should help.

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Super sporty luxury off roader from Bentley

BENTAYGA V8

At the heart of the new Bentayga V8 sits an all-new 4.0-litre, 32-valve, V8 engine featuring dual twin-scroll turbochargers located inside the 'V' of the engine. The dynamic unit develops 542 bhp (550 PS) and 568 lb.ft. (770 Nm) of torque, resulting in a top speed of 180 mph (290 km/h) and 0-60 mph in 4.4 seconds (100 km/h in 4.5 seconds).

The addition of stylish twin-quad exhaust pipes and optional carbon-ceramic brakes, defines the luxury SUV's sporting character. New styling features include a wood and hide steering wheel and the introduction of a high-gloss carbon-fibre interior panel finish. A choice of 11 wheel designs, including an all-new 22" five-spoke wheel with black painted and polished finish all look rather groovy.

A purposeful black and chrome grille at the front is complemented by Bentley 'twin-quad' exhaust tailpipes at rear, both of which provide a further subtle reminder of the new engine specification. Wonderful.





Five Door Coupe' is a High Tech Tour de Force



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£56,000

AUDI A7 SPORTBACK

With the AI button, the driver will be able to activate the Audi AI remote parking pilot and the Audi AI remote garage pilot, which will be made available during 2018. They autonomously manoeuvre the A7 Sportback into and out of a parking space or garage. The driver can get out of the car before launching the function via the myAudi app on their smartphone. To monitor the manoeuvre, the driver presses and holds the Audi AI button throughout. The central driver assistance controller (zFAS) merges the data from a sophisticated set of sensors to continually compute an image of the surroundings. Depending on the equipment level, there can be as many as five radar sensors, five cameras, 12 ultrasonic sensors and a laser scanner. In addition to the Audi AI systems, the new A7 Sportback features a total of 39 driver assistance systems to make daily use easier for the driver. And we've only scratched the high tech surface.

Crossover Style Handy Sized



AVAILABLE:
NOW
PRICE FROM:
£12,595

KIA PICANTO X

The 'X-Line' variant introduces a series of rugged new design cues and is longer, wider and taller than conventional city cars, and has increased ground clearance. At 75mm longer, 30mm wider and 15mm taller, the increase in height is accounted for by the greater ground clearance. Equipped with a powerful and refined 83bhp 1,248cc four-cylinder, 16-valve engine developing 122Nm of torque. A five-speed manual gearbox is standard, with a four-speed automatic transmission available as an option. We think it is a funky little motor, perfect for chasing around town or country.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



It's one of our favourite hatches. Famous for being the scourge of supermodels, the car that helped teach a nation to drive and Karl Lagerfeld took a picture of, with a kitty on it. The Corsa is part of our lives and Vauxhall are celebrating with some very special offers.

With the iconic Corsa reaching 25 years on the UK market this year, Vauxhall is starting the party early by offering one year's free insurance and five years' zero per cent Flexible Finance, with no minimum deposit, to all buyers of the best-selling supermini.

Open to drivers aged 21 to 75, the offer is available on Corsa Energy and Limited Edition models registered between now and 31st March 2018.

The free insurance provides customers with 12 months' 'Comprehensive' cover with Vauxhall Insurance Services. So if you are unlucky enough to be involved in an accident, then you can rely on one of Vauxhall's approved repairers, who use only genuine Vauxhall parts, to get your vehicle back on the road and

looking as good as new. If required, you can add one other named driver to the policy.

Customers must meet the eligibility criteria and take a Vauxhall Insurance Policy to qualify. All drivers must have held a full UK or EU driving license for at least one year to qualify for the offer.

Over its 25 years on the market, the Corsa has been the default supermini of choice for a diverse range of customers from all areas of society, male and female, young and old. It is particularly popular with younger drivers and families.

The current Corsa offering is as popular as ever, with the Energy model featuring an IntelliLink audio system with seven-inch colour touchscreen, Bluetooth connectivity and Apple CarPlay/Android Auto, air

con and 16-inch, eight-spoke alloy wheels. The Limited Edition is even higher spec with features including the OnStar personal assistant incorporating Wi-Fi hotspot, VX-line body and interior styling and larger 17-inch black alloys wheels.

"We're kicking off the Corsa's quarter-century anniversary year with the fantastic offer of one year's free insurance to all eligible customers," said Leon Caruso, Vauxhall's Retail Sales Director.

"We've had lots of customers asking when we'd run another free insurance offer, so here it is, back by popular demand. And if that wasn't enough, you can even combine this great offer with up to five years' zero per cent Flexible Finance, making the best-selling Corsa even more affordable."



