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BRITAIN'S BIGGEST-SELLING WEEKLY CAR MAG

# AUTO EXPRESS

THE CAR NEWS WEEKLY



FULL TEST

## BRITAIN'S BEST HATCH

New Skoda Octavia vs VW Golf and Honda Civic

# NEW 3 SERIES GT

REVEALED Our top exec adds spacious hatchback



FULL STORY



355 bhp

PLUS



## C4 Picasso

New concept unveiled  
...but we've already spied the real thing



## Mercedes' mega hatch

It's as fast as a 911 but for half the price

TESTED Vauxhall Adam vs Fiat 500 ● £5,995 Dacia Sandero ● New Renault Clio

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## Mini test

### Smart ebike

Price: £2,495 Contact: <http://uk.smart.com>

WITH its full-sized frame and 26-inch wheels, this is a big bike. We had to remove the quick release front wheel to get it into our car, and this was a struggle, as it's 26.1kg. The bulk of the weight is over the back, as the 200-watt electric motor is in the rear wheel hub, with the battery mounted under the seat. As a result, pedalling is hard work when you run out of battery (after 60 miles), and there's no suspension, either. You can chain the bike up outside the office and charge the battery at your desk.

Rating: ★★★



LONGER RANGE

# On the charge in easy riders

**ME** Jamie Fretwell

ELECTRIC bikes can take the strain out of commutes – just drive part of your journey, park out of town and then cycle the rest of the way to save money.

Many new electric bikes have a range of more than 40 miles, too. And while they're limited to 15.5mph, anyone over the age of 14 can ride one and, unlike with a moped, you don't need insurance.

Smart has just launched its £2,495 new ebike, and we tested it against the Karbon Kinitecs GoCycle G2R, which costs £304 more, but can be dismantled in

minutes for easy storage. Both bikes were ridden on a test route that included hills, fast and slow sections of road and sharp bends.

Crucially, we also loaded them into a car to see how easy it is to park and ride. Finally, we rated the manufacturers' claimed range and weight of each bike, and looked at any accessories.

The Smart is the cheaper buy, but while we like the fact you can unplug the battery, the ebike is simply too heavy. The G2R is nimble, well designed and, importantly, easy to transport. We think it's well worth the extra.

**"Electric bikes take the strain out of commutes and can save you money"**

### GoCycle G2R

Price: £2,799 Contact: [www.gocycle.com](http://www.gocycle.com)

THIS good-looking bike is aimed at hardcore cyclists. Not only is it incredibly lightweight for an electric bike (just 15.6kg), but you can dismantle it into the soft case, which is included. There's a clever three-speed gearbox which automatically shifts down a gear when you slow down, and rear suspension, too. The range is only 40 miles, but on the move, the bike really impresses with its instant power delivery. We also love the enclosed chain – this means you won't get your trouser leg caught in it.

Rating: ★★★



STYLISH CHOICE

## Books, films & games

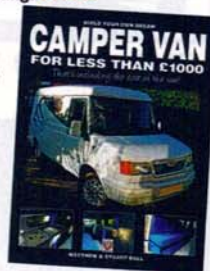


### Camper Van For Less Than £1,000

Matt & Stuart Ball (Veloce, 01305 260068, [veloce.co.uk](http://veloce.co.uk))

Price: £19.99 (paperback) Rating: ★★★

THIS is less of a how-to guide, and more the story of how two brothers spent 10 weeks converting a £400 LDV van into a camper. There are lots of pictures, and the pair have documented how they managed to stay under budget – by selling what they didn't use on eBay. There's also a list of what tools they used.



### One Car To Do It All

Petrolicious (<http://vimeo.com/57909173>)

Running time: 9min 39secs Rating: ★★★★★

WE'RE already big fans of Jack Olsen – he's the man who built the beautiful 12-Gauge Garage under his LA home. Now this video has made us even more jealous of him. In under 10 minutes, he tells the story of how his Porsche 911 RSR is used on the road and on the track. There is lovely footage of Jack driving the car around California, and it's in high definition.



### Race Illegal: High Speed 3D

Price: 69p Available for: Apple iPod, iPhone, iPad  
Rating: ★★★

CHILLINGO is one of our favourite app developers – it publishes games such as Draw Race 2 and Cut the Rope. Its latest offering is Race Illegal, a high-speed racing game which is fun, but sadly, lacks the detail of rivals. The graphics aren't that sharp, and there are no licensed cars. Not as good as Asphalt and Need for Speed.



## App of the week

### Crash Mate

Price: Free Available for: Android and Apple devices

Rating: ★★★

IT can be a nerve-wracking experience if you're involved in an accident, especially if you are alone. Crash Mate exists for that situation. There are six helpful sections – so you can take photos of any damage, record video and audio from witnesses and save the exact location on Google Maps. But Witness Driving (tested in Issue 1,180) offers the same functions, yet has a more detailed breakdown of what info you need to get from the other party.