

+ GADGETS FOR DRIVERS

Accessories for motorists have moved a long way from fluffy dice and a nodding dog in the rear window. **Dominic Tobin** rounds up the most entertaining car-related tech on the planet

Modern cars have more buttons in their cockpit than the Apollo astronauts gazed at during the first moon landing. Probably. Yet factory-fitted options are just the start of making a gadget emporium on wheels — there's a piece of after-market technology for your every whim. You can upgrade your car's standard equipment with cutting-edge audio and navigation technology, make life on the road a bit easier or simply inject some fun into your journeys.

And even when you've prised yourself out of your motor, driving-themed gizmos let you continue to indulge your passion for all things automotive.



SOUND EFFECTS KEYRING

TOP GEAR KEYRING £6

Like the TV show, there's nothing very subtle about this. Press the big red button to unleash one of six car sound effects, including a roaring V8 engine or a backfiring exhaust. The only thing missing is a Clarksonsque POWERRR.

WE SAY Petrolhead heaven.
amazon.co.uk



CLICK ON A COOPER

MINI COOPER MOUSE £37

Love driving? Work on a computer? Combine the two with this Mini Cooper-shaped mouse. The challenge will be to restrain yourself from racing it round your desk making vrooming noises. Especially in the office. With the bonnet divided into two buttons and a scroll wheel looking like a big air scoop, it could be the ultimate desk accessory.

WE SAY There's also the option of a personalised numberplate and chequered roof.
motor-mouse.net

MOUNT YOUR MOBILE

iLUV ICC796 £30

There are apps to turn your smartphone into a sat nav, a parking-space finder and even an accident data recorder, but they're no good if you keep having to take your eyes off the road to glance down at the screen. This windscreen mount puts your phone in sight and includes a USB converter for your car's 12V power socket, making it compatible with chargers for iPhone and almost every other smartphone.

WE SAY Sat nav, tweets or texts (while parked) — you never need to be parted from your phone.
currys.co.uk

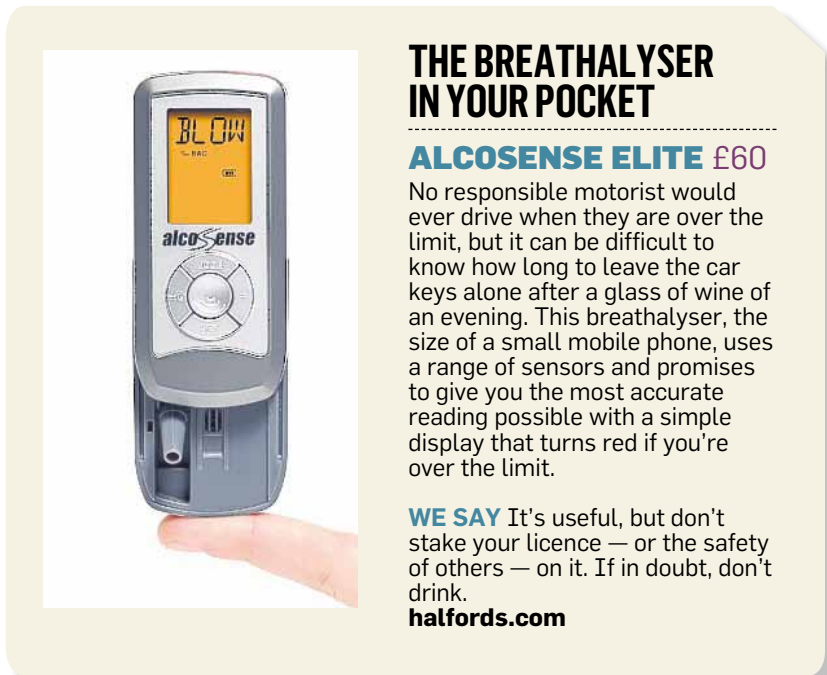


NO PETROL GETS PAST THIS DIESEL BARRIER

DIESEL HEAD £35

At least 150,000 drivers put the wrong fuel in their car each year, and it can cost up to £5,000 a time to repair the damage. Putting petrol into a diesel car is the worst scenario — so prevent it by fitting this replacement filler cap. Its clever mechanism blocks narrower petrol nozzles, but allows access for larger diesel ones.

WE SAY An insurance policy against forgetfulness.
dieselhead.co.uk



THE BREATHALYSER IN YOUR POCKET

ALCOSENSE ELITE £60

No responsible motorist would ever drive when they are over the limit, but it can be difficult to know how long to leave the car keys alone after a glass of wine of an evening. This breathalyser, the size of a small mobile phone, uses a range of sensors and promises to give you the most accurate reading possible with a simple display that turns red if you're over the limit.

WE SAY It's useful, but don't stake your licence — or the safety of others — on it. If in doubt, don't drink.
halfords.com



NEXT-GENERATION AUDIO

PARROT ASTEROID RADIO £300

Designed to replace your existing radio, the Asteroid will turn any old banger into an internet-connected car. It has an AM/FM tuner and Google Maps for navigation on its LCD screen. Add a mobile data dongle to access thousands of internet radio stations, real-time traffic updates and apps.

WE SAY Much more than a radio — as long as it doesn't lose its mobile data signal.
parrot.com/uk

NEVER LOSE YOUR CAR

ECCO GPS KEYCHAIN £65

After parking the car, push a button and walk off. On your return, the locator will guide you back in the right direction with an arrow and a distance to your vehicle. Functional anywhere in the world, whether you're on a main road or in a field, it can also help you find your way back to your tent, hotel or train station.

WE SAY If you can't find your car with the help of this, it's been nicked.
clickshop.com