OPEN TO DRIVERS
AGED 21 TO 75, THE
OFFER IS AVAILABLE
ON CORSA ENERGY AND
LIMITED EDITION
MODELS REGISTERED
BETWEEN NOW AND
31ST MARCH 2018.



AUTOMATIC FIRST CAR

Celine Lawrence is a brand new driver with a flexible budget to spend on her first car, but must be automatic.



A CAR FOR THE HEAD FIAT PANDA

This is going to be an insurance based answer. The stats are that young drivers are more likely to be involved in an insurance claim so it will be higher. It is rare that a new driver will pay less than £1000 and often it is more. Certainly a higher specification vehicle, whether it has air conditioning as standard and an automatic gearbox means that the insurance quote will be higher than a basic model with no frills. The obvious choice would be a Fiat Panda 1.2 Eleganza Dualogic. A 2007 is £1495.



A CAR FOR THE HEART PEUGEOT 107

Then again if Celine does not like the look of the Fiat Panda which is cute but just a bit square, though very practical with five doors, there is always the Peugeot 107. This has a lovely friendly shape that I believe the kids these days will warm to. It is a small, light and nimble little car which is perfect for buzzing around town and also beyond. The three cylinder engine is noisy but frugal. A 2009 1.0 Urban 2-tronic costs just £20 to tax and this automatic with 40,000 miles is £3488.

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David Barry has just worn out his hatchback and now wants a spacious, practical vehicle for camping trips and commuting.

ESTATE DUTY



A CAR FOR THE HEAD MITSUBISHI LANCER

David does not want to spend very much money on his next car. A believer in Bangernomics, running a cheap car on a budget, he wants a reliable holdall. With a £1000 as a realistic budget I was going to find something quite dull, dirty, but worthy. Then an advert for a Mitsubishi Lancer estate came up. The Lancer consistently tops reliability surveys. It is tough and the 2005 S version even has alloy wheels. Anyway, with 98,000 miles and lots of recent servicing work and new clutch, a bargain at £1000.

A CAR FOR THE HEART PEUGEOT 307 ESTATE

I know that David had previously owned a Peugeot which racked up 190,000 miles without any major problems. So for a bit of added style at this cheap end of the marketplace a 2007 Peugeot 307 estate 1.6 S seems like an incredible bargain. Here is a roomy estate and the petrol engine is reliable and strong. A dealer had one as a part exchange with a fresh MOT and service, worth having as it has covered 88,000 miles. Offered at £1000 as a trade price by the dealer with no warranty, David wouldn't mind.

ITV 2PM
MONDAY
TO FRIDAY

GRUB MOTORS TRAVEL

Ticks all the boxes for us, so following the success of his French Adventure, chef James Martin is setting off on the next leg of his journey - the U S of A. The best bit is the cars, just take a look at that lovely Aston Martin, the Corvette, Mustang and Pontiac Catalina. We want them all...

Starting in California, James and his trusty crew will head down the West Coast taking in the Napa Valley, Sonoma County, Santa Cruz and Los Angeles, before swinging inland and heading for Texas. He'll stop off at Austin, San Antonio, Fort Worth and Dallas before his travels see him heading across the

American South. In Louisiana, James experiences everything Lafayette, Baton Rouge, New Orleans, Avery Island and The Sugar Belt have to offer. Finally he heads to the North East, to Philadelphia, Salem, Boston and the Hamptons, ending the epic trip in New York.

From Surfing on the Pacific Coast to

line dancing, ranch skills to baseball, James tries his hand at these classic All-American pastimes.

James conjures up a vision of the food scene in the USA both unexpected and enthralling, adding his own versions of classic dishes both on the road and back in his UK kitchen. Plus there are loads of cars.



ITV 2PM
MONDAY
TO FRIDAY



GEARSERS

Series 25 of Top Gear is back on our screens very soon and it looks like they are taking their 'three blokes mucking about with cars' to a new level of fun.

SUNDAYS
ON BBC2



Series 25? Yes there has been loads more than that, but the funkier Top Gear that we all know and love really started in 2002, so that's year zero as far as the BBC are concerned.

The settled line up is Matt LeBlanc, Rory Reid and Chris Harris, but expect to see quest appearances from

Sabine Schmidt and Eddie Jordan. What we can see in Free Car Mag is the lads peering over a fence at a Ford GT40 in Utah. Chris Harris in Japan with a Sumo wrestler as a passenger. Matt, Chris and Rory competing in the Top Gear Horse Trials in the Alfa Romeo Stelvio, Volvo XC60 and Range Rover Velar at

Burghley. Matt LeBlanc warming the tyres of the Dodge Demon on a Vegas drag strip and some Japanese drift cars on track.

