

**free  
car  
mag**

**Christmas  
Cracker**

SHORTLISTED  
FOR NEWSPRESS  
MAGAZINE  
OF THE YEAR  
2016 to 2018

# Dolph Lundgren is...

THE EXCAVATOR  
**in our action  
hero edition**



Plus we get a set of tyres from Falken for our Porsche, (which isn't a 911) so that we will be safe this winter...



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# This time...

All we want for Christmas is great big Volvo Excavator. We've seen what they can do and Mr. Lundgren told us they are brilliant, and who are we to argue?

What a great honour to meet an action film icon. He was very friendly indeed, down to earth and good humoured about the film he has made for Volvo Excavators. You'll be asking Santa for one too after you see the film.

Anyway our theme is appropriately action heroes and we are lucky enough to celebrate what has become the greatest Christmas film of all. Except when Free Car Mag went and saw at the Cinema in 1988 it was on Valentines Day. Now, thanks to Park Circus you will be able to see the Nakatomi Tower go up in smoke in the back row.

No, what we really want for Christmas is Kevin Costner's Tundra. It is just the perfect 4 x 4 that he designed for himself, so there seems to be just the one in circulation at the moment. We are going to start a petition to get at least one more exported to Blighty so that we can do all the exciting things that Mr. Costner does in the wilderness. Fishing, boats and generally having a great time without worrying about rush hour traffic and filter lanes.

I think that the Aston Martin DBX is a good an inevitable thing and we can't wait to have a go. Meanwhile our old Porsche equivalent just got a set of Falken SUV tyres which was a very welcome early Christmas present.

Meanwhile, have a great Christmas and see you in 2019.



## James Ruppert

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## FIVE-TIME F1 WORLD CHAMPION LEWIS HAMILTON

Congratulations to the great Lewis Hamilton on his fifth F1 World Championship. Earlier in the year Hamilton and teammate Valtteri Bottas visited Villastellone to celebrate the unveiling of PETRONAS' new \$60 million Global Research & Technology (R&T) Centre. Lewis Hamilton said: "It's been years in the making so it's great to get a feel for how this amazing facility is coming to life. PETRONAS is a central pillar of our team and every success that we earn has been achieved together. It is very important to place the achievements that we make on the track into the bigger picture, and this new facility represents the depth of technology which is the lifeblood that powers our cars"



Spotted  
out and  
about

## ENGLAND RUGBY LEAGUE + NEW DUSTERS

As England take on New Zealand some of the team's players have been getting behind the wheel of a fleet of All-New Dusters which have been loaned to them by Dacia, proud partner of England Rugby League. • The NRL stars returning from Australia for the matches against New Zealand will be driving the Dusters as the team travels between Hull, Liverpool and Leeds. The award winning All-New Duster starts at just £9,995 and features brand new exterior styling with a totally revised interior for enhanced comfort and quality. New technologies, never before available on the Dacia range also feature, such as climate control, keyless entry, blind spot warning and automatic headlights.

Duke & Duchess



## DUKE AND DUCHESS OF SUSSEX + INVICTUS GAMES

Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Sussex presented the first medals of the 2018 Invictus Games at the finale of the Jaguar Land Rover Driving Challenge. French duo Cedric Arci and Mikhail Ranchin won the first gold of the Sydney games, as they came out on top in the precision driving event. Craig McGrath and Scott Reynolds from Australia and UK pair Mark Perkins and Daniel Bingley claimed silver and bronze respectively. The Invictus Games is an international sporting event for wounded, injured or sick armed service personnel. These unconquered heroes have overcome incredible adversity to compete in this global event. HRH Prince Harry conceived the games after a visit to The Warrior Games in the USA. He witnessed how sport could help veterans physically, psychologically and socially.





Aboard a 1904 Panhard-Levassor but Driving a 1901 Wolseley on the run loaned by the British Motor Museum

## YASMIN LE BON ON THE LONDON TO BRIGHTON RUN

Speaking after the event, Yasmin Le Bon said, "I absolutely loved it," she beamed at the finish. "I was grinning from ear to ear, even in the few more gripping moments that we had. The car behaved beautifully. The crowds were just astonishing — I had no idea quite how many people come out, but I'm delighted that they do to see these incredible vehicles all together on the road. It's an extraordinary sight. What's more, I was doing the Run for a wonderful cause - men should definitely be talking together more about health issues and taking charge of their wellbeing."



SPOTTED  
OUT AND  
ABOUT

## JAMAL EDWARDS MBE + MERCEDES-BENZ X-CLASS

After successfully running the leading online youth channel SBTv for over a decade, which has helped launch and nurture the careers of Dave, Ed Sheeran, J Hus, Emeli Sande, Nines and Rita Ora amongst many others. Jamal is taking things to the next stage as he now provides unfiltered access into to his daily life through a bespoke vlog channel. It will be via this vlog that Jamal features the new X-Class, via a series of programmes specially focused on the vehicle and how it can support his work.



(Photo by Gisela Schober/Getty Images for Volkswagen)



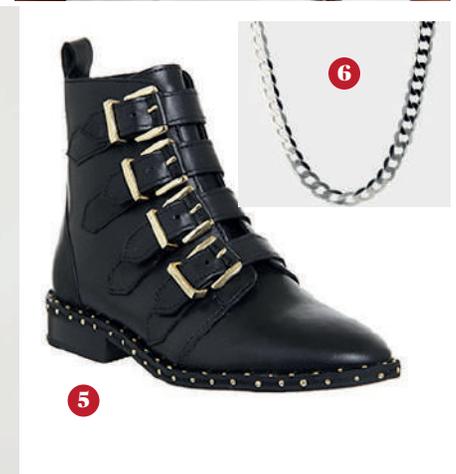
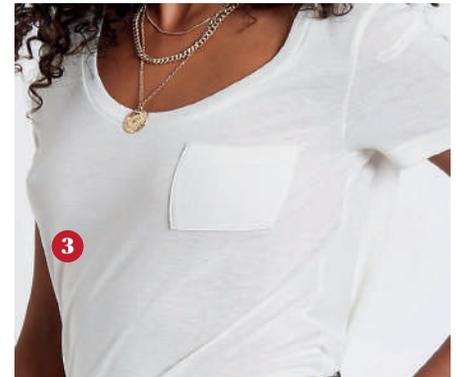
# Get the look

## CARA DELEVINGNE + VOLKSWAGEN T-CROSS

Cara Delevingne during the world premiere of the new Volkswagen T-Cross in Amsterdam. With the T-Cross, Volkswagen introduces another new SUV model: even shorter and therefore better suited to the city than the T-Roc, and even more compact than the Tiguan. Cara, who has 41 million followers on Instagram, said: "I travel all the time, so working with Volkswagen, the largest auto maker in the world, is a perfect partnership for me. The T-Cross is more than just a City-SUV – it has multiple facets (like me!), and I love how stylish it is!" Yes, but look how super stylish Cara is, let's have a go at seeing if we can match what she is wearing whilst showing off the T-Cross.

