

free
car
mag

Get The
Look...



Zombie Land Rover Defender



Which motors will survive the **Zombiepocalypse?**

+ rules of **Zombieland Double Tap**

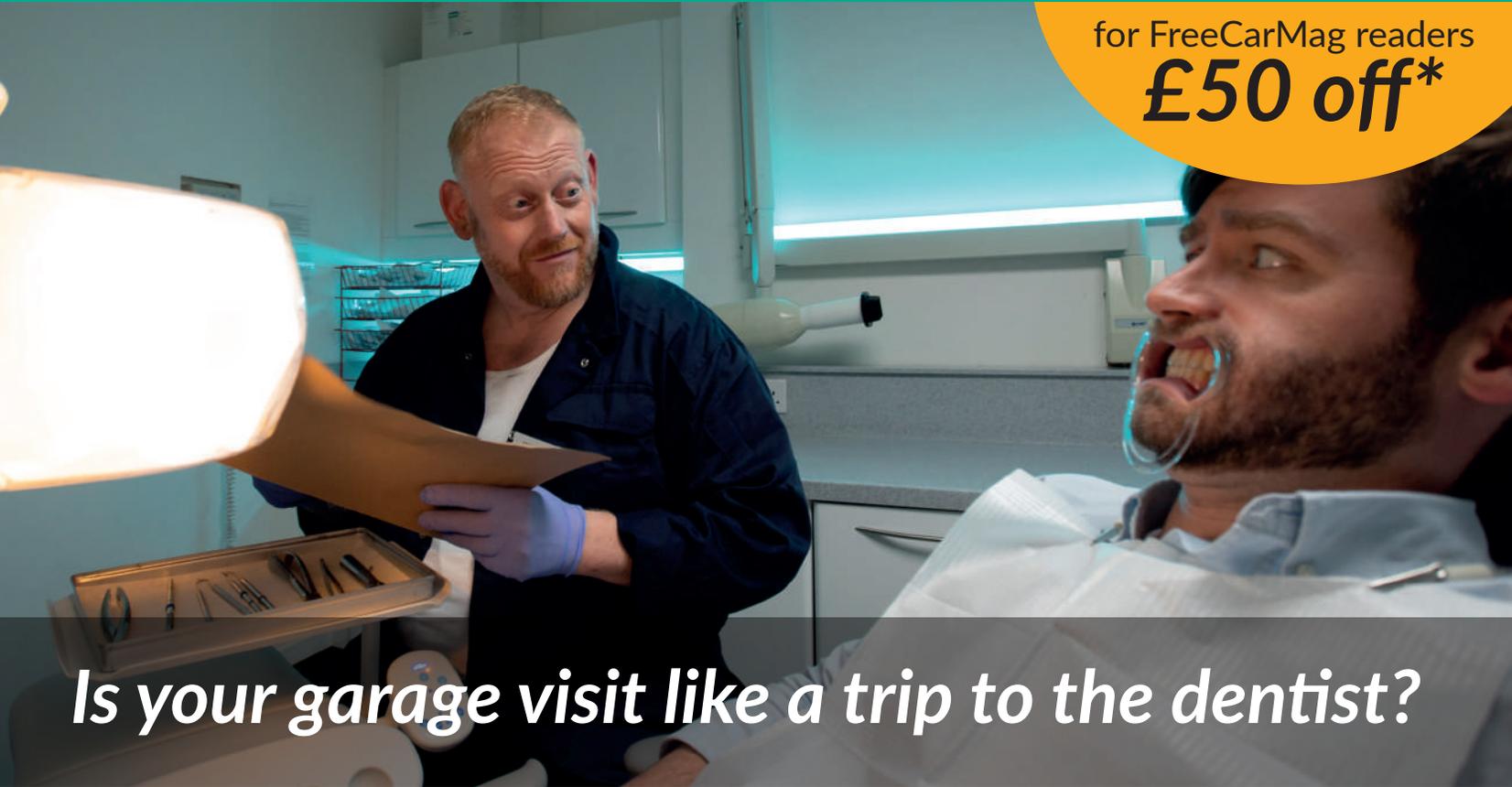


We talk to Supercar Blondie in an interview that just missed the last issue, so it is worth catching up with her in the Mag and on Insight TV



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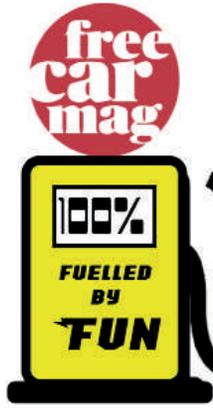
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Duncan McClure Fisher, Founder and CEO

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freetorial

Welcome to the Zombie issue. We liked *Zombieland* when it came out and the latest *Double Tap* one looks like fun, not least because it seems to feature monster trucks.