All we really know, or the tabloids do anyway is that Chris Harris and Eddie Jordan narrowly escaped a fiery death when their Alpine caught fire. New Top Gear, turn it on.





Classic Saves

Car S.O.S. Season 6 premieres on National Geographic on Thursday 8th March at 8pm

There is a lot to love about Car SOS. It isn't just another programme putting an old car back together to seemingly make a quick buck. No, it is much deeper than that effectively enhancing lives with a beautifully restored classic car. We had a quick chat with presenters Tim Shaw and Fuzz Townsend.

I BELIEVE YOU ARE STILL FILMING?

Fuzz That's right we are working away right now.

Tim An awful lot of hours go into each episode, probably a hundred.

Fuzz There is at least 700 to 1500 hours of workshop time on each car.

Tim The cars and stories now find us we get hundreds of thousands applications from all over the world. Having said that I got stopped in the street by a bloke who said, 'I love Car S.O.S. but I hate cars. So all this effort is worth it as we draw people in.

DID ANY OF THE CARS LOOK LIKE HOPELESS CASES?

Fuzz All of the cars we deal with have different problems and there are a few which go beyond the pail, in particular the MGA. This was a basket case and was pushed into storage in the late '70s.

Tim Yes it was absolutely the MGA, That was utter scrap and just shows how vulnerable these old cars are. Minutes after stripping off the rust you can see a fresh layer starting to form.

WHAT ARE THE CONSIDERATIONS WHEN YOU WORK ON THE CARS?

Fuzz Because these cars are owned by those nominated we have a duty of care to provide proper customer service, both during the restoration and afterwards. We are restricted by budget and there are things that we can't do when it comes to modifications. We have to provide a finished car that someone can then enjoy and use.

Tim I think we still have a wider brief than many restorers and go beyond what many others would do.

WHAT SHOULD VIEWERS TAKE AWAY FROM CAR S.O.S.?

Fuzz We can't show everything we do. Otherwise there really would be 100 hours per episode. It is nice that we can show what can be done and get a wreck of a car back on the road. It can't be an instruction manual, but we can focus on the techniques used, for instance to repair an engine block you can use very modern bonding techniques, not just welding.

Tim We are all about putting a smile on people's faces. Funnily enough the wife of one of the featured owners was watching an old show and said 'surely they know what's going on.' Little did he know we had sneaked into his garage and were already working on his motor.

WHAT ABOUT THE HUMAN ELEMENT TO THIS PROGRAMME?

Fuzz For me this is much more of a people than a car show. It involves friends and family who really care about the owner who has been nominated and we act as the conduit for that, which I really enjoy.

Tim This show is an emotional roller coaster. If it does not bring you to tears at some point then you should be checked into a clinic. Classic cars is a wonderful addiction to have.

DIFFICULT LAST QUESTION, WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE CLASSIC CAR?

Fuzz Ideally what I would love to stumble across in a 1920 Vauxhall 30/98. I would prefer it to be a be ratty, with stuffing coming out of the seats. The electrics and engine should be fine, but I want is vehicle that I could just go out and enjoy.

Tim I believe that classics have a specific place, so if I was in California then I would have to grab a Camaro or Mustang and go for a cruise up Highway 101. If it was Wales, then maybe a Fiat Multipla would work. I do love all cars but right now I have a soft spot for the Lancia Integrale. Indeed, the boxy '80s cars are now what the '60s classic were to me when I was growing up.

In episode 1, the MGA featured belongs to former engineer Billy. His life was turned upside down by tragedy. James Nesbitt is a family friend and he surprises owner Billy on the set of Lucky Man with his newly renovated MGA Roadster.





Banger Life

Running a car is a ruinously expensive business. Never mind the sky-high insurance premiums, servicing and fuel costs, buying one could put you into serious debt. The popularity of personal contract purchase schemes (PCPs), which now accounts for over 60% of private car sales, is the reason for this. Luckily there is an Idler friendly alternative and its called Bangernomics.

Bangernomics contrasts the absurd expense of buying a new car with the supreme good sense of buying well used. At a stroke depreciation no longer becomes an issue, running and insurance costs are slashed. Why buy a brand new car just to drive a few miles to the station each day?

Bangernomics saves money because you own a car, which is unlikely to drop much in value. So you won't worry if it

gets left overnight in a dodgy car park, or acquires a scrape, or dent. You won't care what the Joneses next door are driving because image is less important than practicality. Then if you get bored with the banger, or it breaks down and costs too much to fix, you simply get rid of it and your losses are marginal.

