

**free
car
mag**

**Epic '70s TV
is OUT**

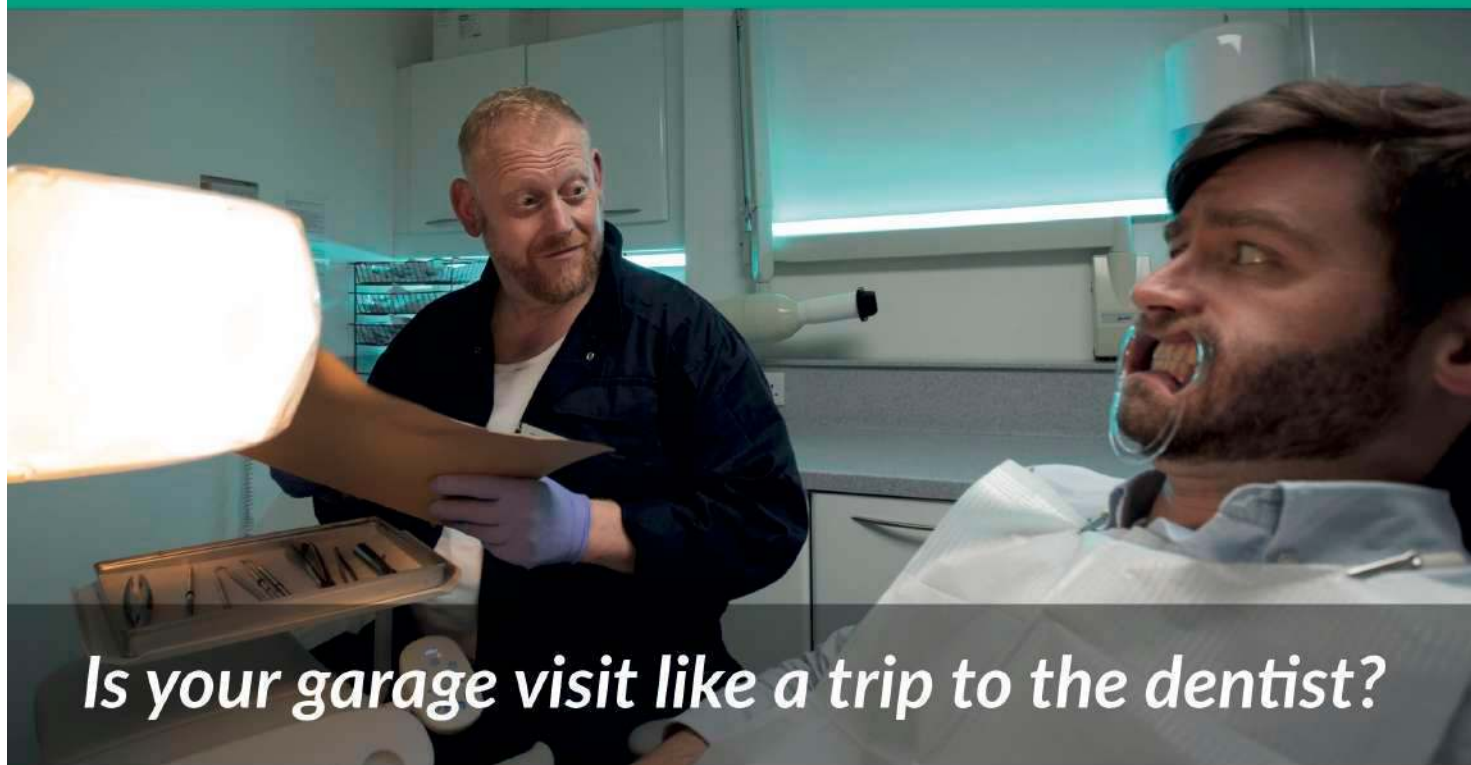
Wheeler Dealers

**Mike + Ant
are racing
back...**



Modern Classics we take a look at
what makes the Alfa Romeo 147 a
dream to drive and own

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freetorial

Wheeler Dealers is one of favourite TV programmes with motors in them. best of all we love Mike Brewer, he is one of us, a car enthusiast. That's why we really enjoy talking to him and we seem to do that every couple of months. Which was one of our life goals anyway.

If you know what's good for you, watch Wheeler Dealers. Also, want to know what a modern classic is? Then read Kiran Parmar's excellent feature and pictures on the Alfa Romeo 147.

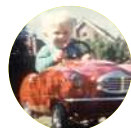
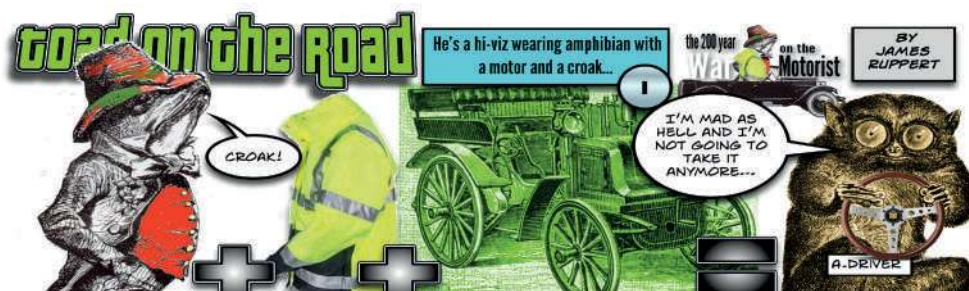
We still get excited about all sorts of TV, especially when it is from 1978 and called OUT. You've heard of the Sweeney and Professionals, but this is an underrated classic, plus it contains wonderful cars, tyre smoking around in their era.