That got us thinking, just what vehicles could you go and buy today which would survive a Zomboid emergency? As a result we decided to use that as an excuse to cover the New Defender. We have not driven it and because we've got a really old one, maybe never will. It looks interesting if expensive though. Go and spec one up for yourself as that costs nothing.

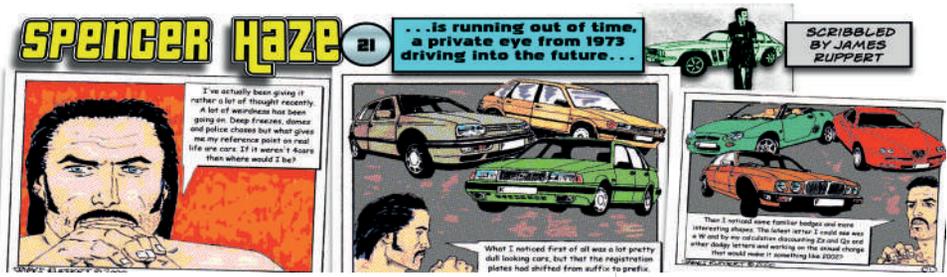
Being Free Car Mag we have highlighted an old school Arkonik Defender which is as hard as they come and then looked at a luxury miniscule 4 x 4 in the shape of a designer Fiat Panda which seems like fun.

Finally got that Supercar Blondie interview which came out too late for the issue, but our favourite pictures are the Jensens in a car park on page 22. So it isn't all Zombies. See you next time.



The cast of *Zombieland Double Tap* help test the Free Car Mag office sprinkler system...

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Fernando Alonso
Completes
Successful more
Rally-Raid Training
With Toyota Gazoo
Racing



FERNANDO ALONSO + TOYOTA GAZOO RACING

Fernando Alonso completed a successful two-day training in the Toyota Hilux on September 2-3 in Szczecin, Poland covering 700 kilometres, including sections used by the recently concluded Baja Poland. The training course featured a variety of sand tracks, hard and soft soil, and bumpy terrain developed by rally raid specialists and the team's logistics partner, Overdrive Racing. Fernando will head to South Africa for a non-competitive outing in the Lichtenburg 400, fifth round of the South African Cross Country Series, on September 13-14. Originally scheduled to take place near Harrismith, the event moved to its new location due to unseasonably dry conditions which posed a fire risk.

Spotted
in
Poland



Alonso commented: "It was definitely a positive couple of days here in Poland where I could experiment with a different sort of terrain. At this stage of my training, I welcome every kilometre in the Hilux and I'm happy we were able to push ourselves beyond the team's original plans. It's really great to be part of the Toyota Gazoo Racing family and be given opportunities to try my hand at different types of motorsport. The Hilux has been really fun to drive and I'm enjoying every test."



MG & LIVERPOOL FOOTBALL CLUB

MG Motor has signed a partnership with Liverpool FC, becoming the historic football club's official global car partner. The contract signing ceremony took place at Anfield Stadium, the famous home of Liverpool FC, and will accelerate MG's brand awareness in the UK and around the world. With their sixth European Cup secured in June this year, Liverpool FC has built a strong reputation as one of the most successful football clubs in the world. This partnership gives MG and Liverpool FC fans the opportunity to get up close and personal behind the scenes, with VIP experiences to watch the team training, signed merchandise and the chance to enjoy matches at Anfield.



JEEP AND JUVENTUS

As undisputed champions of the Italian football league, the Juventus jersey is adorned with two special green, white and red badges, which cannot be worn by any other team. This mark of excellence is mirrored by Jeep's Trail Rated® insignia. Only vehicles that have proven their off-road capability on the toughest trails on the planet can display the Trail Rated® badge.