### Cara Delevingne

- 1 Volkswagen T-Cross £16,500
- 2 Jacket ASOS £38.00
- 3 White Shirt River Island £10.00
- 4 Skinny Jeans H&M £14.99
- 5 Boots Office £90.00
- 6 Chain Warren James £39.00





# Action Hero

Volvo Construction Equipment has teamed up with Swedish star Dolph Lundgren to showcase the ultimate in excavator endurance in stunt-filled mini-movie Pump It Up.

**D**olph Lundgren has starred in major Hollywood productions for more than 30 years and is currently enjoying a surge in popularity thanks to leading roles in new Hollywood blockbusters Creed II and Aquaman, both out later this year. With a background in engineering and a scholarship to the renowned US university MIT, just how well matched is he against the brains and brawn of Volvo's excavator range?

#### **What can you tell us about the shoot?**

"This job was probably the most unusual role I've ever taken on. It was fascinating to see Volvo's excavators and its skilled operators performing all the various physical exercises - with absolutely no movie stunts involved."

#### **Was it dangerous?**

The crew was very professional and safety was clearly a top priority. It's true that I had to do my own stunts (laughs). I think I need a raise next time. I was trying to stay steady on this concrete block and also deliver some dialogue, well sing a song actually, and I was thinking

'why am I doing this?' My agent was like 'oh god'! The physicality was a challenge. In Hollywood that would never have happened, I would just not have been allowed. It would be a stunt man or CGI. Then again they say 'Dolph, you don't have to do this' and obviously I am not going to chicken out of anything. But if you see behind the scenes it's clear that a lot of work had gone into making these stunts 100% safe, so why wouldn't I want to do it.

#### **Did you have a chance to operate the excavators?**

I was going to have a go, but they only had two days to shoot, so I never had the chance. We started at 4am in the morning and finished at 9pm. The last shot of me driving away in the truck was actually shot at 9pm on the last day, so it was a very tight schedule.

#### **That was an amazing location?**

The film was shot during the summer of 2018 in a gravel pit outside of Eskilstuna, Sweden - near to where Volvo CE was founded. It was the hottest couple of days that summer.



“THIS JOB WAS PROBABLY THE MOST UNUSUAL ROLE I’VE EVER TAKEN ON. IT WAS FASCINATING TO SEE VOLVO’S EXCAVATORS AND ITS SKILLED OPERATORS PERFORMING ALL THE PHYSICAL EXERCISES”



<https://youtu.be/zGix74iuHQE>

# Dolph vs Diggers

**But you had a good time?**

It was fun and it was a good experience. My first big commercial and maybe I will do more. As long as I make them big and strong and Swedish like this one. There was a nice tone between comedy and seriousness and also being instructive. It is a bit like a Clint Eastwood picture, like something out of Dirty Harry – being dead serious but smirking at the same time. It is not that easy to get the tone right and be tongue-in-cheek, as you don't want to oversell the joke too much. It is all about the editing and they did a really good job with this. Maybe I will get more movie roles because of this ad.

**You have a history with Volvo?**

Being born in Sweden, I have a long relationship with this classic Swedish brand. As a young boy, I rode in the back of my dad's Volvo. To me, Volvo represents some great Scandinavian values, like clean design, excellent quality and a true care for the environment.

**Which Volvo did your dad have? Was it an Amazon?**

I can't remember the model, but it was gold with brown leather. Then when I moved back to Sweden in the mid 90s, when my kids were born, I spent 5 years there and had two Volvos. I ended up giving them away – one to my brother and the other to someone else. Some of the SUVs look really good. I have been thinking about getting one of those to go around in when I'm in the States. They look lush and luxurious and I believe they make them in North Carolina now. My first car was a Volvo and in the States I had a Jeep. I think it got stolen.

**Are you thinking of getting a Volvo Excavator?**

(Laughs) I don't know if I have the space for an excavator. Hey maybe I

could get a small one, like the one I was picking on in the film, for where I live in Spain. Yes, let's get one of those. I can have some real fun with that.

**Dolph Lundgren, thank you for talking to Free Car Mag.**





# The Excavators

In this film you will see Volvo Construction Equipment's full range of excavators – from the 1.5 ton EC15E to the giant 75 ton EC750E all doing extraordinary things.

**V**olvo excavators deliver maximum power and performance in all applications – from site preparation, trenching and excavation to demolition, truck loading and more. On crawler tracks or on the road, compact or larger in size, your Volvo excavator will enhance your profitability. Volvo excavators include dependable Volvo engines for class-leading fuel economy and Volvo Care Cabs to reduce operator fatigue and increase productivity. These machines are equipped with highly responsive advanced hydraulics and versatile quick fit systems for easy bucket and tool change out.