Free Car Mag is changing a bit and we will be working closely with the Alliance of British Drivers in order to make our motoring life just that bit more bearable. Plus there's a new cartoon, see below.

See you next time.



John Junkin and Tom Bell take the Jag 420G to the Free Car Mag office to sort us OUT...



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**free
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**FUELLED
BY FUN**

St Athan is the home of Aston Martin's first SUV, the DBX



HRH THE PRINCE OF WALES

Aston Martin Lagonda welcomed His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales to its new manufacturing facility at St Athan in Wales. The visit was also enjoyed by a group of Aston Martin apprentices and school children from the local area who came along to see the new facility. Aston Martin Lagonda, St Athan now also bears a plaque, commemorating today's Royal visit, which was presented to the team by His Royal Highness. The final step in the manufacture of every Aston Martin is the application of the marque's iconic wings badge to the car. Today a very special pre-production DBX received the Royal seal of approval when The Prince of Wales applied its wings.



VISITS ASTON MARTIN LAGONDA ST ATHAN

During the visit, Aston Martin Lagonda apprentices had the opportunity to talk The Prince of Wales through the skills and knowledge they've gained during their time as apprentices. The group has a strong mixture of skills, coming from commercial roles such as marketing and communications, through to manufacturing and engineering. Aston Martin Lagonda currently employs 93 apprentices across its operating sites.

Spotted
in
Wales



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Aston Martin Lagonda Executive Vice President and Chief Creative Officer, Marek Reichman said: "It was an honour to welcome His Royal Highness to St Athan today. To have transformed St Athan from a former MOD site to a facility fit for a Royal visit makes us all feel extremely proud. It is well-known that The Prince of Wales is a fan of Aston Martin, so it was a pleasure to be able to show him around the future of the brand here today. Upon the commencement of full production at St Athan in the second quarter of 2020, the company will have created up to 600 new highly-skilled jobs, rising to 750. Since 2016, St Athan has undergone a three-year transformation from Royal Air Force base to state-of-the-art manufacturing facility. The completion of the St Athan facility means that it joins the marque's Gaydon headquarters and its Wellesbourne and Newport Pagnell facilities as a centre of the highest quality of British craftsmanship and engineering.



VOLVO CAR UK + SPONSORS BRITISH TRIATHLON

The partnership between Volvo and British Triathlon is founded on their shared core values, including respect and care for the environment, sustainability and a sense of adventure. Both also share a focus on people, helping them to enjoy active lifestyles and explore new opportunities. These messages have been amplified by the work of the first two triathletes to be appointed Volvo brand ambassadors: multiple World and European Championship winner and Rio 2016 Paralympic silver medallist Lauren Steadman, and John McAvoy, an ex-career criminal turned full-time professional athlete. Kristian Elfvefors, Managing Director, Volvo Car UK, said: "We have enjoyed an excellent first year supporting British Triathlon, helping us connect with thousands of people who enjoy the challenge and excitement of the sport – both as competitors at all levels and as spectators. In our second year of sponsorship, we look forward to growing our relationship and reinforcing the messages around our shared values, helped by the excellent work of our sporting brand ambassadors."

70th
Berlinale
Film
Festival



2020 Franziska Krug
1

AUDI + SIGOURNEY WEAVER

All-electric: Audi drives the stars of the Berlin International Film Festival to the Red Carpet. For the 70th anniversary of the Berlinale, and in a seventh season as Principal Sponsor, with all-electric trips in its progressive and elegant fleet, Audi is setting an exciting scene for film festival celebrities on their way to the Red Carpet. The fleet includes the fully electric Audi e-tron* and two new plug-in hybrid models, the Audi A8 TFSI e* and A7 Sportback TFSI e*. With the Berlinale Open House program in the Audi Berlinale Lounge, Audi and the Berlinale are also jointly supporting dialogue on various perspectives that reflect dynamic issues of the future.



2020 Franziska Krug

Get the look

JEREMY IRONS + SINÉAD CUSACK

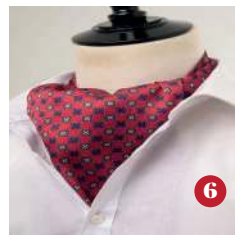
Alongside talks and discussions, the program also includes an abundance of sensory and participative elements for visitors: with "electric yoga", for example, they can refuel with new energy and start the day full of vigor. In the evenings, the glass pavilion becomes a magnet for music fans. A mix of DJs and live acts such as the scintillating artist Leopold, the indie/rock duo Gurr and techno beats from Tiefschwarz will ensure an electrifying atmosphere during the Berlinale Lounge Nights. The emotional highlight of the Berlinale, the awarding of the Golden and Silver Bears, will also be relayed live to the Audi Berlinale Lounge on Marlene-Dietrich- Platz. Nina Sonnenberg aka Fiva will be the moderator for this special evening in the Lounge. Never mind though, how do we get Jeremy Irons and his Mrs. Sinead Cusack's brilliantly complicated look.