Luke
Evans

MASERATI SUPPORTS FASHION FOR RELIEF

Fashion For Relief was founded by international supermodel Naomi Campbell in 2005, hosting its first charity fashion show to raise funds for victims of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. Since its inception, Fashion For Relief has presented fashion initiatives and projects in New York, London, Cannes, Moscow, Mumbai and Dar es Salaam, raising millions for good causes around the world. Fashion For Relief returned to London for the fourth time since its inception with a spectacular fashion event including a cocktail reception, gala dinner, fashion show, an art auction, musical performances and exclusive after-party.



SPOTTED
OUT AND
ABOUT

Naomie
Harris

MASERATI LEVANTE

Alongside actors Luke Evans and Naomie Harris, singer Eve, actor Damson Idris, and model Nieves Álvarez, were amongst the other guests who arrived at the British Museum in the latest Maserati range including the Ghibli and Levante SUV.



Get the look

MASERATI AT THE 2019 GOODWOOD REVIVAL

Yes they were and the top picture on our cover is from that event. This is still at the Fashion For Relief event, but it is worth mentioning that as an Automotive Partner of Goodwood Revival, Maserati once again took part in the Earl's Court Motor Show with a display highlighting the history of the V8 Maserati cars and inspired by the marque's classic 1960s motor show stands. Nieves Álvarez the Spanish model and television presenter was there in that fetching cover outfit, but here she is at Fashion For Relief. Could we possibly get her look? Our fashion expert has got very creative.

Nieves Álvarez

- 1 Maserati Levante £57,930
- 2 Dress - Bangood £20.22
- 3 Top - Shein £6.99
- 4 Shoes - New Look £25.99
- 5 Bag - Online Shoe £19.99
- 6 Earrings - Krisp £7.99
- 7 Bracelet - Krisp £14.99



WATCH
IN CINEMAS
18TH OCTOBER

Tap 2...



Zombieland

A decade after Zombieland became a hit film and a cult classic, the lead cast (Woody Harrelson, Jesse Eisenberg, Abigail Breslin, and Emma Stone) have reunited with director Ruben Fleischer and the original writers Rhett Reese & Paul Wernick for Zombieland: Double Tap. In the sequel, written by Rhett Reese & Paul Wernick and Dave Callaham, through comic mayhem that stretches from the White House and the heartland of America, these four slayers must face off against the many new kinds of zombies that have evolved since the first movie, as well as some new human survivors. But most of all, they have to face the growing pains of their own snarky, makeshift family. Plus there are Monster Trucks.



Columbus, Woody Harrelson back in the original Zombieland, said that the main reason for his survival is that he followed a set of rules that he drew up himself to survive the zombie apocalypse. There were 32 rules in all, although curiously no one apart from Columbus knows what they actually are. Anyway, here are the core ones which will get you out of a tight spot when Zombies are about.

1. Do Cardio

You need to be jolly fit to outrun those Zombie hordes. A great reason for keeping your gym membership up.

2. Always Double Tap

Hence the name of the film. Essentially a Zombie's brain needs at least two shots to finish off its basic functions. So use your bullets.

3. Beware of Bathrooms

Obviously this is where we are at our most vulnerable, so it makes sense to take extra precautions.

4. Buckle Up

That is American for 'belt Up'. We should always wear our seatbelts, Zombie Apocalypse or not. Just because a policeman won't be around to give you a ticket doesn't mean you should not put safety first.

5. Travel Light

Don't have loads of baggage, be it people, or a record player. Food, weapons and a change of underwear.

6. Don't Be A Hero

There is no point in looking good to impress someone or make yourself feel good. Just get on with the business of killing Zombies and saving your hide.

7. Limber Up

This relates to rule 1, and if you do rule 1 then you probably would do a few stretches before going into combat. The trouble is that you never know exactly when you are going to get jumped, see rule 3 and 10.

8. When In Doubt, Always Know Your Way Out

Like a Boy Scout, always be prepared and know where the exits are. Or something that you can open with a shotgun.

9. The Buddy System

Keep your friends close and also your enemies, so long as they are not zombies.

10. Check The Back Seat

Here is another car related rule. Indeed, before you 'Buckle Up' it is best to look over your shoulder. Apparently they find rear bench seats very comfy.



Land Rover Defender

WITH THE ZOMBIE
POCALYPSE DUE
ANY MOMENT GET
YOUR ORDER IN
FOR A BRAND NEW
DEFENDER WHICH
MAKES EVERY
ENVIROMENT ITS
OWN...