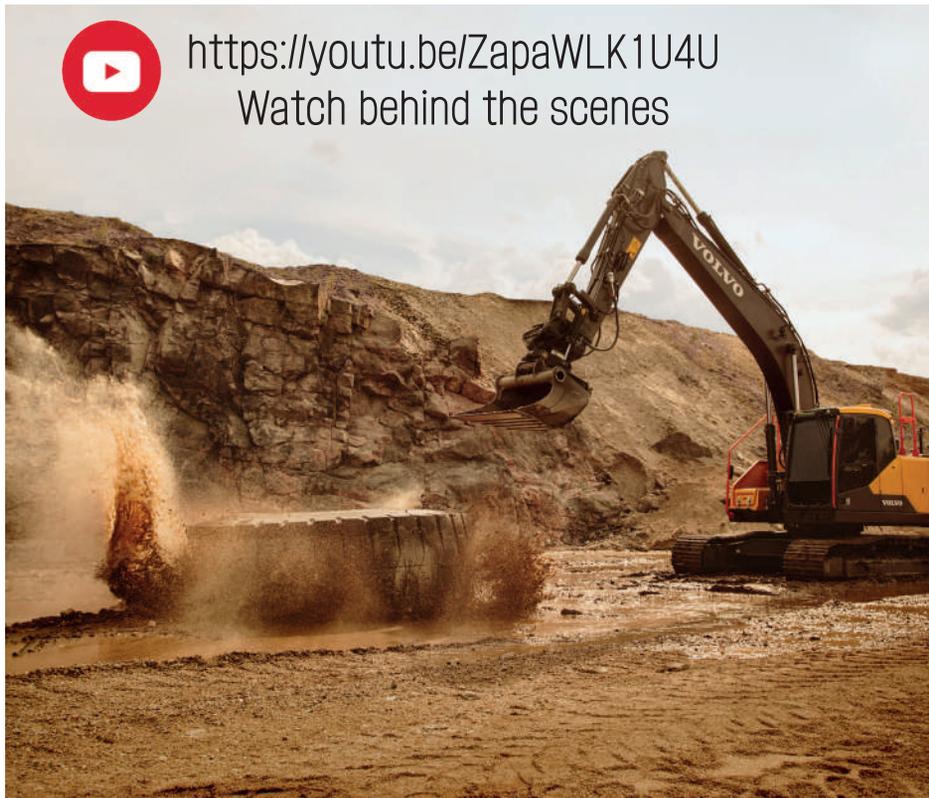
Every machine is installed with industry-leading Volvo Care Cab which features excellent all-round visibility, ergonomic controls and a comfortable, spacious interior.

Boasting more than 180 years of manufacturing heritage, the company has become one of the major global construction equipment manufacturers. The full range of Volvo excavators, which represent the biggest share of the company's business, offer the broadest possible options for any job.



<https://youtu.be/ZapaWLK1U4U>

Watch behind the scenes



## Dolph vs Diggers





# Tower of Lundgren

Take *The Tower* on ITV4 draws inspiration from classic Hollywood action movies to create a challenge show like no other and it stars Dolph Lundgren.

**D**olph Lundgren challenges a team to a series of games inspired by classic action movies. We'll see our teams navigating across a touch sensitive alarmed floor, through steep, slippery vents and out of a malfunctioning lab. They'll be chained to a malfunctioning boiler system and trapped in an exploding toilet. They'll be taking paintball bullets from their friends and they'll be facing Dolph in a shoot out.

#### **Dolph, what can viewers expect from *Take The Tower*?**

"It was a unique concept that suited me pretty well. When I spoke to the director, he wanted to make it light and comedic, which I thought was good as I don't get a lot of chance to do that. I know the Brits are the best comedians – they write very funny comedies, so I thought I'd give it a shot."

#### **Can you tell us about the missions?**

"The missions take place in the tower, finishing off in my penthouse. Expect a different challenge on every level. You've got strategic missions, physical tests, and plenty of movie quizzes thrown in. You've got friends, family and couples together and it's completely unpredictable how they will pool their knowledge and work together. It's fast paced, adrenalin filled and will have you totally glued to your screen."

#### **In the series, you are challenged against the contestants. Can you tell us about that? How did you fare?**

"It was tough for me! I'd just arrived from LA and was jet lagged! I felt the pressure. I had to live up to my image! I think the results were pretty good – I won some, I lost some – and some were very close. If I'd won all of them no one would have won any prizes which would have been sad. *The Duel* is very quick and based on reaction time and co-ordination.

When the contestants first meet me on the show, it's on camera. They step out of this elevator and there I am, in all my glory in my suit looking bad-ass in my penthouse, staring them down with no emotion, so some of them got a little shaky! On the whole, we got on well and it was all in good humour."

#### **What were your stand out moments from shooting the series?**

"I liked some of the opening monologues – they were quite funny and well-written. There was one or two teams where it was heart breaking when they lost when they'd done really well. I beat them at the end – and I felt sorry for them! There was one team I invited to the premier of *Creed 2* – so I guess I will see those guys again soon."

#### **As an action movie hero, did you learn anything from the series yourself?!**

"Being the host of a show is demanding, especially delivering tongue in cheek monologues. It's not something I do every day. It's always great to be close to your fans. To do something together with them, to share something – especially some kind of contest. I kind of appreciate my role as an actor and an entertainer to make people feel good. That's what I have done for years now and it feels nice to get the rewards of it."

#### **What other projects are you working on at the moment – what's up next for you?**

"I've finished two pictures, coming up this year – one is *Creed 2*, a boxing movie with Sylvester Stallone, a sequel to *Creed* and to the *Rocky* series. That's coming out in November. Then there's another picture called *Aquaman*. Right now I'm in Rome, directing a picture, a small movie I've wanted to do for many years, a psychological drama."

Action Hero

IN CINEMAS  
SO CHECK OUT  
PARK CIRCUS  
WEBSITE FOR  
DETAILS.

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# *Yippee-Ki-Yay*

This is brilliant news, just in time for Christmas we can go and see Die Hard in a cinema thanks to Park Circus. It is of course the greatest action and indeed Christmas film ever made.



Starring Bruce Willis and Alan Rickman. Die Hard will celebrate its 30th anniversary with screenings at cinemas from 7th December across the UK, Ireland and in selected international territories.

**F**ree Car Mag have our Christmas treat sorted out. It is a magnificent film in so many ways and the appearance of a Mercedes Benz E Class is just the icing on an action packed cake. Just in case you wondered what it is all about and who stars in it...

This 1988 genre-defining action classic Die Hard, stars Bruce Willis and Alan Rickman. Considered by many as the quintessential action movie, Die Hard will celebrate its 30th anniversary with screenings at cinemas from 7 December across the UK, Ireland and in selected international territories. The employees of the Nakatomi Corporation have their festive soirée interrupted by the arrival of a group of well organised, well-armed – and well-dressed – criminals headed up by a charismatic mastermind who starts making terrorist demands and performs a little corporate restructuring with devastating consequences.



[www.parkcircus.com/now\\_showing](http://www.parkcircus.com/now_showing)

# Untouchable

Kevin Costner  
**TUNDRA**



Costner started with a Platinum Tundra but raised the suspension by four and a half inches and fitted bigger tyres. Up front there is a bull bar, winch and LED lights. On top is a custom roof rack that holds his boat. There are sidesteps, lockable storage and a dual climate fridge inside, an exterior sunshade and probably lots more. We love the external mounted petrol cans though. Tell us more Kevin...