Jeremy Irons ●

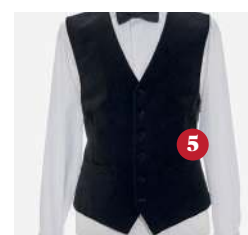
- 1 Audi A8 £70,125
- 2 Coat - Eric Dress £55.34
- 3 Boots - Ride Away £75.79
- 4 Trousers - Samuel Windsor £35.00
- 5 Waistcoat - Samuel Windsor £17.50
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2



6



5



4

Sinead Cusack ●

- 1 Boots - Debenhams £49.00
- 2 Jacket - Just Blue £44.99
- 3 Bag - Asos £16.00
- 4 Earrings - Debenhams £10.00
- 5 Vest Top - New Look £3.00
- 6 Skirt - Etsy £61.82



3



4



5



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1



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6



1

Wheeler Dealers

Mike's Motors



EXCLUSIVE TO
DISCOVERY ON
MONDAYS AT
9PM

The original and best TV programme about buying, restoring and selling cars is back. Free Car Mag talks to Mike Brewer about what keeps him motivated and always looking for the next deal.



Wheeler Dealers sees the automotive world's finest duo as they set to work restoring classic vehicles to later sell for profit in their LA-based shop. On a tight budget and despite intense challenges, the boys never fail to deliver their creations to a lucky new owner. This series sees a whole host of iconic cars, such as a 1972 Fiat 124 Spider "survivor" car. The Fiat is all original, but with a driving experience that leaves a lot to be desired, Mike must secure a price that leaves the boys some profit. Mike then hands it over to Ant, who tackles everything from bare metal re-sprays to gearbox swaps to bring the car back to its former glory

Anyway that's the official guff from the production company, what are the secrets behind our favourite show? Luckily Mike Brewer was around to tell us.

Free Car Mag: What has changed about the new series?

Mike: Nothing at all. I go out and find a car, bring it back to the workshop, hand it over to Ant. He does his masterly skills and pulls it back round, as I go and find parts then we take it for an epic joy ride at the end. Then we sell it. So no, same story as before. This format has never changed in eighteen years.

Free Car Mag: Proof Wheeler Dealers works then?

Mike: Yes a tried and tested formula, not only does it work, we are incredibly flattered, that's us and the team at Wheeler Dealers and Discovery Channel that now there are 100 other shows plagiarising what we do with an identical format.

Free Car Mag: Wheeler Dealers has worldwide appeal too?

Mike: The show translates everywhere it goes, Japan, Australia, China, the States and Canada, to name just a few. I think that is because it is formulaic and does not change. Also there is no drama, we need to get a car to a show and we don't shout. Globally that is understood. I think copy shows do the jeopardy, or they just argue, they never hit the right tone and fail for that reason. We are saving and rescuing a car and that's it. This is completely genuine we love turning up to work together and passionate about what we do. Same crew for the last 17 years so we manage to capture this and bottle it.

Free Car Mag: There are some great cars in the series, is that a Ford Bronco?

Mike: I was told at the time not to use the letters O.J. It is an American icon because of that very cop chase. This is a fifth generation Bronco in white and is identical to the O.J. one and when it was finished we put it through the Barrett Jackson Car Auction to let the world see it and sell it there.

Free Car Mag: Any other cars we should pay particular attention to?

Mike: Probably the stand out car has been, which has been massively on social media in the last few months, a 2003 BMW E46 M3. I found one with a tired SMG 'box which cost £4000 to replace. But what people don't realise is that underneath that paddle shifting nonsense is a full-fledged six-speed manual gearbox. We take all the SMG gubbins off the box, a tiny bit of fabrication needs doing and for £1500 we turn it into a manual and

Mike Brewer

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a manual and also add 30% to the value. It is brilliant and there was a lot of engineering in that show, but totally worth it. We just fitted a shifter rod and the gear lever, there was even a hole conveniently left by BMW for the clutch pedal to be bolted through. We added a master cylinder and then we were off.

Free Car Mag: By contrast, were there any vehicles that disappointed?

Mike: When I choose the cars I listen to the audience. We are never going to do supercars or a £50-60 grand car. If I ever go above £20K I get all sorts of grief that I'm being far too aspiration. So I try and keep them affordable, going from the 2003 BMW M3 to a 1967 Volvo Amazon that I gave \$4000 for. The Bronco was \$8000.

There is an amazing 1972 Fiat 124 Spider that they call a survivor car in America. We didn't want to take away from its incredible originality and that is always the challenge for Ant and me. The seat trim was completely beaten up by the California sun and useless, but I felt that having it renewed would have been the wrong thing to do. Instead I managed to find a brand new set of 1972 seat covers. So it is truly lovely. There is a Toyota 1970 Celica ST 2002 Mercedes E55 AMG, a 1985 Ford XR4Ti Sierra, the Americans got the much better version. To finish it all off I found a beautiful Toyota FJ60 Land Cruiser. So the mix of cars there is incredibly diverse and it satisfies everyone. For the power hungry viewer there's the BMW M3, the Fast Ford crowd get the XR4, then there's a lovely little convertible like the Fiat 124 for the traditionalist. Finally, an American icon with the Bronco and those who want to go mud plugging, the FJ60 Land Cruiser. So we tick every box and I am so proud of this series.