These days lots of people get all moral about motoring and may claim that just because their car is a hybrid or battery vehicle they somehow saving the planet. Wrong. Bangernomics is the truly green approach. approach amounts to recycling. As the natural resources and energy used in building a new car is phenomenal, prolonging the life and disposing responsibly of a used car is very green indeed. Permission to feel smug.

Watch our Bangertorial on You Tube

So what did we learn from thirty-one months with a cheap luxury car? Well superficially that old, complicated, high mileage cars can be reliable and there is nothing to be frightened of, provided that it is a BMW 7 Series of course. Here is conclusive proof that Bangernomics does work and you don't need a grim, basic spec 1.0 litre hatch to keep a lid on your motoring costs. Actually the very biggest motoring cost of all is always depreciation and that does not seemed to have happened at all in this case. I did have to buy some tyres and pay for sundries, but nothing major. That's £13.15p a month. You can stick that in your PCP pipe and smoke it.



Have your say  @Bangernomics

 YouTube



BANGERNOMICS BUYS

The best news is about practising Bangernomics is that you don't have to run what you think is a banger. Actually bangers are a lot better than they used to be they are tough, reliable and can be quite luxurious. We proved the point a few years back when we bought a BMW 7 Series for £500. Before we come to that, let's identify some prime Bangers.



SHOPPING BANGER VAUXHALL ASTRA

For the family, shopping and regular errands then a Vauxhall Astra has it all. The amount of space inside is a huge making it a very practical car with room for five inside. Also the petrol engines are lively and economical so you won't feel left behind or out of pocket. Being a mass market Vauxhall means that there are loads to choose and cheap to fix.



SPORTS BANGER MAZDA MX-5

Rear wheel drive, just enough, but not too much power. Yes the MX5 has got all the classic '60s sports car ingredients of simplicity, style and value, brilliantly combined with modern car reliability. In short, this is the roadster that started the '90s drop top revolution and still dominates this market today. Older examples rust, but very cheap.. Pay from £1000.



CITY BANGER FORD KA

Small, agile and cheap. Even today it still stands out from the crowds with its odd looks and the boot is massive, but you can get four inside at a pinch. Despite looking contemporary the engine is quite ancient but that's a good thing because it is easy to work and cheap to keep going. Rust is an issue but yours for a few hundred.



SPACIOUS BANGER VOLVO V70

Because old Volvo estates are easily bought at small car prices. The load bay is flat and wide and with the rear seats folded it becomes a posh van. On the subject of seats you could buy one with optional pull out seats that turn it into a handy 7 seater. The engines routinely rack up huge six figure mileages. Parts can be pricey you can most bits in a scrap yard.



LUXURY BANGER BMW 7 SERIES

Well we christened my £500 BMW Shed 7 with a car that when new in 1999 cost more than £38,000. Not much fell off during our time together apart from an inner plastic wheel arch and exhaust heat shield that corroded through and presented itself on my drive like a dead ferret. Can still be bought for £1000, beware suspension and electrical issues.

For more used car information and buying tips bangernomics.com

FCM 58

We hope to have Paloma Faith and her Skoda popping in to see us if she can't get out of the Abbey Road car park. Otherwise we are ghost hunting. Haunted roads, ghostly cars and UFOs. So unless something strange happens, we will see you next time...



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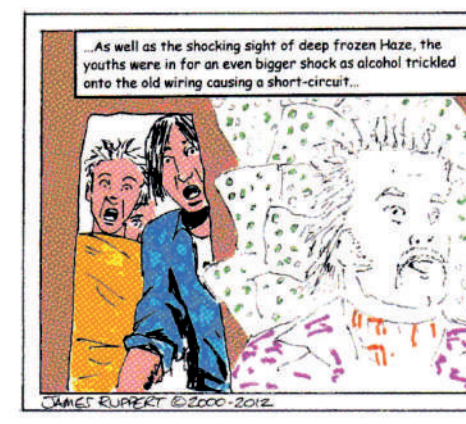
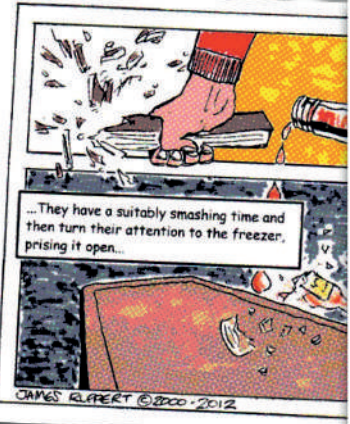
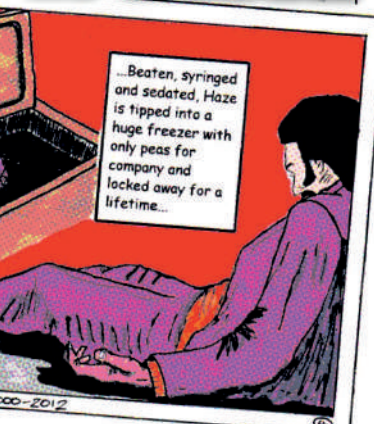
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SPENCER HAZE 2