*“The truck I had my eye on was a Toyota ...I didn’t want to talk about it...I really wanted to show how it works in my life... I didn’t want it to look tough, it needed to be tough. It worked for me, but more importantly it worked for my wife...I have three kids, 8, 9 and 11 and the way we live our life is in the outdoors. So everything designed on that truck was to carry a lot, mainly the fun stuff. The toys are all inside. My truck, my Toyota takes me right to the edge and right to the middle. When that truck empties we start to play...I don’t know how to sell a car, but I know how to buy one...This truck goes everywhere I go and it is everywhere I am...”*





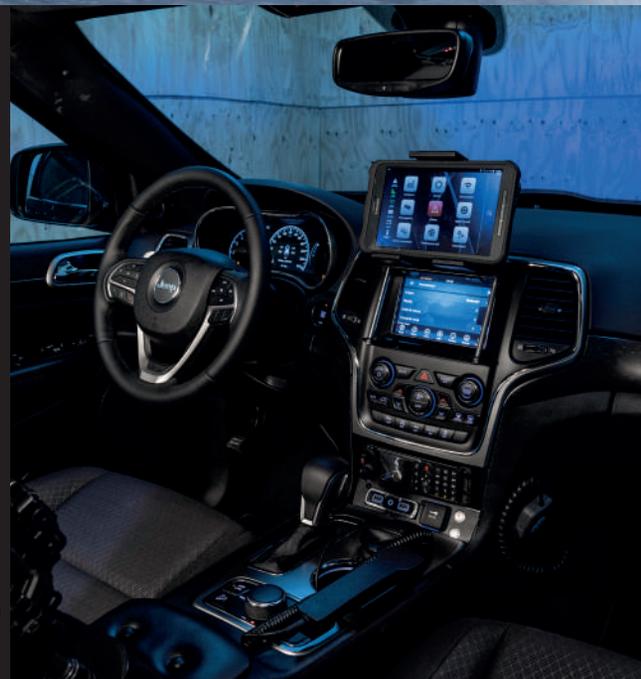
# TERRORFIRMA



19 Jeep Grand Cherokees have joined the Carabinieri in Italy to fight terrorism in their specialist unit and powered by the 190-hp 3.0-litre V-6 Multijet diesel engine,



THESE CHEROKEES ARE ARMORED, INCLUDING THE WINDSCREEN AND SIDE WINDOWS, TYRES AND BODY. THE SUSPENSION COMPONENTS WERE REINFORCED TO ENHANCE ON-ROAD HANDLING CAPABILITIES. FEATURE ALL-NEW BLUE LED FLASHERS ON THE TAILGATE POSITIONED BY THE SIDES OF THE LICENSE PLATE. IN THE CABIN, THEY ARE EQUIPPED WITH THE ADVANCED TECHNOLOGICAL SYSTEMS USED BY THE FORCE, SUCH AS THE ODINO SYSTEM WHICH CONNECTS IN REAL TIME TO THE JOINT DATABASES OF THE ITALIAN POLICE, THE VEHICLE REGISTRATION AUTHORITIES AND ANIA. THE SYSTEM RUNS ON A 7" ANDROID TABLET AND IS CONVENIENTLY PLACED ON SLIDING TRACKS LOCATED ON THE DASHBOARD.



## Aston Martin DBX

Aston Martin Lagonda President and Group Chief Executive Officer, Andy Palmer said: "Seeing a DBX development prototype in action is a momentous chapter in the story of our first SUV, for it is the moment it really comes alive. DBX is so much more than 'just' an SUV; it will be the first model built at our brand-new facility in St Athan. As such, it is very much the start of a bold new era in the company's long history."



# DBXtra





ASTON MARTIN'S  
FIRST SUV  
COMING IN LATE  
2019



The DBX is scheduled to be unveiled in the last quarter of 2019 and will be built at Aston Martin Lagonda's St Athan facility; a state-of-the-art luxury manufacturing plant that will ultimately become the 'Home of Electrification' when the marque's fully-EV models enter production.

Speaking of his drive of the DBX development prototype, Aston Martin Chief Engineer, Matt Becker, said: 'We have already developed and tuned DBX in the driving simulator, which has enabled us to make excellent progress in advance of the first physical prototype cars being available. Still, it's always a big day when you get to put the first actual miles on an early prototype and I'm delighted with the near perfect correlation between the simulator and this prototype. As an engineer, it's genuinely exciting to get a feel for the car you're working to create. The DBX is a very different kind of Aston Martin, but we will be testing it in all conditions and across all terrains to ensure it delivers a driving experience worthy of the wings badge'



TAGHEUER.COM  
£5250

# Special Edition

The second watch of the collaboration between two of the most iconic brands in motor racing was revealed to with the global release of the TAG Heuer Carrera Calibre Heuer 01 Aston Martin Special Edition. Inspired by the geometric shapes of an Aston Martin sports car, the new watch draws a direct vision from the colours, shapes, patterns and materials of an Aston Martin, and reflects the automotive spirit of the partnership.

The 45mm solid steel case boasts a ceramic black brushed tachymeter bezel with Aston Martin engraving and features lines on the side to evoke speed, the race track and pistons. The manufacture movement is visible through the dial, which is skeletonised in a hexagonal pattern that recalls the details on the new Vantage. Also, exclusive to this timepiece is the reshaped lugs, which were inspired by the iconic lines of Aston Martin's beautiful bodywork. It is a watch with presence that is the perfect reflection of the expertise and technical mastery arising from the partnership between the two brands.





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# Alpine Blast

**A**vailable as an accessory with the new Alpine A110 car. Convenience is central to this watch: its case can be easily detached from its bracelet and affixed to the supporting frame, made from a special aluminium, which is attached to the car's multimedia screen, so the driver can comfortably see the time while on the road. The impressive Valjoux A05.H31 movement, as complex as a fine car-engine, equips this high-end model. Its case makes the watch easy to handle, especially when removed from the wrist and placed upon the Alpine A110's dashboard. The dial subtly recalls the counters in the famed 'Berlinette' of the sixties and seventies. Design elements taken from the Tissot PRS 516, including the hands, piston-shaped push-buttons and perforated leather bracelet, give this watch an athletic, stylish air worthy of a gentleman driver. This three-hand watch can be easily removed from its bracelet and affixed upon the Alpine A110's dashboard thanks to a support made from a special aluminium. The generously sized case makes it easy to see the time while driving. It is every Alpine-driver's essential item..