Free Car Mag: It is good to hear that you appreciate a car in what is sometimes referred to as 'barn find' condition.

Mike: These days originality pays more. There may be thousand and thousands of restored Fiat 124s, but only one original. They are only original once and that's what people want and will pay for. Whether it has a chip in the paint or a dent in the dashboard that all tells a story. Because there is so many over restored cars, it is the original ones, which are more honest and desirable.

Free Car Mag: Are people inspired by what you do?

Mike: The one thing I can tell you about this job is that I will be contacted through social media, at the petrol station, or yesterday at Greggs when I was having lunch with my film crew, and say because of you, I fixed my car, my dad's car and you gave me the confidence to do it. That is worth more than anything else. The knowledge that we have made a humble car show but that has made a huge difference to someone's life by sharing our passion. I know it is the same for me and Ant and previously Ed. We absolute love that.

Free Car Mag: Which means Mike Brewer will be part of Wheeler Dealers forever?

Mike: The Dream Cars series (Free Car Mag 79) has done incredibly well and resonated with so many viewers. I am very lucky to work with Discovery who gives us masses of support. If people don't watch then it won't last. So far, and that's 20 years, I've only ever delivered knock out shows for the channel. I will do this for as long as I can stand up or at least

Mike Brewer

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go and buy a car. I sometimes talk about retirement, but my wife says, 'all you do is buy cars, so you might as well film it'. I could not do anything else, I can't put up shelves or do anything useful, just bring cars back to life..

Free Car Mag: You have to deal with a lot of advice from people with opinions rather than expertise, is that difficult?

Mike: That shows the popularity of Wheeler Dealers. People engage because they don't like something and feel that they know better, proves that this show is important and resonates with them and that is lovely. We are humble people we don't want to dwell on the past. The future of Wheeler Dealers has never looked better and healthier. I know what's coming up with the next one and it is the best I've ever made. This will be the best, just incredible, same format, same show and anyone who criticises just makes me produce even better programmes. I do this by the choice of cars, the ambition of the builds and the joyride at the end of the show. I have pushed the production company to produce what I think is the best series ever.

Judge for yourself as WHEELER DEALERS returns exclusively to Discovery on the 2nd of March at 9pm. See you there.

KIRAN
PARMAR



Bright Spark

Kiran Parmar tells us what it is like to live with an Alfa Romeo. Not only does Kiran speak to a very happy owner he also takes some spectacular pictures to make us all want one. Here is the truth about owning and running a 147.

Photography by Kiran Parmar www.kiranparmar.photography



Some say you have to own an Alfa Romeo once in your life to be considered a serious car enthusiast. So, this month I decided to interview a friend of mine who is a motor bike enthusiast and fellow petrol head, Simon Taylor.

Simon took the plunge and purchased a 2002 Alfa 147 2.0 Twin Spark Lusso. Simon's Alfa is in immaculate condition, finished in metallic Argento Silver paint. It's two litre, 4 cylinder petrol engine produces 145bhp and will do 0-62mph in 9.3 seconds with a top speed of 129mph.

Your car is in beautiful condition; can you tell us a little about your motor. Firstly, what is the mileage and how long have you had the car?

Simon: I purchased this car in 2015 with about 44k on the clock which is really quite low for a car of this age. I owe the previous owner for the way they kept this car in such great condition. It has a full-service history and with most of its miles on the motorway, the gearbox is crisp and responsive. The interior is in fantastic condition which you wouldn't expect to see in a car of this age. During my ownership I've put another 6,000 on.

What is it like to drive?

Simon: It has a comfortable low and sporty seating position. The steering is super responsive which took some time to get used to. The handling is superb! I must resist the temptation to throw the car late into corners because I know it is capable, and it feels good.

What are your favourite features about the car?

Simon: The ever so slightly awkward, unique and unconventional look. I love the shape and lines of this car and other Alfa models also. Certainly, you must allow your heart to lead your decision making, it is a big part of the reason you'll end up owning an Alfa at all. What don't I like about

Italian Styling!? It is purely a coincidence but not entirely surprising that the three vehicles I own were designed and built in Italy.

What are the running costs like?

Simon: This is my weekend car, so I don't rack up the miles, so proportionately the spend on maintaining the car is relatively low. The road tax is a bit rough at £325, so in total I'm looking at perhaps £1000 per year to keep it running – that's including my insurance

Alfa's seem to have a reputation for giving owners lots of problems, have you had any problems with the car? Are there any things buyers should look out for when buying this model of Alfa Romeo?

Simon: Yeah, I got a lot of negative comments about perceived reliability issues with Alfas in general. And I guess 80% of that is how the car is looked after. I've had very little problems myself for a car of this age. The exhaust was replaced due to some corrosion, a couple of months back I had to replace the gear selector bushes to remove some slackness and eventual refusal to move through the gears. This appears to be a common problem with the 147 but easily remedied, new parts came in at just under £5 and 2 hours of my time. Check window motors work without grinding as this is a precursor to replacing them. My only gripe about the interior is the soft touch finish applied to the door handles and some of the controls; this coating has deteriorated over the years and can feel like your touching a sticky boiled sweet. The best thing to do is work at these with a soft cloth and some lighter fluid to remove the 'Jammy' substance altogether.