Defender Land

The New Defender will be available in 90 and 110 body designs, with up to six seats in the 90 and the option of five, six or 5+2 seating in the 110. The model range comprises Defender, S, SE, HSE, First Edition and top of the range Defender X models and customers will be able to personalise their vehicle in more ways than any previous Land Rover with four Accessory Packs. The Explorer, Adventure, Country and Urban Packs each give Defender a distinct character with a specially selected range of enhancements. The exclusive First Edition model features a unique specification and will be available throughout the first model year of production.

Customers will even be able to opt for a new Satin Protective Film to make the exterior paintwork even more durable. The sustainable, solvent-free and completely recyclable wrap helps protect against everything from car park scratches to bramble rash and will be available as a factory-fit option with Indus Silver, Gondwana Stone and Pangea Green colours, providing a unique contemporary finish as it protects new Defender's paintwork.

In addition to the Accessory Packs, the new Defender is available with the widest choice of individual accessories ever assembled for a new Land Rover, with everything from a Remote Control Electric Winch, Rooftop Tent and Inflatable Waterproof Awnings to more conventional tow bar systems and roof racks.





21st century technology

Jaguar Land Rover's new Pivi Pro infotainment system. The next generation touchscreen is more intuitive and user-friendly, requiring fewer inputs to perform frequently used tasks, while its always-on design guarantees almost instant responses. In addition, the new Defender takes Software-Over-The-Air (SOTA) technology to a new level, with 14 individual modules capable of receiving remote updates. By downloading data while customers are asleep at home or in far-flung locations, the new Defender will get better with age: as electronic updates cascade down to the vehicle immediately, without delay and with no need to visit a Land Rover dealer.



Under the bonnet

A choice of advanced petrol and cleaner diesel engines ensure new Defender has the power, control and efficiency for any environment, while a Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle (PHEV) powertrain will join the range next year providing the prospect of silent EV-only progress. The petrol line-up comprises a four-cylinder P300 and a powerful six-cylinder P400 featuring efficient Mild Hybrid Electric Vehicle technology. Alternatively, customers can choose from a pair of four-cylinder diesels – the D200 and powerful D240 – both of which deliver fuel economy of 37.2mpg (7.6 l/100km) and CO2 emissions of 199g/km (NEDC equivalent).

All terrain

Configurable Terrain Response allows experienced off-roaders to fine-tune individual vehicle settings to perfectly suit the conditions, while inexperienced drivers can let the system detect the most appropriate vehicle settings for the terrain, using the intelligent Auto function. The new body provides ground clearance of 291mm and world-class off-road geometry, giving the 110 approach, breakover and departure angles of 38, 28 and 40 degrees (Off Road height) respectively. Its maximum wading depth of 900mm is supported by a new Wade programme in the Terrain Response 2 system, which ensures drivers can ford deep water with complete confidence. On dry land, Land Rover's advanced ClearSight Ground View technology helps drivers take full advantage of Defender's all-conquering capability by showing the area usually hidden by the bonnet, directly ahead of the front wheels, on the central touchscreen.



Big & Practical Inside

Defender 110 offers five, six or 5+2 seating configurations, with a loadspace behind the second-row seats of up to 1,075 litres, and as much as 2,380-litres when the second row is folded. User-friendly features include practical touches and advanced technological innovations. Durable rubberised flooring with a wipe/brush clean interior.



ADVENTURE
PACK

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BACKPACK

UPSPRE WHEEL
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AIR COMPRESSOR

FITTED
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GEAR CARRIER

UPGRADES
SHOWN*

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- 2 FIXED SIDE STEPS



DRIFT WARE
SCUFF PLATE



PORTABLE
RINSE SYSTEM

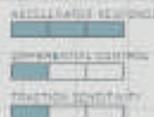
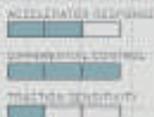
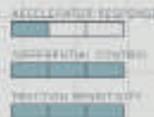
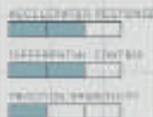
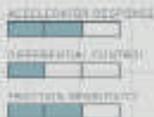


FRONT & REAR
MUDFLAPS

ZombiesSpec

FREE CAR MAG RESPECTFULLY SUGGEST THAT ALL YOU NEED TO ORDER IS THE ADVENTURE PACK, THEN SIT BACK AND RELAX AS YOU FIGHT OFF THE ZOMBIE HORDES WITH A SCUFF PLATE, MUDFLAPS AND PORTABLE RINSE SYSTEM...