# TYRED + TESTED

Free Car Mag ran an old Porsche Cayenne and when it needed new tyres we spoke to the experts at Falken Tyres about what would be best for a fairly heavy and quite powerful SUV. Luckily they had the answer. Here's the story so far...



Falken created the FK510 SUV, a tyre specifically for SUVs. It's important to use a tyre with the correct load and speed rating and not use an everyday car tyre.

Design changes for an SUV tyre include the casing design that ensures precise handling even during sudden load shifts while driving. A more circular casing makes the sidewall more compliant and more comfortable.

The FK510 SUV version caters for performance drivers too; the AZENIS FK510 SUV is equipped with Adaptive Constant Pressure (ACP) technology, and has a tyre tread that maximises consistent pressure distribution across the contact patch. The ACP tread increases braking performance, directional stability and overall driving dynamics. More Falken Tyre news in the next issue.



# FINALLY WINTER!



**EUROWINTER | HS01**

High-end winter tyre generation with state-of-the-art technology. 'Miura-Ori' 3D sipe technology, 4D nano design compound and micro-optimised stiffening of the tread blocks combine satisfying winter characteristics with low noise and outstanding performance in wet conditions.

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

**FALKEN**  
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Duncan McClure Fisher  
Founder and CEO

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Duncan McClure Fisher  
Founder and CEO

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## JLR to cure Travel Sickness

**motion sickness potentially reduced by 60 per cent**

**M**otion sickness affects over 70% of people. Spencer Salter, wellness technology researcher at Jaguar Land Rover, points out that previously “little has been known about the causes and how to mitigate them”.

Now, through its industry-leading motion sickness research, Jaguar Land Rover has created an algorithm that generates a ‘wellness score’ for each passenger. This can be used to automatically personalise a vehicle’s driving and cabin settings to reduce the effects of feeling car sick by up to 60%.

Jaguar Land Rover has already collected 15,000 miles of motion sickness data and tested the effects caused by performing a task while in transit, such as checking emails. This has enabled the creation of a baseline driving style for self-driving vehicles to work towards, minimising the need for steering corrections and therefore the risk of motion sickness while passengers work or relax.

Salter explains: “As we move towards an autonomous future where occupants

will have more time to either work, read or relax on longer journeys, it’s important we develop vehicles that can adapt to reduce the effects of motion sickness in a way that’s tailored to each passenger.”

Motion sickness is often caused when the eyes observe information that is different from what is sensed by the inner ear, skin or body forces – commonly when reading.

The ‘wellness score’ calculates how susceptible individual drivers and passengers are to feeling car sick, using biometric sensors that record physiological signals. Combining this with motion and dynamics data, the vehicle will reliably know when a passenger or driver is becoming motion sick – before they do.

The first phase of the research completes this month. The findings are already being implemented into further projects across research ensuring Jaguar Land Rover can create the ultimate personalised cabin experience for its customers in future vehicles.

## WINTER MOTORING QUOTES

**“Being faced with driving on icy roads and in poor visibility makes it more important than ever for motorists to make sure that their car is in full working order,”**

Alex Sheilds, Vauxhall’s Head of Aftersales Marketing on their £25 25-point check including free gift

**“The last thing anyone needs is to break down on a chilly morning. Prevention is always better than cure, so by paying some attention to a few winter maintenance needs, you will greatly reduce the risk of a breakdown in the coming months.”**

GEM road safety officer Neil Worth

**“Insurethebox data shows that accident risk increases as a direct result of the clocks going back. For many young drivers, the evenings after the clock change will be their first experience of driving in the dark, coping with different conditions like reduced visibility.”**

Sarah Vaughan, Head of Pricing at insurethebox.



Have your say @freecarmag1



**LAND ROVER CELEBRATES 70 YEARS:** A unique Land Rover Defender Works V8 is now on permanent display in the new Designer Street Room at Selfridges' flagship department store in London, having been inserted through a first-floor window and reassembled on the menswear floor. Created as a one-off vehicle, the Selfridges Edition is based on the 405PS Defender Works V8 – 70th Edition and features a number of bespoke elements, including Bronze Green paint, a branded hood in trademark Selfridges yellow, retro-style seats with custom stitching, and unique Selfridges badging.



# SWAROVSKI® + BENZ

Sparkling crystals have always captivated women and given them a sensual radiance. Mercedes-Benz has joined forces with the Austrian crystal maker Swarovski® to develop a collection of jewellery, watches, and personal accessories that combine ultimate quality with sophisticated design and is aimed at the fashion-conscious women.

The Mercedes-Benz and Swarovski® brands share key attributes when it comes to their premium products: an attention to detail, the use of only the highest-quality materials, and pioneering designs. These values are reflected in each piece of the collection that the two traditional-rich companies have designed for “Her” with high standards.

The elegant key ring in the rose gold collection meanwhile has an oval embellished by a wealth of black Swarovski®

Crystal Fine Rocks and features a flat split ring with three additional mini split rings for quick removal and changing of individual keys. silver Milano key rings with a pendant in the form of a loop in red or black Alcantara®, which are adorned with a silver Mercedes star and a wealth of small Swarovski® Fine Crystal Rocks. St. Tropez key ring model boasts a round star badge with a background jewelled in black, blue, white, or red crystals. These models have a high-quality flat split ring with three additional mini split rings, too. The Classic Glamour watch model with stainless-steel case and calfskin strap has a black dial that boasts eight white Swarovski® crystals as hour indices and a sparkling circle of black Swarovski® Crystal Fine Rocks in the centre below the silver luminous hands.

[www.mercedes-benz.com/fashion](http://www.mercedes-benz.com/fashion)



Wanted

# MHD Watches

## SHELSLEY WALSH HILL CLIMB AND MHD WATCHES IN TIMING PARTNERSHIP

Timing is everything as Shelsley Walsh linked up in 2018 with Matthew Humphries Design Watches as timing partner for the world's oldest motorsport venue still on its original course. With the very basis of speed hill climbing about timing and the design of MHD Watches being centred around futuristic automotive forms, it continues the 'Speed History Future Records' embodiment to Shelsley and its heritage. Matthew Humphries of MHD Watches said, "I see Shelsley Walsh as the birth place of British motorsport and there is no better place in the UK to come see such a huge variety of modern, classic and vintage machines in one location. I find this variety of machines a great inspiration for car and watch design work."

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**Toyota + Arctic trucks produce this limited edition**

## INVINCIBLE 50TH

This special edition has been engineered in partnership with Arctic Trucks, the Iceland-based specialists in extreme terrain driving. Appropriately, just 50 individually numbered examples will be available for UK customers.