Your car has the Twin Spark Engine, can you tell us about it?

Simon: Yes, it is a brilliant engine. A normal car will only have one spark plug per cylinder which will ignite the fuel only on the compression stroke but on the Alfa Twin Spark engine it has two spark plugs per cylinder so





it will ignite the fuel on the compression and exhaust stroke. Therefore, it will burn the fuel that was originally injected plus the unburnt fuel that is left making it a very efficient engine. The only small downside is that it requires 8 spark plugs to be changed at servicing rather than 4! But having done this spark plug service recently it makes for a noticeable difference in performance.

Would you consider purchasing another Alfa Romeo if so which model(s) do you really like?

Simon: Yes of course I would buy another Alfa. Currently looking at the 2.2 Spider 2007 onwards, it has the shape and styling that fits what I'm looking for and has to be in Rosso, but again finding one that has been looked after as well as my 147 will be a task

Finally, what is your dream?

Simon: I'm a big fan of vehicle styling from the 60's so I wouldn't mind running around in a Lancia 2000 Coupe or a Karmann Ghia.

Thank you Simon for taking the time to chat to us at Free Car Mag. Italian style, sports car handling, a brilliant engine and a famous badge all in one fun package. If an Alfa Romeo is well looked after, just as any car should be, it will give you many years of trouble-free motoring and this one is arguably a future classic for sure.





HANDS FREE

Despite the average worker making seven calls a day while driving and spending an average of 37 minutes on the phone for work each day, just 41 per cent use handsfree and Bluetooth technology on a frequent basis.

It's not just making calls, either, with 17 per cent of drivers in the UK admitting to sending and receiving texts, checking e-mails or posting on social media while driving**.

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The combination of both Moixa and

Vattenfall allows EV owners to charge their car to a schedule which makes optimum use of the most affordable and clean energy available. The preferred hardware solution (smart charger) for the new service is Honda's Power Charger, a domestic unit which will charge a Honda e from zero to 100% capacity from a 32-amp power supply in just over four hours, significantly faster than a standard domestic wall socket.

As well as offering a unique set of benefits to customers, e:PROGRESS will help the grid by supporting active grid management to effectively stabilise demand and to optimise the use of renewables, while also supporting Honda in meeting its CO2 reduction targets in line with the company's 2030 vision.



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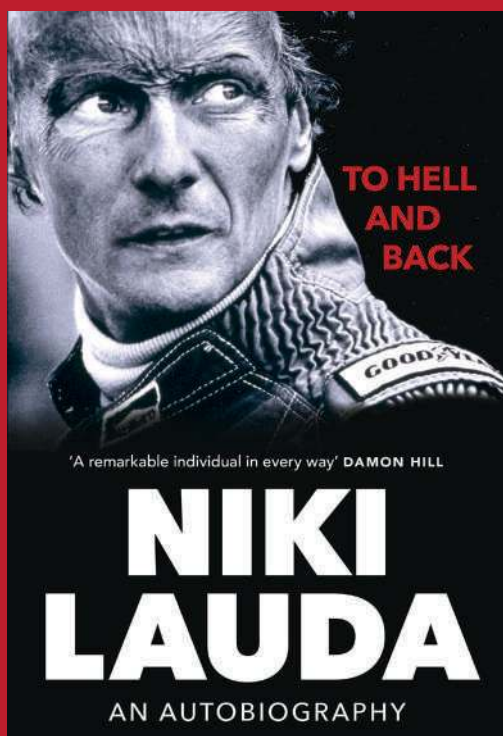
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This highly acclaimed autobiography is published for the first time since its release in 1986. Including an exclusive postscript by The Times F1 correspondent Kevin Eason and an interview with Lauda's long-time friend and colleague Toto Wolff, it gives us an extraordinary insight into the mind of a true Formula One legend. Three-times F1 champion and a symbol of ultimate courage and determination, Niki Lauda died at 70 on 20 May 2019 to an outpouring of tributes from across the world. A mentor to modern day champions like Lewis Hamilton and Nico Rosberg, Formula One had lost one of their greatest legends. 'A lot of people criticise Formula One as an unnecessary risk. But what would life be like if we only did what was necessary?' Niki Lauda
www.penguin.co.uk



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BMW 2 Series

GRAND COUPÉ

The BMW 2 Series Gran Coupé features the latest front-wheel-drive and AWD system also seen in the BMW 1 Series, along with an array of other technological developments. Equipped with cutting-edge chassis technology and innovative systems, the four-door model sets the benchmark in terms of driving dynamics and agility within the segment.

The BMW 2 Series Gran Coupé is a standalone model with exclusive exterior design details including eye-catching contoured kidney grille bars, a mesh grille for the flagship BMW M235i xDrive M Performance model and, most strikingly, the all-new design of the rear lights, which extend well towards the centre of the rear.

The new BMW 2 Series Gran Coupé will be available from launch with a choice of three engines – one diesel and two petrol. We can't wait to drive it.





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Fiat City Car with a Battery

FIAT 500 ELECTRIC

The new generation of the iconic city car has a range of up to 199 miles (WLTP) and receives 85kW fast charging as standard. Production of the New 500 returns to its birthplace of Turin, Italy, where the first model was first created 63 years ago. Unveiled in top specification guise – ‘La Prima’. The lithium-ion batteries, with a capacity of 42kWh, give the New 500 a range of up to 199 miles in the WLTP cycle. To optimise charging time, the New 500 is equipped with an 85kW fast charge system. It takes only five minutes to build up a sufficient energy reserve to travel 30 miles, more than the average daily commute. Using a fast charger can also power the battery to 80% in just 35 minutes.



