

# Car vac is in for a stretch

Kim Adams

CAN'T be bothered to get the vacuum out to give your cabin a much-needed clean? This unit from the US is just the ticket!

The wall-mounted GarageVac is ready to go at the flick of a button – so there's no need to drag your household vac outside.

Its hose stretches to more than 10 metres to easily cover most garages, or even reach a car on the drive. There are no cables to unwind or hose to release and, having lived with the GarageVac for a few weeks, we found it was even easier to use than reaching for a dustpan and brush.

Installation is simple, although care needs to be taken to get the screws in the right position for the unit to slide in place. Once mounted, it's plug and go, with a range of tools easily at hand in a holder and wall bracket. It packs a real punch, too, cleaning faster than the Earlex Combipowervac WD1200P that won our test of car vacs in Issue 1,117.

The GarageVac isn't cheap, at £280, and the stretchy hose is heavy, with a firm recoil at full length. But the slender Snake Wand tool included is ideal for slipping down the side of front seats and door pockets.



Wall-mounted GarageVac features a 10-metre-plus hose, so it even reaches out on to your driveway

## FIRST TESTS

### TESTED

InterVac GarageVac wall-mounted cleaner

Price: £279

Rating: ★★★★★

Contact: 01244 409102, [www.garagevac.co.uk](http://www.garagevac.co.uk)

**Problems?** Heavy hose, no blower or wet mode, not the cheapest option.

**So why buy?** Convenient, powerful suction, Snake Wand tool is handy, good build quality.



# Media player's out of the picture!

KEEP your children occupied on long journeys in the car with the new DA100C digital media player from August International.

The 10-inch device allows users to tune in to Freeview and analogue TV. It also features an SD card slot and USB port – so it can play films, photos and music from your digital camera or memory stick. We put it to the test over a week-long period.

The unit is fairly easy to set up and use, but TV reception proved disappointing – we struggled to get a crystal clear picture whether parked or on the move. Included in the pack is a remote control, a 12V charger (although



the player can run off six AA batteries), a set of headphones and a mount, but the latter is designed more for use on a desk or table at home – it's no good in-car. The DA100C works much better as a large MP3

**Latest August media player has a 10-inch screen, but we struggled to get a decent signal for TV – whether we were parked up or moving**

### TESTED

August International DA100C Portable Digital TV

Price: £149.99

Rating: ★★★

Contact: 0845 250 0586, [www.augustint.com](http://www.augustint.com)

**Problems?** TV signal not great when parked or at speed.

**So why buy?** Good portable media player, clear screen.

player and digital photo frame. Images are crisp and clear, and sound quality decent. But that flawed TV reception prevents the new August system from really delivering on its promise as a media mogul.

## Budget wipers' clean sweep?

WINTER motoring specialist Bluecol has added wipers to its line-up of anti-freeze, de-icer and screenwash.

The new Aero-Flex is a flat, flexible blade, which uses a sprung-metal spine to press the rubber to the screen. It can be used on original equipment or retro-fitted to earlier set-ups with a hinged frame on the wiper.

This versatility means Bluecol supplies a handful of adaptors, and once you've worked out – via the website – which are for your car, the instructions are clear.

We tried them on a Skoda Octavia designed to use flat blades. The two-piece adaptor is compact, as it needs to be on these aero-efficient designs, and there was no sign of lift at motorway speeds.

Overall, the wipe was good – only a few fine lines were left behind. But on a dry screen, it was far louder than the Bosch Aerotwin that won our Issue 1,128 test. Still, at nearly half the price, the Aero-Flex is ideal for those on a budget.



### TESTED

Bluecol Aero-Flex wiper

Price: From £7.99 each

Rating: ★★★★★

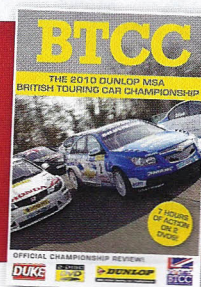
Contact: 0161 764 5981, [www.bluecol.co.uk](http://www.bluecol.co.uk)

**Problems:** Fine lines on some parts of sweep, multiple adaptors can be confusing, list of compatible cars is available only online.

**So why buy?** No lifting at speed, clear instructions once adaptor has been selected, good price.

## Win this A DVD REVIEW OF THE BTCC SEASON

We have 10 sensational DVDs up for grabs!



THE British Touring Car Championship returns in just over a month – and if you can't wait, you can relive 2010's thrills with one of 10 season review DVDs we're giving away. It has action from all 30 races, plus the amazing four-way title shoot-out at Brands Hatch. Visit [dukevideo.com](http://dukevideo.com) for info – and to enter, answer the question (below) and follow the instructions (right).

**Question:** How many races were there in the 2010 British Touring Car Championship? **Answer:** A) 20. B) 25. C) 30.

To enter log on to [competitions.autoexpress.co.uk](http://competitions.autoexpress.co.uk). For full terms and conditions, go to [www.dennis.co.uk/comp/terms](http://www.dennis.co.uk/comp/terms). All entrants must be aged 18 or over. The editor's decision is final. Closing date: 16 March 2011.