The modifications include a performance suspension system by Arctic Trucks and Bilstein. The new 16 x 7.5 ET05 alloy wheels are specific to the Invincible 50, finished in satin black with a machined lip and fitted with 265/75R16 BF Goodrich KO2 all-terrain tyres. The special wheel and tyre combination gives Hilux even greater off-road capability, with more ground clearance (the vehicle is raised by 40mm at the front and 20mm at the rear), added articulation and increased approach and departure angles. This is not to the detriment of smooth and confident on-road performance.

Free Car Mag have an inkling that they have all been sold by the time you read this.

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**Funky family SUV is super safe**

## CITROËN C5 AIRCROSS SUV

There is a lot of fresh tech and equipment. It has an 12.3-inch digital instrument cluster and the latest 8-inch HD touchscreen as standard, it also features ConnectedCAM Citroën® and Wireless Smartphone Charging. There is an array of 20 safety and driver assistance technologies, including Advanced Active Safety Brake, Active Lane Departure Warning and Active Blind Spot Monitoring, all of which are standard equipment. Available in three highly specified trim levels Feel, Flair and Flair Plus, New C5 Aircross is powered by a range of efficient, high-performance PureTech petrol and BlueHDi diesel engines, and offers the latest generation EAT8 fully automatic gearbox. On the outside, we rather like the Airbump® panels, large wheels, ground clearance of 230mm and distinctive roof bars. Inside the cabin, there are Advanced Comfort seats, a wide and tall central console and soft, warm materials. It is comfortable and practical, just the way that Free Car Mag like it.

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**Perky Hatch with a dash of Griffin**

## VAUXHALL CORSA GRIFFIN

As standard, it features 16-inch gloss black alloy wheels complemented by a black roof, door mirrors and front grille logo bar, matching the dark tinted rear windows. All Corsa Griffin models are fitted with a set of unique 'Griffin' badges on the front wings of the car and a set of 'Griffin' branded floor mats for the driver and front passenger. Extra features equipped as standard include satellite navigation, front fog lights, air conditioning, heated front seats, leather-trimmed and heated steering wheel, automatic lights and wipers and an automatic anti-dazzle rear view mirror. Customers can select any of four Corsa Griffin models, either in three or five door body style, with a 1.4-litre petrol engine rated at 75PS or 90PS. That's our sort of not actually mythical creature.

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Neil Bradbury is excited about the 70th anniversary of the Land Rover and would love to buy a Defender.



## A CAR FOR THE HEAD LAND ROVER 90

Land Rovers for both head and heart this time. A more recent Defender is only slightly more comfy and has just a few more creature comforts than the original. If Neil is not familiar with early vehicles then this is the best compromise and it is possible to pay huge sums, into six figures for a 'modernised' model. Instead I found a restored 1989 V8 powered 90 model. Finished in black with period Land Rover Vogue wheels and sold privately it isn't fuel efficient, but cost £9995.

## A CAR FOR THE HEART LAND ROVER SERIES 3

When it was first shown in 1948 it was designed purely as an agricultural vehicle. There were no decorative elements, everything from the hinges and rivets were there to do a job. That is why it is a design icon and why Neil should seek out a very tidy Series 3 model which was made right up until 1984. We found a 1977 example with 61,000 miles and its second owner. It had been lightly restored. Replacing some suspension and floorpan. It cost £8250 with a full MOT.

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# SUPER COUPÉ



Alan Miller's Toyota Celica needs work to get through the MOT, should he repair or replace? His car is worth around £1500.



## A CAR FOR THE HEAD CITROEN C4

The question I asked Alan is, does he like the car? If he does, then he should sort it out provided the cost isn't prohibitive. Let's assume that Alan wants another sports coupe and only wants to pay £2000. In that case let's take a look at a model that looks more like a conventional hatchback although it is called a coupe. The Citroen C4 1.6 VTR is a good looking model that is comfortable, affordable and Alan can buy a 2007 model for just over £1500. Comes with lots of extras and a dealer warranty.

## A CAR FOR THE HEART AUDI TT

What sort of really exciting and truly lovable coupe could we buy for £2000. Well, it has been around for quite a few years but no one ever tires of looking at the superbly styled and fantastically well-finished Audi TT. Here is a model that if looked after will become one of those modern classics that will eventually go up in value. I think that a Quattro model would be best, all the better to cope with the winter. I found a 2000 1.8T Quattro at £1895. Last owner since 2004 and lots of service history. Perfect.



# RX7th Heaven

If Zanussi ever built a sports car it might just resemble an RX7. The Mazda RX7 is where the appliance of automotive science has never been more dramatically executed. This Mazda is not just another Japanese coupe, it is the most radical, exciting and underrated performance car ever conceived. The Mazda RX7 is the only sports car with a rotary-engined spin cycle and one of the most misunderstood used motors of our time.

Well you can't blame the buying public for being reluctant to take the Wankel engine concept to their hearts. The NSU Ro80 was not a good advertisement, but that was over 30 years ago. In the meantime Mazda got the Wankel's act together and a large dose of Japanese quality control ironed out all the bugs. Indeed, the rotary's reliability was tested under the severest conditions when Mazda used it in competition in the late 80's and early 90's. That successful spell included an outright win in the 1991 Le Mans 24-hour race. You have to applaud the bravery of Mazda for sticking with the concept which makes any RX refreshingly different to drive and live with.

So what does an RX7 do for you? Well firstly it is gorgeous to look at. It has curves in all the right places and the

punching supercar performance to go with the sensational styling. 150 mph and 0 to 60 mph in 6 seconds is very serious stuff. The 13B-REW engine in the third-generation RX-7, launched in late 1991, was a completely redesigned unit, with numerous internal and external modifications and improvements. The REW suffix indicates that it is a rotary engine supercharged by twin, sequential turbochargers. It was the world's first such turbo installation. The engine produced 255 bhp at 6500 rpm and 217 lb. ft. of torque at 5000 rpm. Two years later, power output was increased to 265 bhp. The RX7 always has been tremendous value for money. The secret is buying a decent example, then being committed to keeping it that way with the correct servicing schedule. They need TLC, but once an RX7 is running sweetly you will be in love.