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MAZDA MX-30 FIRST EDITION

The MX-30 First Edition is Mazda's first all-electric production vehicle and part of an electrification strategy that has already seen Mazda M Hybrid, mild hybrid fitted as standard to the Mazda3 and Mazda CX-30. A stylish and versatile crossover, the Mazda MX-30 features an AC synchronous electric motor and a 35.5kWh lithium-ion battery that delivers a range of approximately 124 miles and comes with AC charging up to 6.6Kw and DC rapid charging designed to meet 125A Combo Charging standards.

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2014 64REG FORD FIESTA 1.0 ECOBOOST ZETEC S BLACK

Stock #:	6230	Transmission:	MANUAL	Asking Price:	£6495
Condition:	Preowned	Mileage:	47000		
Year:	2014	Exterior Color:	BLACK		
Make:	Ford				
Model:	Fiesta				
Body Style:	Hatchback				



2013 63 REG VW GOLF 1.6 TDI SE 5 DOOR MANUAL DIES

Stock #:	6249	Transmission:	MANUAL	Asking Price:	£6495
Condition:	Preowned	Mileage:	85000		
Year:	2013	Exterior Color:	Blue		
Make:	VW				
Model:	Golf				
Body Style:	Hatchback				



2002 52 REG BMW M3 3.2 CONVERTIBLE MANUAL

Stock #:	5775	Transmission:	MANUAL	Asking Price:	£6995
Condition:	Preowned	Mileage:	132000		
Year:	2002	Exterior Color:	SILVER		
Make:	BMW				
Model:	M3				
Body Style:	Convertible				

Screenshot



About us

Hunters Lodge Cars is based at a rural location in north Worcestershire, five minutes drive from Kidderminster.



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Watch OUT from Sunday 29th March at 12am, continuing every week exclusively on Talking Pictures TV.

This is the story of Frank Ross, jailed for eight years for attempted robbery after someone “grassed him up” – and he will find out who! Nobody knows who put the finger on him, but Ross is determined to take revenge on those who betrayed him. Whilst inside, his wife has gone into a home and his son is going off the rails. Ross slowly pieces together the trail that leads to a dramatic conclusion. First aired in 1978, the series was hugely popular with an average audience of 10 million viewers. OUT is dominated by Tom Bell’s iconic portrayal of Frank Ross, in an immaculate three-piece suit. Also starring Brian Croucher, Lynn Farleigh, Pam Fairbrother, Andrew Paul, John Junkin, Brian Cox. Directed by: Jim Goddard.

Free Car Mag has always loved watching re-runs of classic TV shows like The Professionals and The Sweeney. It’s not just the fights and shooters, it is the glorious ‘70s backgrounds containing cars. There are BMWs, Rovers, Jags, Fiats and Vauxhalls. OUT features a 1978 2.8 Ford Granada, but there are so many spectacular ‘70s cars including a period British Leyland showroom. If you love cars and great storytelling then make sure you watch Talking Pictures TV.