TERRAIN RESPONSE



New Defender Prices

2.0L SD4 200HP DIESEL			
D200 Defender 110	£45,240.00	D240 First Edition 110	£58,860.00
D200 S 110	£48,695.00		
D200 SE 110	£52,625.00	2.0L Si4 300HP PETROL	
		P300 Defender 110	£48,295.00
2.0L SD4 240HP DIESEL		P300 S 110	£51,750.00
D240 Defender 110	-	P300 SE 110	£55,680.00
D240 S 110	£51,750.00		
D240 SE 110	£55,680.00	3.0L i6 400HP PETROL	
D240 HSE 110	£60,505.00	P400 X 110	£78,800.00



Standard Defender Interior Specification

- 8-way heated semi-powered front seats
- Carpet mats
- Cross car beam in Light Grey Power Coat
- Standard steering wheel
- Manually adjustable steering column
- Standard treadplates
- Light Oyster Morzine headlining
- Sunvisors with illuminated vanity mirrors
- Auto-dimming interior rear view mirror
- Cabin lighting
- Cabin walk-through
- Two-zone climate control
- Loadspace cover
- Rear ISOFIX
- Twin front cup holder
- 90: 40:20:40 fixed rear seats
- 110: 40:20:40 folding rear seats



Standard Exterior Specification

- Body colour roof • No badge • Heated windscreen
- Heated electric powerfold door mirrors with approach lights and auto-dimming • Automatic headlights and rain sensing wipers • LED headlights
- LED tail lights • 18" Steel wheel • 18" full size spare wheel • All season tyres • Puddle lights • 110: Signature graphic • Automatic Headlight Levelling

Choose Your Model

Defender 110 starts from £45,240 on the road available to order immediately. Defender 90 and Commercial pricing and deliveries will be confirmed at a later date. Defender 90 guide price will be around £40,000 with Defender Commercial guide pricing from

Renegade vs The Zombies

A Defender 110 reimagined by their customer and built by Arkonik
For those who want to go all old school on those pesky Zombies





ENGLISH BUILT
AND HAND
ASSEMBLED
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EXTERIOR SPEC - CORRIS GREY BODY WITH JAVA BLACK ROOF, PUMA BONNET & WIDEBOY WHEEL ARCHES | LAND ROVER DEFENDER A-FRAME NUDGE BAR WITH LED SPOTLIGHTS | TWIN-CAT LED HEADLIGHTS | KBX GRILLE & WING-TOP VENTS | JAVA BLACK CHEQUER PLATE | SAFETY DEVICES ROLL CAGE WITH BASKET ROOF RACK AND X4 SPOTLIGHTS | RAPTOR-COATED MACH 5 16" ALLOYS WITH BEAD LOCKS | BFGOODRICH® AT K02 TYRES | EBONY FIRE & ICE SIDE STEPS | RAPTOR-COATED STEERING & FRONT DIFFERENTIAL GUARD | REAR LED WORK LAMP |NAS REAR STEP

INTERIOR SPEC - BLACK SUPER SOFT LEATHER TRIM BY RUSKIN INSIDE™ | HEATED ELITE SPORTS SEATS WITH CENTRE LOCK BOX | 3 PREMIUM HIGH BACK HEATED CENTRE ROW SEATS | MATCHING LEATHER DOOR CARDS | 2 LOCK & FOLD FORWARD FACING SEATS IN LOAD AREA | BLACK SUEDE HEADLINING | ARKON X BLACK LEATHER STEERING WHEEL | BRUSHED ALLOY GEAR KNOBS | ALLOY GAUGE SURROUNDS & DOOR FURNITURE | HEATED WINDSCREEN & WING MIRRORS | ICE WHITE LED LIGHTING PACKAGE | PIONEER® PREMIUM SOUND SYSTEM WITH APPLE® CARPLAY & REVERSING CAMERA | AIR CONDITIONING





Fiat Panda

Find a Trussardi

If you want to tackle the Zombie problem, but in some style then this luxurious Panda with an attitude is the way to do it, especially as it is available with all-wheel drive to get out of town and be ready for anything, especially Zombies.



Trussardi started with leather goods and gloves, developing into a lifestyle brand over time. It was the first fashion brand to take ready-to-wear fashion shows to the city streets and squares to reach out to the general public, who the same people that have always chosen Fiat as their perfect mobility solution. Panda Trussardi was created not unlike a go-to garment, perfect for all occasions and at ease in any situation. It comes with a brilliant 85 hp TwinAir 0.9-litre petrol engine, with front-wheel drive or all-wheel drive, or with the 69 hp 1.2-litre engine.