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



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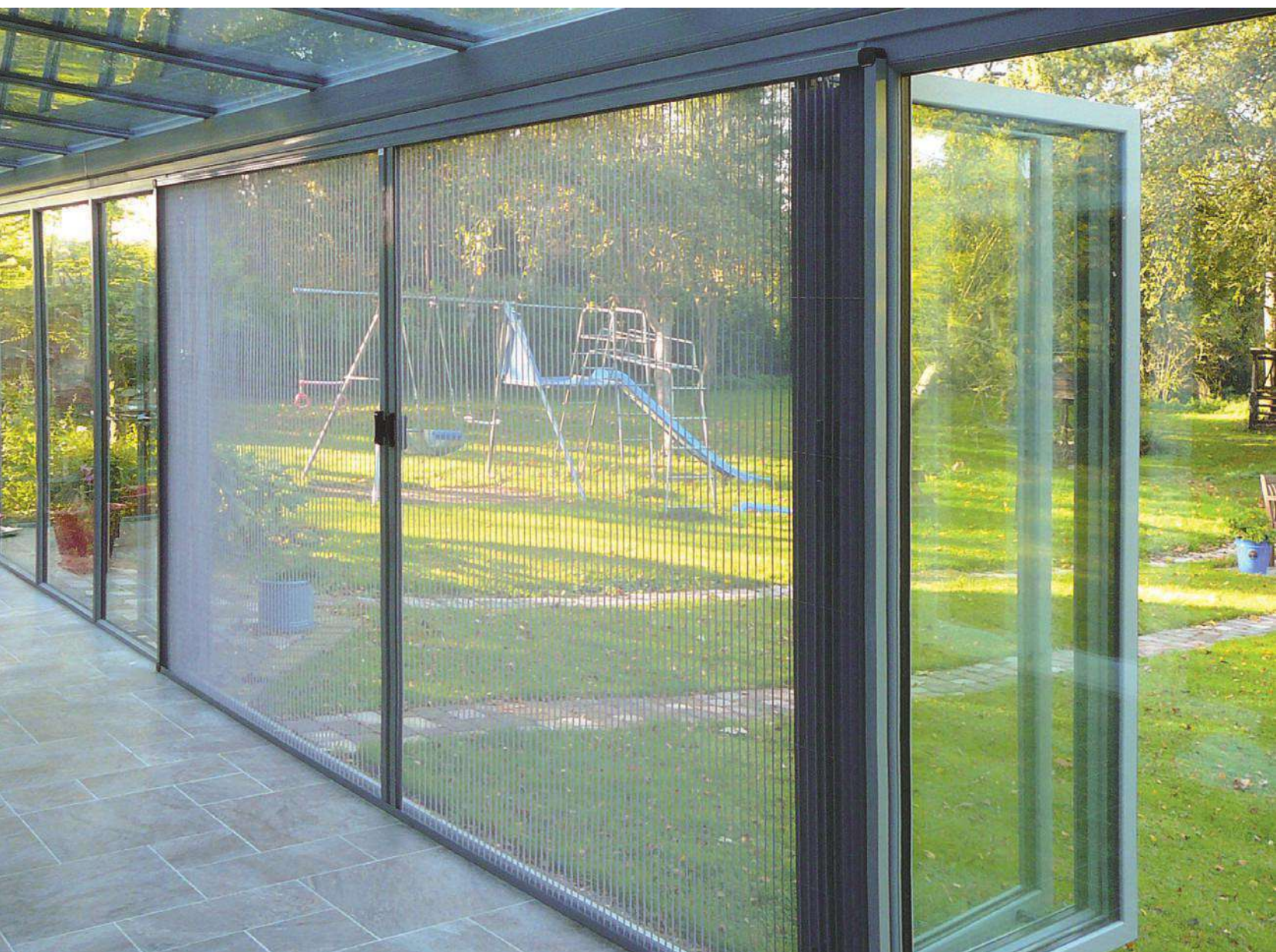
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