FCM 83

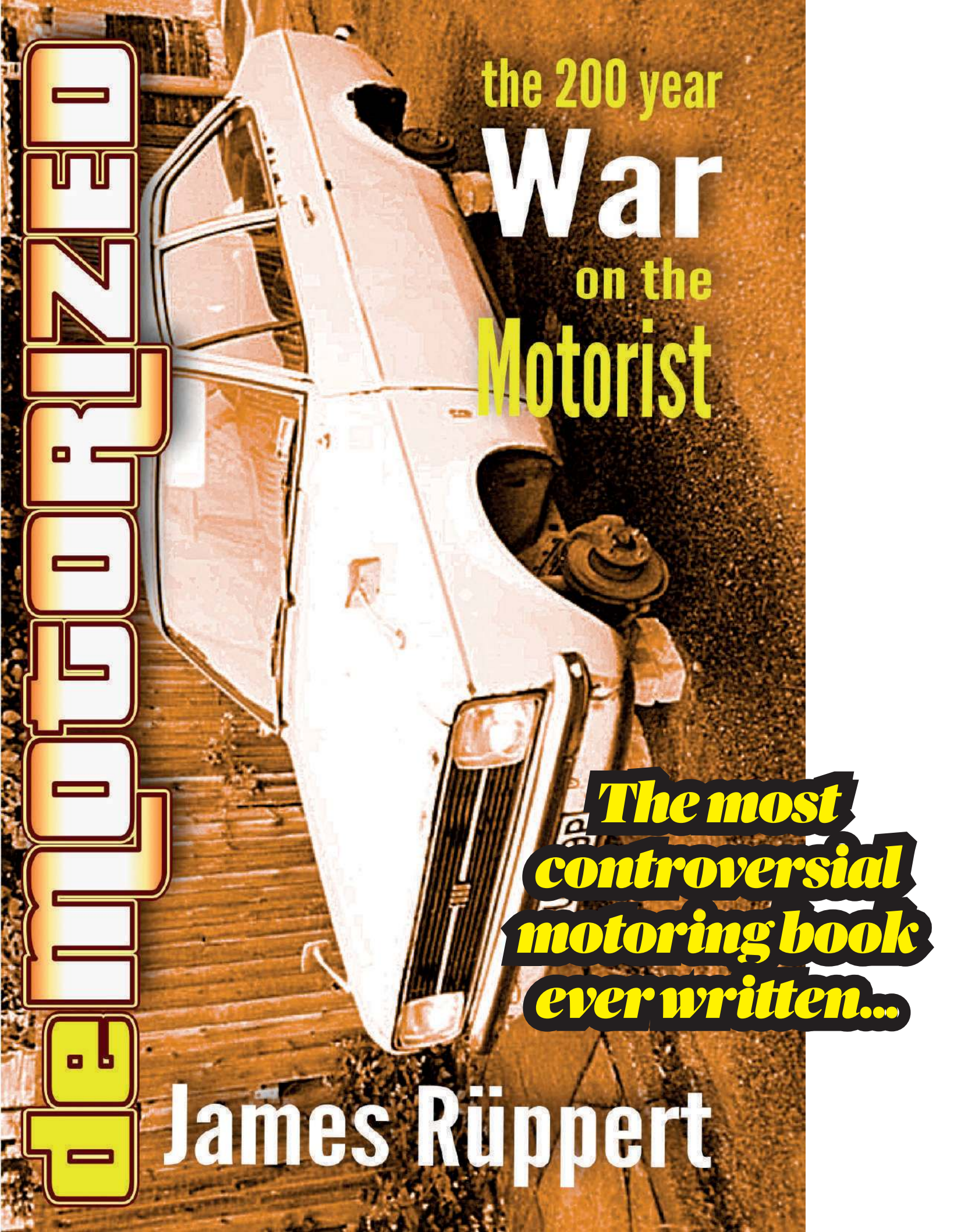
As usual, not at all sure what will make the inside pages of the next issue. We may be changing the celebrity led format for something that is a bit more fun and using a picture of a bearded bloke with a Porsche. Whatever happens we look forward to seeing you next time...



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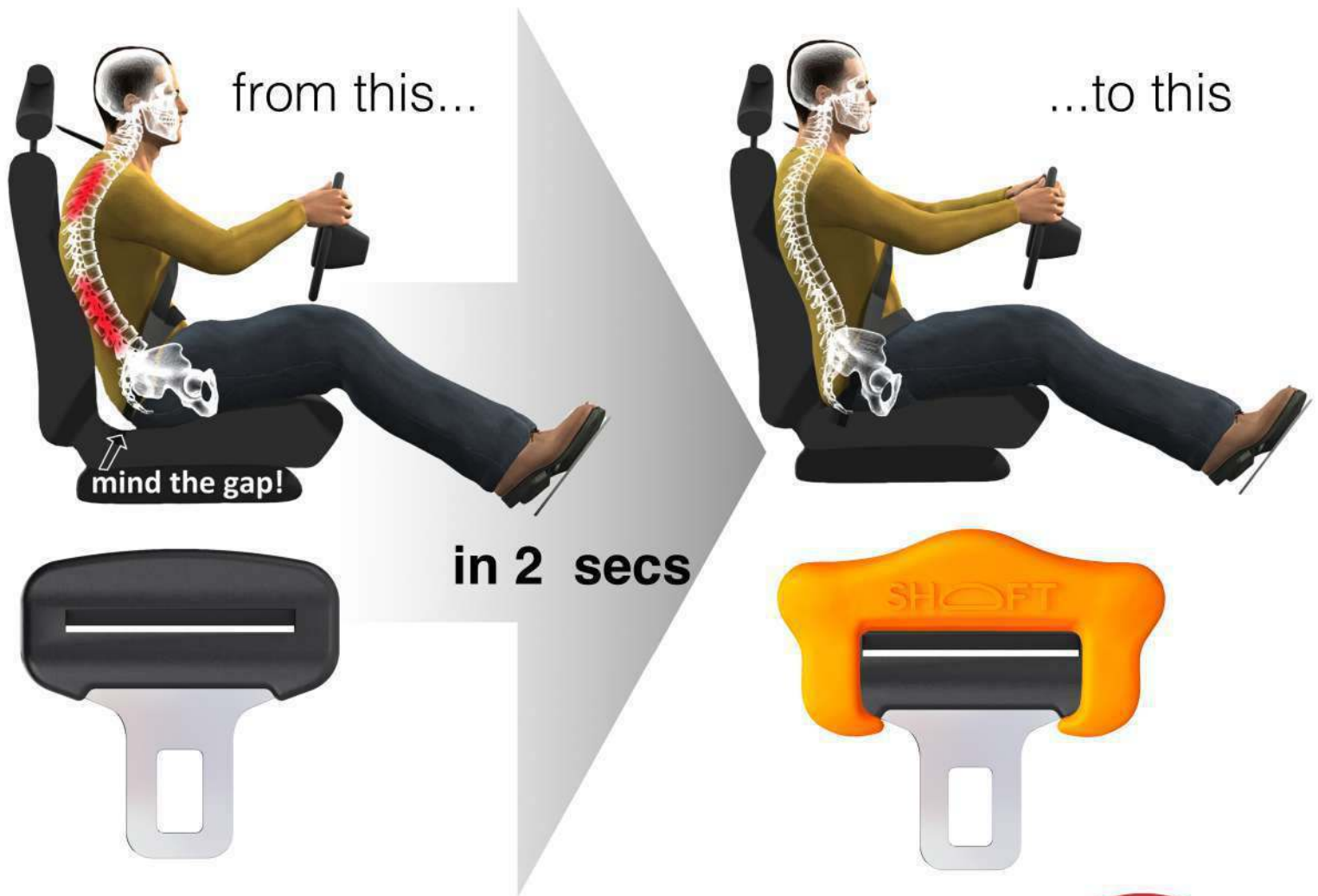
All the Motorist wants to do is finish their journey, get to work, or visit their mum. Trouble is, there's an ultra low emission zone, or a new road toll to contend with. Meanwhile, some soft headed climate extinction protesters have glued themselves to the dual carriageway. Not only that, the Motorists' car is subject to a manufacturer recall because the exhaust emissions were tested on the wrong sort of monkey. They have been Demotorized.

