

STRIKING A BLOW FOR DRY CAR PAINTWORK

FIRST TEST

BigBoi BlowR Mini car dryer

Price: £149

Rating: ★★★★☆

Contact: www.ultimatefinish.co.uk

To keep your car's paintwork scratch and swirl-free when cleaning, you need to touch it as little as possible – and that includes not just when washing, but also when drying your bodywork and trim.

One of the latest solutions is from online detailing specialist Ultimate Finish, which has started importing BigBoi car dryers from Australia.

There are two in the range: the twin-motor Pro at £329 and the £149 Mini, which is aimed at enthusiasts. We tried the 3,000W single-motor Mini, which is supplied with three nozzles, as well as a spare filter and a professional-quality hose.

The hose will stretch to around 3.5 metres, which is enough to tackle the side of most cars. Featuring a carry handle and weighing just over 2kg, it's not too cumbersome to hold while drying. You get a choice of blower speeds and three temperatures for the filtered air: 15, 25 and 45 degrees Celsius, all easily selected by the switch and rotary controls on the front.

So how well does it work? Even on the maximum settings this product isn't about speed on big panels such as the roof and bonnet. Despite using the widest of the three nozzles, it takes a while to chase all the water off – a microfibre cloth would be quicker, but more effort.

Where the BigBoi really scores is when it comes to tackling complex areas such as grilles, wing mirrors and door handles. These are much quicker and easier to dry and you don't get those irritating drips you face when using a cloth.

Overall, it's a solidly constructed, high-quality solution for scratchless drying of your car which works well, but you need patience when drying large panels.



NEW PRODUCT

Yokohama BluEarth-4S AW21 all-season tyre

Price: TBA Contact: www.yokohama.co.uk

THE growing popularity of all-season tyres among drivers has prompted Japanese manufacturer Yokohama to launch its first range designed for the European market.

The BluEarth-4S AW21 will be available from late summer in 30 sizes covering 14 to 19-inch wheels.

Label ratings so far announced are mainly B for wet grip (the best is A), while it's rated either E or C

for fuel economy. The company says the new design incorporates its latest winter technology to give top performance on ice and snow, backed by a silica compound.

Yokohama's emphasis on cold weather running suggests the AW21 will be a winter tyre that has year-round performance, unlike rival Michelin's more summer-focused CrossClimate all-season design.



news, deals & events



Holiday savings on Vauxhall accessories

NEED accessories for your Vauxhall? Then this Bank Holiday weekend is the time to buy as the car maker has cut accessory prices by 25 per cent.

The deal applies to Vauxhall own-brand and approved accessories at www.vauxhall-accessories.com and in dealers. It lasts all weekend, and means cargo liners (above) will cost from £36 rather than the usual £48. Thule Ocean 80 roof boxes are down to £112.50 from £150 plus there's a £40 saving on Road Angel front dash cams, which are down to £119.99.

Blast around the Ring with Jaguar

WANT to experience the Nürburgring at high speed, at the hands of a professional driver? Jaguar is now operating a 'Race Taxi' around the Green Hell, giving high-speed car fans a taste of its latest performance duo: the F-Type SVR and the XJR575.

A professional driver acts as chauffeur, and passengers can relive their lap round the German track afterwards with a full high-definition recording. The price regardless of car is 199 Euros (approx £174) and it can be booked at www.jaguar.de.

Rockingham show set to wow VW fans

If you couldn't make it out to the Volkswagen festival at Wörthersee in Austria this month, the closest the UK has to offer is GTI International.

It's been running for more than 30 years and takes place on 2-3 June at Rockingham Motor Speedway in Northants. Entry is £15 in advance from www.gtiinternational.co.uk or £18 at the gate. Tickets for track time must be booked on the day.

Know an event coming soon?
[Contact products@autoexpress.co.uk](mailto:products@autoexpress.co.uk)