The original RX-7 'FB' in 1978 was a huge success. More than 470,000 were sold before the second generation 'FC' model was introduced with turbo power in 1985. The third generation 'FD' followed in 1992 until production of the iconic RX-7 ended in 2002. The RX-7 took overall victory in the 1981 Spa 24 hours, competed at Le Mans, took part in the awe-inspiring world of Group B rallying and claimed the 1980 and 1981 BTCC titles. In the USA, the RX-7 took an unmatched 100 wins in 12 years of IMSA competition and won the GTU class at the 1979 Daytona 24 hours. To mark the 40th anniversary of the Mazda RX-7, Mazda brought together all three generations of the sports car in a film <https://youtu.be/jaOtLK4hDF8>



Have your say  @Bangernomics

 YouTube





# supercar spincycle



There's an awful lot to love about the RX-7 but be careful when you go shopping for one



## WHAT TO LOOK FOR...

**Engine:** Carbon deposits within the combustion chambers can be fatal to a rotary engine. If the deposits build up, a chunk can come loose and jam between rotor and housing. So a low mileage, untaxed, unexercised RX7 could be storing up problems. There is no generally agreed life of a rotary unit, but they can fail below 70,000 miles. Most commonly it is 'O' ring failure, pretty much the equivalent of a normal engine's head gasket. Overheating is the main problem see further. If the engine needs rebuilding, expect to pay around £3000.00 plus fitting.

**Cooling System:** The thing about the RX7 engine is that it can appear to run perfectly normally yet be about to expire. Overheating is certainly one cause of engine failure. There was a coolant specific recall in some markets involving the replacement of some parts with stronger/more heat resistant materials and lowering the pressure of the cooling system from 1.3 bar to .9 bar.

**Fuel System:** Another recall saw that the fuel lines were replaced under the intake manifold with lines made from a more heat resistant material, and adding a fan control unit that runs the cooling fans if the coolant gets too hot.

**Brakes:** Brake discs warp from excessive heat. Too many emergency stops cause this, listen for clicks under soft braking.

**Battery:** Can fail quickly due to excessive heat and that can mean acid leaks, so look for damage around the bay and tray.

**Bodywork:** Paint chipping and fading was a problem on some RX7s. In this country though the main problem has been sub standard accident repair. The level of Toyota finish is very high, so watch out for bodykit and custom paint job disguises.



# Brickie

Wish we had one of these full scale models, added to our list...

**H**.R. Owen Bugatti in Mayfair has welcomed the UK debut of the world's only life-size Bugatti Chiron built entirely from LEGO Technic. The 1,000,000-piece drivable car was joined by a real-life 261mph, 1500hp Bugatti Chiron supplied by H.R. Owen Bugatti.

As the UK's only Bugatti partner, H.R. Owen Bugatti is uniquely positioned to sell and service hypercars from the iconic French manufacturer, and is the only place in the UK where buyers can see the latest Bugatti range. It's the perfect first stop on the LEGO Technic Bugatti Chiron's UK tour.

Photographed side-by-side, the LEGO Bugatti and its real-life counterpart are a near-perfect visual match, but while the drivable LEGO Technic has a theoretical output of 5.3hp and top speed of 18mph, the real Chiron boasts 1500hp and is electronically limited to 261mph.

Having made its debut at H.R. Owen Bugatti, the LEGO Technic Chiron and real-life Bugatti Chiron made their way on to the iconic Savoy Hotel, before embarking on a tour of three further locations throughout the UK.



# Check these out



## THE MOTORING PODCAST

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

Just in case you wondered, Motoring Podcast is the weekly audio podcast by Alan Bradley and Andrew Clews that shares car and motoring news and opinion in 40 to 60 minute episodes. We actually listen to it in the Free Car Mag fleet, they make journeys a lot more enjoyable and we feel a lot better informed when it is over. Sign up for the podcast and much more.



## SPANNER ADDICTS

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

First it was the videos that we really responded to. The Spanners know their stuff and can fix just about everything. Then they have brought out a free magazine The Spanner Report, which really annoyed us, because it is so good. Subscribe to their popular YouTube channel because there is a wealth of experience and entertainment.



## SALVAGE HUNTERS CLASSIC

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

We love this TV show and the great news is that it is coming back in 2019 and we hope to have an interview with the lads. The classics are great and the buying scenarios are ones you can identify with. Salvage aficionado, Drew Pritchard teams up with Turbo Pickers' Paul Cowland for a motoring mission. They scour the UK, buying, restoring and selling classic cars.



## SLICK ATTIRE

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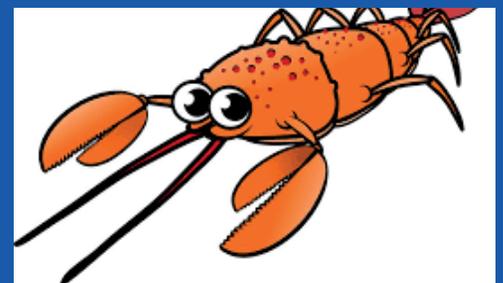
We love a good T-shirt and the great thing about Slick is that they have designs which you won't see anywhere else. These are high quality Tees which will make you considerably more handsomer...



## 5054 MOTIVE CULTURE

[www.5054magazine.co.uk](http://www.5054magazine.co.uk)

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## LOBSTER DIECAST

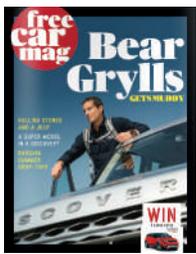
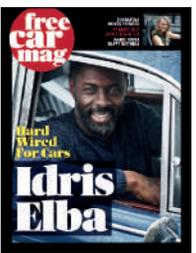
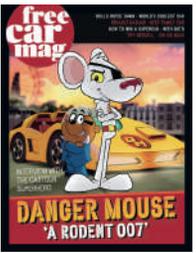
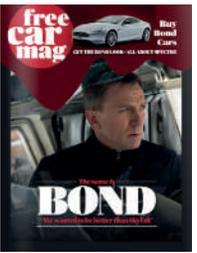
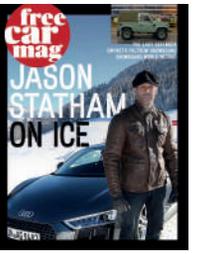
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# FCM 67

It will be 2019 and Car Telly is getting better and better. The Salvage Hunter Blokes are back looking for classics and so is Wheeler Dealers. We have also had a chat with Alex Riley who with Vicki Butler Henderson will be launching The Car Years, so there is a lot to look forward to.