Motorists have been under attack from all sides ever since they proved it was possible to make your own way in the world behind the wheel of a self-propelled vehicle in 1803. Whether it is the government, international busy bodies, or someone wearing Lycra, Demotorization is their aim. Meanwhile, Toad of Toad Hall, has joined the Gilets Jaunes...



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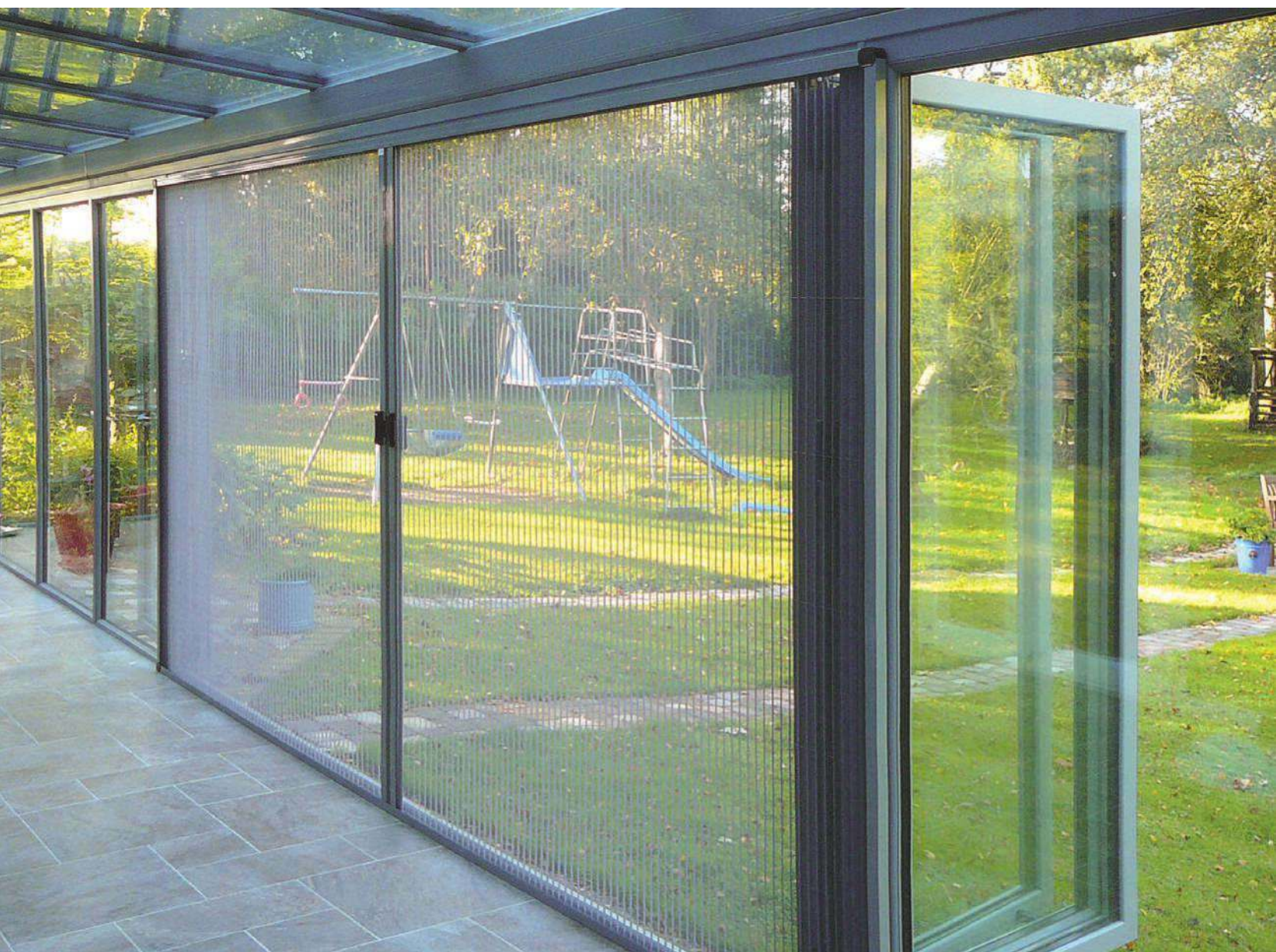


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