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Products Headlight restoration kits mini test

Mini test

TOP-VALUE PERFORMER

Quixx System Headlight Restoration Kit

Best price: £9.99
Contact: 0118 981 7285, www.quixx.com

THIS Quixx package was our favourite because of its sheer simplicity. It's all manual, but while you don't have to rely on power tools, as you do with the others, this may make it harder to get a good finish on heavily damaged lenses.

It's sufficient for minor to moderate blemishes, though. The kit comes with clear instructions, and includes sanding patches if you have areas of yellowing or fog. There's even a small box to wrap sanding sheets around, making things easier.

At half the price of rivals, it's really affordable, yet doesn't skimp on extra polish cloths. What's more, it includes lens sealer, which can be applied every three months to reduce future damage.

Rating: ★★★★★



We shine a light on the headlamp restorer kits

Cat Dow

DON'T let a discoloured set of headlights put you off when searching for your next second-hand car. There's a range of kits on the market that can help you restore the lenses' acrylic glass.

Clean lights not only help you see further, but also make you more visible to other road users.

We put three market-leading kits to the test to see which got our 1999 Peugeot 206 GTI's lights looking like new again.

The sets were compared on price – from a range of sources as we went to press – plus ease of use and clarity of instructions. We then looked at how they worked and how long the job took, then compared results.

EVI's Quixx kit won as it was the easiest to use and gave good results. If your lights are badly damaged, it's worth attaching Autoglym's medley of sanding sheets to a power drill. Meguiar's kit delivered a good finish, but didn't really justify its price.

"Three kits were put to test to see which would get our lights looking like new"

NEW BUT NOT PERFECT

Autoglym Headlight Restoration Kit

Best price: £22.99
Contact: 0844 887 4567, www.autoglym.com

NEW Autoglym kit is aimed at heavily discoloured lenses. It includes a bottle of restoration compound, plus various sanding sheets that you fix to your drill and run at 1,200-1,600rpm to remove discoloration and buff lenses.

Initially, our results were uneven. The drill reduces manual effort, but it takes more time to get a precise finish.

Rating: ★★★



GOOD RESULTS, YET PRICEY

Meguiar's 1-Step Headlight Restoration Plus

Best price: £22.49
Contact: 0345 504 5353, www.meguiars.com

THIS kit gives decent results, but isn't great value. While it's suitable for light discoloration, confusingly Meguiar's offers a heavier-duty kit for less money.

The package combines "exclusive" wool pad tech, which requires a power drill to get the best results, with manual scratch removers. While it contains extra sanding papers, it's still expensive.

Rating: ★★



**books,
apps & games**

BMC 1100 and 1300: An enthusiast's guide

James Taylor (Crowood Press, www.crowood.com)
Price: £16.99 (paperback) **Rating:** ★★★

AUTHOR Taylor walks us through the history of British Motor Company's most successful marque with affable ease. There are moments where the pace falters a little, but this appears to be down to the editing, rather than the content. The 1100 has a colourful history and this book entertains with well selected images that add to the interesting tale.



Bugatti Type 57 Grand Prix

Neil Max Tomlinson (Veloce Publishing, veloce.com)
Price: £50 (hardback) **Rating:** ★★★

BUGATTI has a colourful and unusual back story, so brand enthusiasts can be historians as much as car fans. Author Tomlinson manages to retell the story of the Type 57 with plenty of technical know-how. However, he goes into such depth and detail that it sadly brings an element of dryness to a well illustrated read. This will struggle to hold the interest of anyone other than Bugatti fans.



Extreme Car Stunts

Available for: Android
Price: Free **Rating:** ★★★

EARN cash by doing tricks and stunts and control your car through obstacles before hitting the green portal to reach the next level. Extreme Car Stunts isn't a terrible game, but the graphics are unrefined and laggy and your view is often obscured, so manoeuvring is difficult.



App of the week

New Auto Express app

Available for: iPhone and iPad, Android, Kindle
Price: Free

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