The bodywork sports a striking Caffè Italiano Brown livery, available both matt, for the first time in the history of Panda, or metallic. The colour palette also features Gelato White, Cinema Black and Colosseo Grey. The Greyhound symbol is prominent on the third side window, in the middle of the alloy wheels and on the side mouldings. There are also other exclusive style details, like the black roof bars, the rearview mirror caps, the 15" alloy wheels and the skid plate that characterise the Cross body.

On the inside, Trussardi lettering embellishes the mats and the seat belts. The door panel inserts and the brown melange weave on the seat upholstery

reproducing the Trussardi logo are new. The seat sides in black techno-leather are embellished with brown stitching reminiscent of a fashionable dress. The dashboard also sports a new Caffè Italiano Brown finish. The Trussardi logo stands out on the steering wheel.

The "Panda Uconnect" app can be used to interface with the on-board infotainment system, which includes Bluetooth 2.1 technology, audio streaming and voice recognition function and data reading via USB and MP3. Furthermore, the Panda Uconnect app also features the "Find myCar" service, to help remember where the car is parked, and "My Car" for checking the car's parameters, such as scheduled servicing and consulting the owner handbook, as well as direct calls to Fiat Customer Care or roadside assistance. Finally, when activated, the "Object Reminder" function reminds the driver not to leave things in the car after getting out. Panda Trussardi also offers Autonomous City Brake that detects obstacles in front of the car and automatically applies the brakes if the driver does not intervene below 30 km/h as optional equipment.

Here's a proper urban assault vehicle. With a luxury twist. Brilliant.



The Mulliner name has been intertwined with coachbuilding since 1760, when Francis Mulliner was commissioned to build carriages for the Royal Mail. The 1923 Olympia Show in London saw the first collaboration between Robert's son H.J. Mulliner and Bentley – a bespoke 3½-litre. The link between the two companies was formalised in 1959, with Mulliner becoming an official part of Bentley.

Today, the Mulliner workshop is based at the home of Bentley in Crewe, where customers can personalise their own cars through collaboration with master designers and engineers. Their most recent triumph is the complete recreation of the 1939 Bentley Corniche – a Bentley concept car of the era, once thought lost to history, but now reborn thanks to the extensive and diverse range of skills present in Mulliner's team of Master Craftsmen and Craftswomen.

Blower Bentley Reborn

Bentley's pre-war race car in stunning recreation

One of the most thrilling and iconic cars from Bentley's history – Sir Tim Birkin's 1929 supercharged 4½-litre "Blower" – is to be reborn in a new series of 12 matching cars. Each is individually handcrafted by a specialist team from Bentley's bespoke and coachwork division, Mulliner. Together, the new cars will form the world's first pre-war race car continuation series.

Only four original 'Team Blowers' were built for racing by Birkin, in the late 1920s. All saw a fight to the finish on the racetracks of Europe, with the most famous car – Birkin's own Team Car No. 2, registration UU 5872 – racing at Le Mans and playing a pivotal role in the factory Bentley Speed Six victory in 1930.

Now, using Bentley's renowned handcraftsmanship and the very latest digital technology, the 1929 Team Blower will be the master example for 12 continuations - one for each race that the original rip-roaring fleet of four Team Blowers competed in.

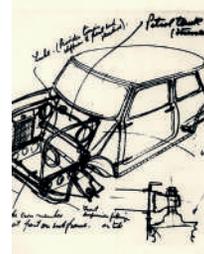
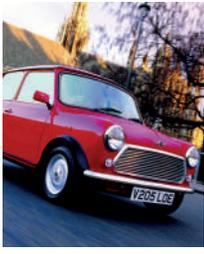
Bentley's own Team Blower – chassis

number HB 3403 - will be disassembled to its individual components, before each part is catalogued and meticulously scanned in 3D to create a complete digital model of the entire car. Using the original 1920s moulds and tooling jigs, and traditional hand tools alongside the latest manufacturing technology, 12 sets of parts will then be created, before assembly. The 12 continuations will be identical wherever possible to the original – mechanically, aesthetically and spiritually – with only minimal hidden changes dictated by modern safety concerns. The original car will then be reassembled, with the heritage team taking the opportunity to complete a detailed inspection and sympathetic mechanical restoration where required.

