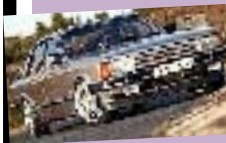


## APOCALYPSE NOW

HOW about this for a bit of passion? A fast Ford enthusiast has taken an 80s Mk II Granada and stuffed in a Koenigsegg twin-turbo V8 that's good for an apocalyptic 1,700 horses.

There's also a beefed-up chassis, roll cage and engine struts, plus carbon fibre panels and Porsche brakes. Having spent tens of thousands on the conversion, he's mulling over the idea of reworking it to produce 2,000hp. Respect.



## It's a barnstorming discovery

HERE'S the Holy Grail of barn finds. A Swansea man stumbled across two BMW M3s, a Ford RS200 and a Mercedes 190E Evolution 2 (right), all in brand new condition with delivery mileages.

Untouched for 20 years, they're likely to need lots of seals, gaskets and hoses, but who cares? When this quartet has been reconditioned, it's going to be worth an easy £250k. Pays to be nose.

# Quentin

At your service

JOHN Ball is thinking of buying a brand new imported Merc E280CDI from a car supermarket, saving around £6,500. What's the catch?

QUENTIN SAYS: Imports from Europe are fine. Don't be told they're worth any less than UK-supplied cars, because they're not. But make sure the handbook and

service book are in English, that the car is full UK spec and, most importantly, check that it comes with the full three-year maker's warranty.

Some cars from places like Cyprus only come with a one-year guarantee. Make sure you get the answer to all your questions in writing before you buy.



# A T A S



Green but not mean

WHO'D DRIVE IT  
Lewis and Jenson already have

## WEAK FINNISH

HERE'S yet another electric city car. The Finnish-made Valmet Eva is an aluminium spaceframed 2+2 with a top speed of 75mph, 100-mile range and special Navteq sat nav to direct you to the nearest charging point.

Sounds promising. Shame it looks such a joke.

## I will throttle whoever mentions Throttlegate

THIS week's update to the Toyota's Throttlegate travesty includes... the American automotive safety body investigating whether cosmic rays (seriously) are causing software glitches, Toyota asking ABC News to retract an allegedly fudged network TV report on unintended acceleration, plus data from a well-published Prius crash in New York showing that the hapless driver didn't even apply the brakes.



Please, someone, make it stop.

## The satnav that comes with a telly



SAT-NAVS now have built-in TVs. The Garmin 1490TV is a full-on satellite navigation system, but with a digital TV tuner and external aerial that gets 50-plus Freeview TV channels on its 5-inch touch screen... and all for £299. And no - you can't watch it while you drive. More at [www.garmin.co.uk](http://www.garmin.co.uk)



# Willson

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



Got a problem?  
Email me at  
willson@sunday  
mirror.co.uk

**HELP!**  
You ask  
me



Seven grand  
for an A5?  
Well dodgy

**Q** I CAME across a right-hand drive Audi A5, advertised from Spain. It's the 2.7 version and looks in good condition, but I was puzzled by the low price of £7,000. Do you think it's genuine? Michael Reed, email

**A** SEVEN grand for an Audi A5? You've got to be kidding. This is a total scam, so don't be taken in. There are thousands of these flying round every day. The seller gets into a big email conversation with you, tells you how

great the car is, spouts some guff about personal circumstances mean he can't come to the UK, and you send the money to a "bonded shipper's" bank account. You never see the car or your money again. There's no such thing as a £7,000 Audi A5.

**Q** IN January I received a court summons for a speeding offence from last July. Having not received any correspondence before this, I was shocked and phoned the Magistrates

Court. They were very unhelpful and told me I must make a plea, as a court date had been booked. I sent back a plea of not guilty and must now go to court on April 27. What can I do? Claire Beckett, Stoke-on-Trent

**A** HIRE a solicitor. You have the right to see evidence prior to court. You must be able to check the charges made against you. The camera partnership must prove this summons was sent to you. Be prepared for a fight, though.

# TY BIG MAC SUPERCAR'S A WORLD-BEATER

**T**HIS week the wraps came off McLaren's MP4-12C supercar... and it's a world-beater.

Lighter, greener and more powerful than either the Ferrari 458 or Mercedes SLS, McLaren say it'll accelerate from 0 to 124mph in less than 10 seconds and back to 0 again in less than five.

But it won't just be the fastest road car money can buy, it'll also have the highest build quality and best dealer and after-sales support in the business.

1,600 serious orders have already been confirmed for the 3.8-litre V8 carbon fibre beauty, which comes with seven-speed twin-clutch gearbox, switchable driving modes, seven-inch touch screen, electric diff and F1-type airbrake. McLaren boss Ron Dennis is unequivocal: "This is not a

volume car, this is simply the most exclusive motoring experience money can buy."

Coming from the man who created the legendary McLaren F1, the MP4 is likely to be everything he promises and then some.

A million test miles have already been completed and the McLaren organisation is gearing up to sell the first of its sub-£175,000 icons in early 2011.

So if you've got a few quid to spare, fill out that order form. Like every McLaren road car, this one's likely to go up in price, rather than down. Book early to avoid disappointment.



McLaren  
engineering is  
up to aircraft  
standard



McLaren's bespoke hand-built V8 revs to 8,500rpm

ENGINE 3800CC TWIN-TURBO V8  
POWER 592BHP

0-124 9.8  
MAX MORE THAN  
200mph

PRICE less than  
£175,000

**TECH  
FILE**

Carbon fibre and lightweight aluminium mean MP4 weighs same as a Ford Focus

Why it's time  
to chew over  
gumtree.co.uk



NICE cars and nice people go together and one of my favourite online buying and selling sites is www.gumtree.co.uk.

I've always been amazed how honest and upstanding its buyers and sellers actually are.

And classy, too.

I once bought a Merc Sports from a bloke who had a Renoir hanging in his lavatory. Yes, really.

And now I hear that one chap did a deal on his 2005 Ford Focus in under a minute.

What's more, the car was collected and paid for in cash 10 minutes later.

That's what I call Gone in 60 Seconds.

Well, 600 anyway...