

What to buy the TVR nut for Christmas?

With Christmas not far away, our thoughts should turn to the real meaning of Christmas. Instead, for most people, they will actually turn to what on earth to buy for Uncle Harry, Auntie Betty and all the nieces and nephews, brothers and sisters. Every year it becomes that little bit more difficult, until, one day, someone in the family takes up a new hobby, and then, everyone breathes a sigh of relief whilst they buy every conceivable extra and accessory for the new interest.

And so it was when my brother bought his Chimeara. At last, we could buy him a TVR Car Club hat, shirt, tie, jumper, book, picture etc., etc. – which all the family did, via his wife, until he had more stock than the car club itself. But then, all of a sudden, we were back to square one. He's got everything we could think of! He's even got the model Chimaera to make up and paint (which he still hasn't done yet even though he sold the car and bought a Tuscan nearly 2 years ago!)

So, this month, being that time of the year again, I would like to address my comments to all those partners of TVR owner/drivers in trying to help them solve this annual problem with a few ideas. Of course you could always buy them yet another cap/shirt etc., but why not be different? I've now started my own supply company, to rival the Car Club, called "Morgan's Mementoes", and I would like to use this column for a bit of free advertising.

For instance, a wonderful and useful present, which you will also find beneficial as a passenger, is the new "multi purpose driver's kit". It consists of a very large umbrella, of the sort usually used to cover tables at pubs, plus a length of rope and a pair of scissors. The kit is advertised as being useful in a number of situations, and I quote from the instruction manual:

"Congratulations on purchasing this multi functional kit – some of the uses are listed below:

...use the umbrella in the open position when caught in a downpour and stationery at traffic lights or driving slowly through heavy traffic – you may get the occasional strange look, but you will be nice and dry and the envy of pedestrians caught in the shower...(NB Please do not try opening this in a Cerbera, M series, or any convertible with the "lid" on!)

...use it in the closed position to poke stationery young motor cyclists, who stop by your Tiv, and having looked it up and down say "You're a bit past it for this mate, aren't you?" – with a really hard poke you may even knock him off his bike.....

...it can also be useful for the bored passenger. Tie the rope under the passenger seat and round the waist of the passenger, then get the passenger to open the umbrella at approximately 90 mph on the motorway, releasing the seatbelt at the same time.....the exhilaration they will experience of paragliding down the M5 will be second to none....."

However, the instructions do not give a strong enough warning about motorway bridges – maybe that's what the scissors are for?!

Another idea is the latest CD of TVR sounds. Now, instead of getting totally frustrated during those long winter months when the car sits in the garage for week after week, you can sit inside the car, and with the stereo on full blast, get the thrill of hearing your TVR blasting down the road. Select from Griffith, Chimeara, Cerbera or Tuscan.

We do still have a few of the old S version CD's in stock. These come complete with the realistic sound of rattles and exhaust hitting the road on a regular basis, and then, half way through the single track, there is the sound of the engine dying, and a very pleasant lady saying, "Hello, welcome to the AA breakdown service, there is no-one here to take your call at present...."

Whilst on the theme of CD's, there is also the "Double CD player" – this converts your CD unit to play 2 CD's simultaneously, thus allowing the pleasure of listening to Motorhead and the CD of TVR sounds at the same time. This item comes with a FREE large fan, to simulate the "wind in the hair" feeling, whilst stationery in your garage. For a few pounds extra, this free fan can be upgraded to the deluxe version – this also sprays water onto you, to simulate a sudden downpour – an essential for realistic English driving.

Please note that these items are not suitable for use whilst you are sitting in your car under a car cover parked on the drive!

Another great gift idea is the inflatable blow up passenger. This is especially of interest to TVR drivers whose partners never go out with them. Men can select from blond, redhead or brunette, whilst ladies (and perhaps some men) can chose from 19 year old toy boy or 50 something Des Lynam look-a-like! The female models are also useful in case of a break down – just lean the model under the bonnet, with the bottom sticking out, and you are guaranteed at least 3 car experts will stop to help within the first 5 minutes!

One of our most popular gifts with our older male customers is the elasticated wig. This comes in a variety of colours, and looks totally natural, apart from the piece of elastic that fits neatly under the chin. However, wearing this is preferable to the option, which is to lose the syrup at 80 mph on the motorway! For the more discerning, there is always the delux version, which incorporates a full beard, which hides the elastic. This product also comes in white, complete with a red cape, black boots and a sack!

For the TVR nut who even dreams of working on his car, there is the TVR bed cover. This shows a full TVR on it, and comes in all current models, and various colours. The real benefit of course, is, apart from sitting in bed thinking you are out driving, you can also crawl underneath the bed, and with the ceiling mirror that you fitted last year, (I know you did – don't fib!) you can look like you are working on the underside of the car!

Of course we always have the usual stock of regular products, including:

- Rear window stickers that say “My other car’s a Ford Mondeo”, and “If you can read this I’ve either broken down, or you’re driving a Tuscan”
- TVR flags that fit between the wound up window and the roof (and fall out unless you’ve got a Cerbera or it’s a cold and wet day!!)
- Large suitcase on wheels with TVR logo and small number plate area (this can be used attached to the rear of the car when travelling on holiday)
- Inflatable shower proof airbags – different to crash resistant airbags – these inflate empty, to encase you and the inside of the car within a split second, in the event of being caught in a rainstorm. Caution, these should not be used when a vehicle is in motion, as the large red letters on the front (T – E – S – C – O) obscure the view of the road ahead, and the large handles can get caught round the pedals!

If none of the above takes your fancy, then all I can suggest is you revert to the TVR Car Club catalogue, or go for the “safe” options, of socks and underwear. But don’t blame me if by Boxing Day your partner is back underneath the Tiv in the garage.

Whatever you buy your beloved, may I wish you all a Happy Christmas from me and my beloved.

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