

PERFORMANCE BMW



Nov
2009 £4.50

RAT-LOOK 325i
UK E36 built & bought for £500

CYPRIOI E46 M3s
'Charged and carbon clad

BELGIAN 118d
Drop-top on air



WIN!
Richbrook
SPORT AUTO ACCESSORIES
goodies
worth £300

Peep Show

Dub-inspired bagged E36 with selective smoothing and almost every surface leathered



600WHP M3

E34 M5 turbocharged power with the sleeper car subtlety we love

>> GREEN WITH ENVY

BMW has finally announced details of the eagerly awaited 2010 Active Hybrid X6, which it launched at the Frankfurt Motor Show in September. Significantly, the new X6 uses a conventional 4.4-litre twin-turbo petrol V8 producing 400bhp, in conjunction with two electric motors producing 91bhp and 86bhp, respectively.

Power is relayed through the X6's xDrive system via a two-mode, seven-speed automatic transmission, which can also be operated in manual mode. That gives this almost green X6 a combined power output of 480bhp, together with 575lb ft of torque, as well as the ability to hit 60mph in 5.4 seconds and run to a (limited) top speed of 130mph. Crumbs!

Apart from achieving a 20% improvement in fuel economy, the Active Hybrid X6 can run exclusively on electric power up to 37mph, while producing zero emissions.

At higher speeds the turbo seamlessly starts the combustion engine. The second electric motor then serves as a generator for the vehicle's electrical systems. You do, of course, need batteries to power the electric motors, but



BMW has thought of that and placed them on the roof. Only kidding! Incredibly, the engineers have managed to find room above the rear axle, so boot space is exactly the same as in a regular X6.

Other interesting features include a revised Brake Energy Regeneration System that BMW claims delivers 25 times more power at 67bhp than the original technology.

There's also electronic power steering, an Auto Start/Stop system, modified suspension and a lightweight, electronic braking system with Sensortronic Brake Actuation.

Exterior changes include a powerdome bonnet, 20" light-alloy Aero wheels, and Blue Water metallic paint.

Price: Yet to be announced

>> TAKE STOCK

Advanced FLOW engineering (aFe) is back once again with its latest development for the E46 M3, the Super Stock Air Intake. The setup is a simple bolt-on modification that maximises air velocity and thus improves horsepower, torque and throttle response. It also retains the factory airbox look, for those to whom that's important.

In addition, aFe's new dynamic air scoops are included with this kit and are specially designed to guide cold air directly into the upper engine compartment, reducing overall engine heat and allowing your BMW to consistently pull in cooler air.

In recent testing this Super Stock Air Intake produced a respectable 8.8bhp and 10lb ft of torque, while also improving fuel economy. For the money we're very impressed, as the gains are comparable with far higher-priced alternatives.

Price: £212

Contact: 001 951 493 7155

Web: www.aFepower.com



>> NICE PLUG

Armour Automotive Ltd has announced a new range of accessories under its innovative iO brand. The range comprises three iPod Chargers for the car, home and for travel, all compatible with the iPhone, iPhone 3G and all iPods, with a dock connector.

Because you don't always have access to mains power, the iO boffins have combined the mains power charger from the Home Power kit with an in-car charger, to create – wait for it – the iO Home & Car Power Kit. The in-car charger comes complete with a retractable lead and cigarette lighter adaptor. Both the home and in-car chargers come with a standard USB connector and can therefore be used to charge any USB-powered device directly from your vehicle.

Price: £14.99

Contact: 01420 476767

Web: www.armourautomotive.uk.com



>> ODDS AND SODS

Sometimes there's good news, and sometimes there's even better news! If you own an E39 M5 and have ever attempted to upgrade your OEM discs without opting for a big brake kit, you may have run into a snag – it simply wasn't possible. In fact, the truth was that most – if not all – aftermarket products consisted of numerous OEM parts repackaged. Stoptech felt this just would not do and has come up with a true non-OEM uprated front disc set to prove it.

The even better news we mentioned, is that this new kit is cheaper than the OEM items, saving you cash and improving your car's performance in one fell swoop. The kit comprises a floating design just like the OEM application, as well as slotted or (optional) drilled discs. The upgrade can be used with OEM pads, although CA Automotive recommends upgrading to a superior compound found on pads like the Axxis ULT.

CA Auto has also unveiled a few exquisite Vorsteiner goodies for the new M3, including a GTS carbon bonnet and front bumper package. The vented bonnet is available in either single- or double-sided carbon and is both lightweight and exceptionally beautiful.

The front bumper again reduces front-end mass, improving aerodynamics

as well as aesthetics, and is available in carbon or DVWP plastic. As ever, perfect fit and finish is a cert, as well it should be for that price!

Price: Stoptech E39 M5 front discs

£270; Vorsteiner GTS bonnet from

£2137, GTS front bumper from

£1791.39

Contact: 0871 231 1010

Web: www.ca-at.co.uk

