

BASS RACER

It's a touring car! It's a road-going touring car, and it's bloody loud – but not in the way you might expect...

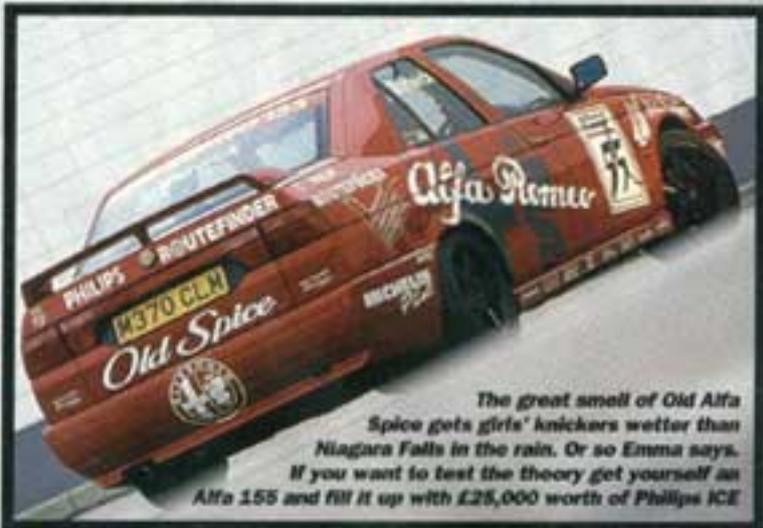
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This is a mad car. It's a mad and bonkers car. Completely bonkers in a really insane way. Insane in a totally stoopid way that's actually more ludicrous than stoopid. Is that clear?

From the outside it's a perfect replica of Derek Warwick's 1995 Alfa 155 touring car and was even crashed by Del-boy in his own inimitable style. It has all the authentic sponsor logos, proper front and rear spoilers from Prodrive and some chunky 16in Speedlines. It's pukka.

This is a mad car by any standards but its lunacy is more than just skin deep. While





The great smell of Old Alfa Spice gets girls' knickers wetter than Niagara Falls in the rain. Or so Emma says. If you want to test the theory get yourself an Alfa 155 and fill it up with £25,000 worth of Philips ICE



Top smart Speedline alloys look the absolute biz and get the girls wetter than a November weekend in Llanfuduo

most people go berserk at what they reckon is a touring car on the road, they fail to peer past the stickers. But if you take the time to look inside the Alfa you'll discover hidden depths.

The first surprise you'll come across is the sub box which is perched where you'd expect to find the rear seat. Eight Philips subs have been crammed into this box

and it dominates the entire interior.

Once this has grabbed your attention you might open the front door and discover the Philips DC942 CD/tuner head unit and then be totally gob-smacked by the seven speakers in each front door build.

At this point most people will give up 'cos they're totally destroyed by the experience of finding an Alfa 155 touring car replica with eight subwoofers and 14 door speakers. But the fun has only just begun.

At this point you should move directly to the rear door builds which contain eight speakers each. Jaws hit the floor.

Check out the parcel shelf now with its four active crossovers and try to stop your eyes popping out with amazement. Then follow through to the boot where you'll find racks of Philips amplifiers all painted Alfa red. Nobody can believe there's so much crammed into one vehicle and nearly everybody asks why you'd want so much in a car.

To ask this question is to completely miss the point. Turn the system up, put the bass full-on and watch for a reaction. Sure, everybody winces - at nearly 150dB it's painfully loud and the bass takes you by surprise every time: if they start smiling, you know they've understood. But, if there's a worried look, fingers in the ears and the head is shaking, it's time to turn the volume down