						
						
						
						
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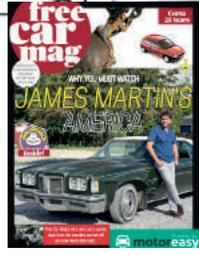
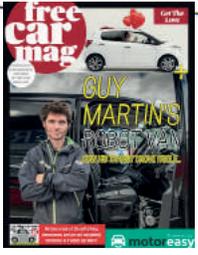
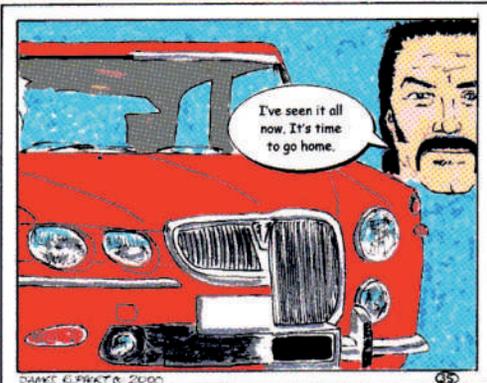
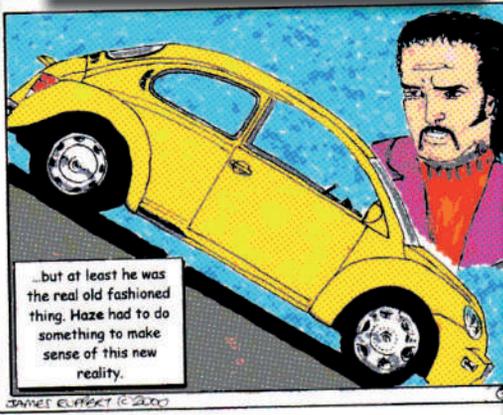
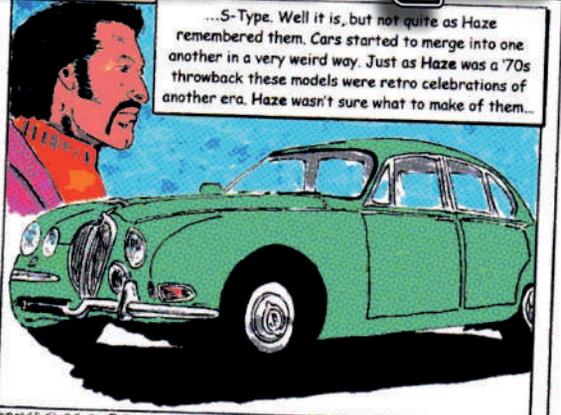
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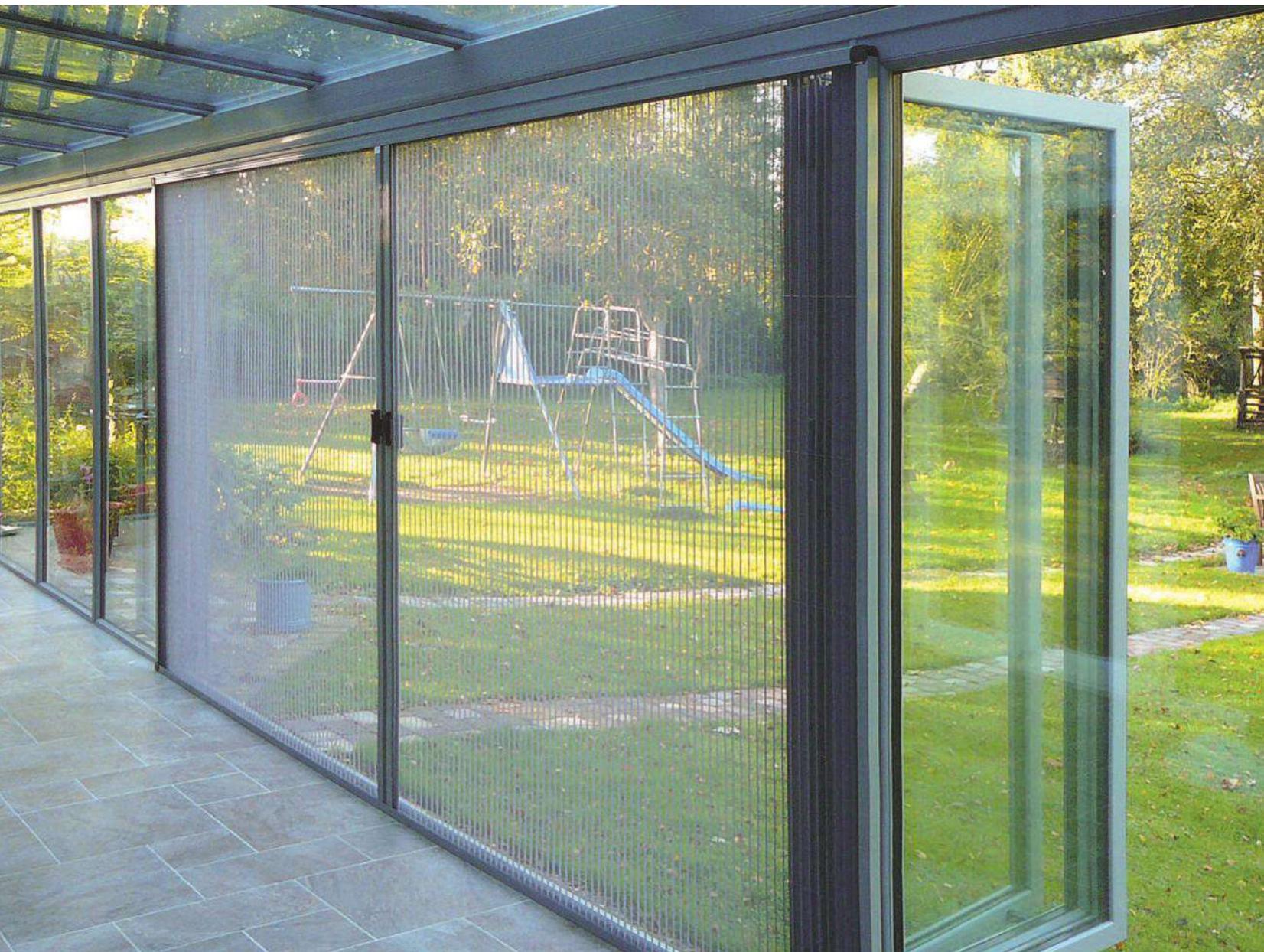


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