The Blower Bentleys were born from a philosophy devised by Sir Tim Birkin – notable racing driver and Bentley Boy. Roots-type supercharger developed by British engineer Amherst Villiers, which boosted the 4½'s power from 130 bhp to 240 bhp in race tune.



Have your say  @freecarmag1



MINI 60



CLASSIC ELECTRIC MINI IN NEW YORK



From 2008, the MINI E – based on the predecessor model of the current MINI 3 Door. 600 examples were produced and used in everyday conditions to monitor its usefulness and practicality. This trial played a central role in paving the way for the development of the BMW i3. So the Electric Mini has been around for a bit and last year this one was taken to New York for the International Auto Show. This one was based on a late '90s Mini Cooper.



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Classic Restoration

Following a request from renowned architects MICA, Cropredy Bridge Cars are delighted to play a part in the next chapter of a sensational London building.

CENTREPOINT

Centre Point is a celebrated Brutalist skyscraper nestled amongst New Oxford Street and Tottenham Court Road Underground station designed originally by Richard Seifert, a well known Swiss-British architect who famously owned a Jensen FF. The structure, and its adjacent auxiliary buildings, has been sympathetically restored and redeveloped by MICA with new spaces created whilst retaining the essence of the original 1960s design.

Seeking an appropriate vehicle to pair with the classic aesthetic of the building, and pay homage to the designer, MICA approached Cropredy Bridge to source two special cars. The cars chosen were 1967 FF Vignale Chassis 6, which has been subject to a full restoration by the expert team at Cropredy Bridge and is a concours regular, and a 1974 Interceptor Mark 3 boasting various upgrades taken from Cropredy's varied stock list.

Founded in 1972, Cropredy Bridge Cars has grown to become world leaders in the marque of Jensen. With an unparalleled heritage in Jensen, Cropredy Bridge Cars has established a global reputation for superlative sales, servicing and restoration.

www.cropredybridge.com
www.micaarchitects.com





Monaco Limited Edition

MONACO 1989-1999 LIMITED EDITION
TAG Heuer presented the third of five limited-edition Monaco timepieces to mark the icon's 50th anniversary.

The third of five limited-edition tributes to the Monaco takes its inspiration from the themes, styles and trends of the 1990s. With a steely industrial appearance reflecting the straightforward street style characteristic of this beloved decade, this special collector's edition features a blue and silvery appearance with dynamic red elements. The stainless-steel square chronograph has a grained rhodium-plated dial with sandblasted subdials featuring blue counters. The flange and Heuer logo are in blue, and the indexes and central seconds hand are red. The blue of the Heuer logo and minute and second scales counters provides a bold contrast to the red touches on the hands and indexes and the red motif featured on the dial. This colour scheme continues with the blue perforated calfskin strap with red stitching.

Limited to 169 watches

From £5350
www.tagheuer.com



GIZELLE RENEE £128+

Recognised as the UK's most innovative glove brand, Gizelle Renee offers the ideal combination of traditional craftsmanship and contemporary design, and perfectly fits the Lamborghini 'informal luxury' lifestyle. Hand-made using the finest Nappa leather and materials. Like the interior of a Lamborghini, the gloves feature contrasting colours, design elements such as cuts from the car interior, and embellished with the carbon fibre used in Lamborghini models.
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VIOFO A129 DUO £129.99

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Bentley's 2020 model is even better

CONTINENTAL GT

The new-generation 4.0-litre, 32-valve V8 petrol engine delivers a top speed of 198 mph (318 km/h) and 0-60 mph in 3.9 seconds (0-100 km/h in 4.0 seconds) for the Coupe; and 0-60 mph in 4.0 seconds (0-100 km/h in 4.1 seconds) for the Convertible.

Featuring 20-inch, 10-spoke painted alloy wheels and the option to choose from nine other designs measuring up to 22-inches. Both Coupe and Convertible models are distinguished by quad exhaust pipes and subtle V8 badging to the front wings.

The Continental GT V8's innovative, luxurious interior offers unrivalled Grand Touring refinement. It seamlessly integrates natural materials such as the highest quality leathers and rare, sustainably sourced veneers into the finest handcrafted cabin. A 10-speaker Bentley Audio system pumps out a powerful 650 watts of entertainment.

Free Car Mag is looking forward to having a go.





