

OFFICIAL NEW LOOK FOR

AUTO EXPRESS FOCUS

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GENEVA SHOW 1
FACE OF FORD'S
FUTURE FAMILY
FAVOURITE

**MARATHON
ECONOMY TEST**



GENEVA SHOW 2
MAKES THE
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PLUS How good is new Merc E-Class?



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**£1m ASTON
HITS ROAD**
BUT IS BRIT WONDER WORTH IT?



GENEVA SHOW 3
007'S DREAM
MACHINE



Range comprises a product to clean all areas of your car, inside and out



Wipes hit the Big time!

Graeme Lambert

WE'VE already taken a look at one cleaning aid – wash mitts – on Page 68. But Britain's unpredictable weather means the quicker you can get your car washed, the better.

One of the fastest ways to do the job is to use some cleaning wipes, like this new range from Big Wipes. Five kinds are offered: Exterior, Glass, Interior, Leather

and Protectant. The Exterior wipes use high-performance solvents to remove dirt, oil, tar, fingerprints, insects and bird lime. Each is made of soft fabric that doesn't scratch paintwork and leaves a smear-free shine.

The Glass wipes shift road grime and dead insects from windows and mirrors, and can be used inside and out. For the rest of the cabin, the Interior

In detail

Big Wipes car cleaning range

Price: £4.49 (tub of 40)

Contact: 01628 894374,

www.bigwipes.com

Maker's claim: "New Big Wipes are a convenient yet effective way of keeping all areas of your car clean, and maintaining its value."

wipes are ideal. They leave a pleasant citrus scent on the dash, carpets and upholstery.

When you're finished, the Protectant wipes help the surfaces resist damage from UV light and reduce wear.

For vehicles with leather trim, there are wipes to revive, clean and protect the hide. The tubs contain 40 wipes, making each one a decent value 11 pence.

plus

NEW WET WEATHER RUBBER GETS A GRIP

UK drivers need tyres that can handle the rain – and BF Goodrich's new g-Grip promises to be a strong wet weather performer.

A 'vortex' tread pattern and wide grooves around the tyre disperse water. In the dry, large blocks in the shoulders ensure rapid steering response and good braking. It comes in 14-inch to 17-inch sizes for wheels with T, H, V and W speed ratings.



In detail

BF Goodrich g-Grip rain tyre

Price: £39-£84

Contact: 0845 366 1535,

www.bfgoodrich.co.uk

Maker's claim: "Directional pattern offers superb safety performance in wet and dry."

PLAN 'STAYCATION' WITH LATEST GUIDE

If you're in an unfamiliar location and need a good place to sleep, eat or drink, the new Michelin Guide to Great Britain & Ireland is the perfect companion.

More than 4,500 hotels and restaurants are listed, with choices for all tastes and budgets. And each gets a brief description on top of the usual contact and price details. Clear maps make it really easy to find each location, too.

In detail

Michelin Eating Guide

Great Britain & Ireland 2009

Price: £15.99

Contact: 01923 205247,

www.viamichelin.co.uk

Maker's claim: "The guide has it all, with hotels and restaurants for any budget."



Trims give sporty alloy look

NEW wheels can improve the look of a car. But Sakura's smart wheel trims do the job at a fraction of the price. The seven-spoke Racing Pro (right) takes cues from motorsport, with a central chrome boss and detailed spoke nuts. It comes in 13, 14 and 15-inch diameters. There's also the new multi-spoke Giga, in metallic gunmetal or black and 13 or 14-inch sizes.

In detail

Sakura Wheel Covers

Price: £19.99 to £29.99

Contact: 01488 689400,

www.saxon-brands.com

Maker's claim: "Change the styling of your car dramatically, without breaking the bank."



Hi-tech 12V 'jump lead' is in charge

FLAT batteries are no fun, but fiddling about with booster cables in the cold and dark to fire your car back into life is even more miserable. It's all too easy to hook up to the wrong terminal and damage the electrical system – unless you invest in the new Car2Car Starter from Ring Automotive.

There's no need to even lift the bonnet if your battery is dead, because one end of the device plugs into the stricken car's 12V socket, and the other into the same

on a running vehicle. Usefully, the Car2Car Starter comes supplied with five metres of cable between the connectors, so there is more than enough wiring to stretch from one socket to another.

After being plugged in for 15 minutes, the battery should be rejuvenated. A microprocessor in the charger ensures the correct charge is delivered. The sole downside is that the hi-tech system is suitable only for engines up to 1.6 litres in capacity.



In detail

Ring Car2Car Starter

Price: £24.99

Contact: 0113 213 7389,

www.ringautomotive.co.uk

Maker's claim: "This modern take on booster cables removes the electrical risk from jump-starting a car, and also makes it more convenient for motorists."

