



Jag Mk II for less than five grand!

## Cheap Christmas classics

CLASSIC bargain-hunters should have been at Brightwell's latest auction, where you could have bought an '85 BMW 635 CSI with full BM history and three owners for a very reasonable nine hundred quid, a 1963 Jaguar Mk II 3.4 with chrome wires for £4,800, a 1975 Mercedes 450 SL for a £3,900 or a 1978 Mini with just 5,000 miles from new for a miniscule £1,700.



At your service

LAWRENCE Pope from Preston bought a brand new Volkswagen Passat TDi in 2006. When he recently booked a service, he was told the cambelt should be changed. Lawrence doesn't understand why it needs to be replaced after only 24,110 miles. Is this right?

QUENTIN SAYS: Yes – you must change the cambelt as soon as possible. With fibre belts, it's not about mileage, it's about age. Since your Passat is almost four years old, you should change the belt now. If it breaks, the bill will make you weep.



All-aluminium Climax Sports Racer

## CLIMAX COMES TO COVENTRY

NICE to see that Coventry is the home of a brand new supercar.

Climax Cars have launched their Sports Racer, an old school aluminium-bodied rear-drive V8 screamer with

a better power-to-weight ratio than a Ferrari 430 Scuderia.

The slippery-styled speedster weighs just 907kg and uses a Ford 4.6-litre V8 coupled to a six-speed

Graziano box. Expect a sub-four second 60 sprint and 160mph top end.

Hand-built and limited to just 200 units, its £92,000 starting price makes the Climax a relative bargain.

## Here's the fastest 4x4 by far

Brabus GLK... bonkers brute



YOU probably don't care, but the world now has an SUV that can do 211mph.

The Brabus Bi-Turbo GLK is the fastest 4x4 on the planet, and quite likely the ugliest too. The 6.3 twin-turbo 12-pot pushes out 740hp and can scorch to 100 in less than 10 seconds, but such a high-octane school run comes at a price.

Unbelievably, Brabus are asking over £350,000 – that's a Range Rover, a Merc SL63 AMG, a Bentley GTC and some change. I know which I would have.

## IT'S POETRY IN MOTION

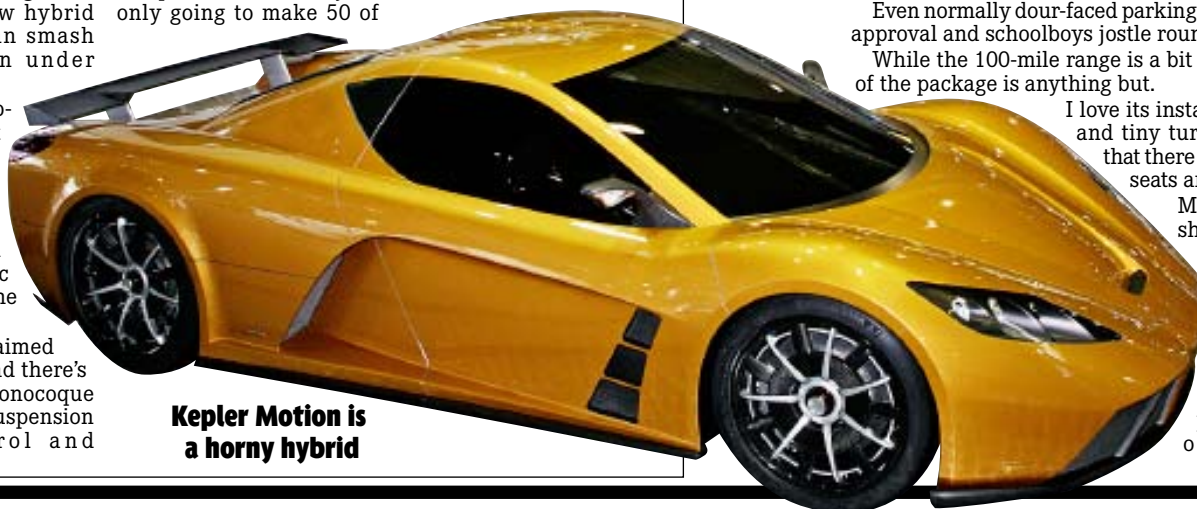
DESPITE Dubai's recent woes, this week's motor show was predictably lavish. Among the big-ticket metal was a new hybrid concept that can smash the 60 dash in under 2.5 seconds.

The Kepler Motion thumps out 800 horses from a rear-drive 542bhp twin-turbocharged Ford V6, with a 250hp electric motor powering the front.

Top speed is claimed to be over 200 and there's a carbon-fibre monocoque chassis, active suspension launch control and

"programmable track assistance system" (whatever that is). No word on price, but they're only going to make 50 of

them, so don't expect much change from a million quid.



Kepler Motion is a horny hybrid

# SOCKET NEW MITSUBISHI IS A

WHO'D DRIVE IT  
Fans of the future

MY FIRST week at the wheel of Mitsubishi's battery i MiEV has been an adventure.

Not least because I know what it's like to run out of juice in a electric car. People become incredibly charming.

And it certainly wasn't the car's fault.

Driving the little poppet flat out on the M6 for 60 miles and then sitting in a traffic jam for an hour, was more than its lithium-ion power pack could handle. With just one bar left on the charge indicator, I knew I wouldn't make it home.