New for 2020 with chunky styling

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MITSUBISHI ASX

The latest version of the ASX sees its technical specification brought in line with the rest of the Mitsubishi Motors SUV range with the return of both an automatic transmission and four-wheel drive. The 2020 Mitsubishi ASX also adopts the chunkier design language of the rest of the range, while the new 2.0-litre engine means there is better performance and increased refinement compared to the outgoing version. There are also significant interior changes and the addition of extra safety features.



Volkswagen's big car gets better

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VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT GTE

The GTE standard features include 17-inch 'Nivelle' alloy wheels, sports suspension, blue brake calipers, distinctive signature 'C' shape front LED running lights, Discover Navigation system with 8.0" colour screen and a charging point in the radiator grille. If customers opt for the GTE Advance model, they will benefit from 18-inch 'Monterrey' alloy wheels. There are light LED matrix headlights, Discover Navigation Pro with 9.2" colour screen and keyless entry with an easy open boot. The updated Passat GTE has an electric-only range of 43 miles.

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Free Car Mag put a few questions to Globe-trotting social influencer and super car fanatic, Alex Hirschi – aka Supercar Blondie. She is the star of a new television series, Car Crews with Supercar Blondie, which celebrates the most unusual cars, drivers and motoring cultures in America.



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When did you first get into cars and why?

It was always a goal of mine to own a supercar one day – I absolutely love driving because it gave me a feeling of independence and power. When I moved to Dubai 11 years ago I was surrounded by all these incredible cars and it just peaked my interest even more.

Why did you create the Supercar Blondie persona?

It wasn't something I ever intended create a career out of. I loved my radio job where I covered local events, including track days. During this time I would interview the drivers and look at the cars for Bentley. Bentley then actually contacted me a few weeks later to ask how I'd feel about taking a car for the weekend and reporting back on my experience. I didn't even know that was possible! Of course I said yes and during those couple of days I was living my dream so I started to continue sharing my experience. Soon after that I spoke to Ferrari and McLaren. They knew me as a talk radio host so they were able to release the cars to me to review as a car journalist. The next car I had the chance to drive was a McLaren 650S and it all just started from there. When I hit 50,000 followers on Instagram I decided to just quit and went for it. I became Supercar Blondie and from then on I started creating content every day and it's become my full time job.

Is it possible to tell where you are in the world according to the car culture?

There's absolutely a different feel from country to country. I enjoy riding supercars in the America because there's a really positive mindset towards people who drive a supercar or a hypercar. In Switzerland, the opinion of a supercar is different, people believe you should be driving an electric vehicle or hybrid. India was interesting to drive in, but I quite enjoyed it, people just use more common sense, instead of just blindly following road rules, they look around and see what's happening.

If you could drive one car forever, what would it be?

My favourite car to drive is Agera RS however for a more everyday

supercar it would be the Lamborghini Huracan.

What cars do you own?

I actually only own one car at the moment – I'm really proud of her. Her name is Lucy, she's a Lamborghini Huracan and I got her a year and a half ago.

Have you ever broken down?

No, I've been really lucky actually. Even with my little old Lanza, I never had an issues (Laughs)

Is there a group of car enthusiast that you haven't met that you'd like to?

I met a lot of different car enthusiasts and cultures through the TV show, which was great. However, there is one in South Africa called "Spinning" which I would love to learn more about. These people find an abandoned car park and start spinning in their cars whilst hanging out of them amongst other crazy activities. I'm not sure I would want to be in the first row watching (laughs) but it would be an experience to meet the people involved.

Tell us about the TV show

Working on "Car Crews with Supercar Blondie" was incredible but extremely intense and hectic. It was 16 – 18 hour days for filming, travelling across the US. We started in New York, then to Detroit, Miami, Houston, Las Vegas and finally LA. I would visit a different car culture in each episode so in New York it was the JDM crowd, in Detroit it was Muscle Cars, in Miami it was the low riders and in Houston it was the slab culture, in Las Vegas it was the hot rods and rat rods, and in LA was the underground, illegal street racing culture. The show explores cars in a really exciting, interesting way because it wasn't necessarily all about the cars it was about the people behind the cars. You can catch it now on Insight.TV

FCM 77

We are jolly excited that Ford vs Ferrari will be amongst us. We adore Christian Bale who has never made a bad film, so we can't wait to see what he can do in the driving seat of a Ford GT40. Seriously good films about cars rarely get made and we should celebrate them. See you then.



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