My port in a storm was a Holiday Inn Express, where a small crowd gathered. People ran for extension cords, cups of coffee and sandwiches.

By the time I'd opened the bonnet, told the i MiEV's story and given them the official tour, I had enough charge to make the 15-mile trip home.

Since then I've been whizzing everywhere in my i MiEV. Silent, nippy and neat-handling, it literally stops the traffic.

Even normally dour-faced parking wardens beam with warm approval and schoolboys jostle round.

While the 100-mile range is a bit of a compromise, the rest of the package is anything but.

I love its instant torque, sharp steering and tiny turning circle, plus the fact that there are four doors, four decent seats and even a vestigial boot.

My kids don't want to go shopping in Jags, Mercs or Range Rovers any more.

They want a ride in "Mitzy", as my five-year-old now calls it.

Best of all, for every 100 miles I travel I pay just 94p on Economy 7.



i MiEV is the most refined and best-handling electric car so far

TECH FILE

ENGINE: 47kW electric motor  
POWER: 63hp  
0-60: 8.9 sec  
MAX: 82mph  
PRICE: Hopefully under £15,000

# Willson

★★★

**BRITAIN'S  
NO.1 MOTORING  
WRITER**



Got a problem? Email me at [willson@sundaymirror.co.uk](mailto:willson@sundaymirror.co.uk)

**Q** I'VE been thinking about buying a Chrysler Crossfire. Would you recommend it?  
*M. Shearman, by email*

**A** TIME was when I would have told you never to buy a Crossfire. Chrysler have made some right clunkers and the Crossfire is one of them - nasty, plasticky interior,

ugly rump and hard ride. But prices are so low now it's silly. You can buy an 04-plater with 60k miles for under six grand. Given the Merc SLK engine and mechanicals, that's no money at all. If you can live with the looks, it's a cheap two-seater.



**Q** THE other morning the locks on my W-reg Ford

Mondeo were frozen solid. I couldn't get the key in, so I had to get a taxi to work. As it's likely to get colder, I'm afraid of snapping the key off or breaking the lock when it happens again. What can I do?  
*Kevin, by email*

**A** GET yourself a can of WD40. Poke the long plastic nozzle into all the door and boot locks (not the ignition!) and give them a good spray. This will stop them freezing up for several months.



# IT TO 'EM

## PLUG-IN PLEASURE



Cabin is ritzy and roomy

Fast charge takes just half an hour

Auctioning off the remaining bargains of good old 2009



USED prices are still softening. If you can brave the last few frigid auctions of 2009, you'll see some seasonally cheap motors.

This week you could have bought an 03-plate Ford Ka with 72,000 miles for £1,300, a 2003 Ford Mondeo 1.8 Mistral with 50k for £1,500 or a 2004 Kia Sedona 7-seat people-carrier with just 29,000 for £1,900.

They don't get much cheaper than that.

- 02 Citroen Saxo 1.1 Forte 52,000.... **£975**
- 02 Mercedes A140 Elegance Auto 61,000.....**£1800**
- 02 Suzuki Alto 1.0 36,000..... **£525**
- 02 Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 ..... **£1450**
- Comfort 52,000 ..... **£1450**
- 02 Vauxhall Astra 1.6 Club 75,000 **£1300**
- 02 VW Lupo 1.7 SDi 76,000 ..... **£1950**

So let's all shed a tear for Saab



I'M not surprised GM couldn't find a buyer for Saab. The once-cult bourgeois brand favoured by the chic professional classes was homogenised and ruined by GM's dull corporate culture.

The classic 900 Turbo was a car apart that radiated a unique halo of discrimination and separateness. Detroit never appreciated the brand's non-conformist roots, stripping away its charisma and individuality. Shame.



Martin's  
McColl's  
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Delicious... Wispa Gold has a layer of caramel

# FREE ..a Wispa Gold chocolate bar

WE'VE got a pre-Christmas treat for you today. The nation's favourite retro chocolate bar has reinvented itself as Wispa Gold - and you can try one for FREE!

The Wispa you know and love now comes with a velvety caramel layer that combines perfectly with the smooth chocolate. We expect a gold rush for such great-tasting chocolate as everyone stocks up. So don't miss out!

### HOW TO CLAIM

TO get your (52g) Cadbury Wispa Gold chocolate bar simply take the voucher below to your nearest Martin's, McColl's or RS McColl store today. To find your nearest shop visit [www.mirror.co.uk/wispagold](http://www.mirror.co.uk/wispagold) See voucher below for full terms.

**Mirror** Martin's McColl's RSMcColl

**FREE**

Valid today Sunday, December 20, 2009

**TO THE CUSTOMER:**  
Voucher entitles holder to one free 52g Wispa Gold or 39g Wispa Gold chocolate bar. Offer subject to availability. Only original vouchers will be accepted. Only one voucher per person, per transaction. No cash alternatives. Voucher will be retained by cashier at time of redemption. One coupon per person may be redeemed once, whilst stocks last. Face value of coupon = 0.000p. Mutilated, damaged, defaced or photocopied coupon cannot be accepted. Offer not to be used in conjunction with any other offer.

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