



**NEED TO KNOW...**  
 "This kit is really versatile: it's not just restricted to chips; it can also be used to touch up deep cuts and light scratches"

**PRICE £64.99**

# Pro touch-up in minutes

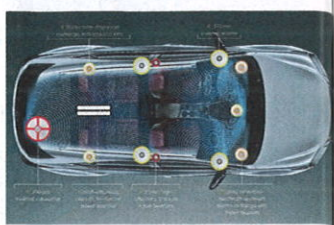
**FIRST TEST**  
**Dr. ColourChip Squirt 'n Squeegee Kit**  
 RRP: £64.99 Rating: ★★★★★  
 Contact: 01925 210 990, [drcolourchip.co.uk](http://drcolourchip.co.uk)

**LUKE MADDEN**  
 TOUCH-up paint is nothing new, but Dr. ColourChip promises to take things further, with specially mixed OEM-spec paint and a three-stage process that claims to cover up a host of blemishes. And it can all be done by a DIY novice. Simply visit [drcolourchip.co.uk](http://drcolourchip.co.uk) and enter your car's paint code – in our case that's Aquarminblau 341 for a 1996 Mercedes SL500. If you don't know the code then just use the handy drop down menus on the site by entering the car's

year, make and model. There are a few different kits available, kicking off with a £29.99 Basic Repair Kit. This includes the paint, a blending solution, a protective glove, cloth and paintbrushes. Our £64.99 kit also adds a see-through squeegee to help even out the paint covering and a microfibre cloth. The process of fixing up chips is simple; the company says "dab, smear, remove". We tried it out on a variety of paint blemishes, including deep cuts down to the metal, light scratches and other unsightly marks. Starting out with the deep holes, it's a process of dabbing the paint near to the mark, swiping across with the clear squeegee (you can use your finger if you go for one of the cheaper kits), and then

waiting for it to dry. That takes a couple of minutes, at which point you put some blending solution on to the white cloth that's included and gently wipe over the chips, smoothing off the finish and leaving the chips covered up. It's an impressive colour match and only close-up inspection reveals the chip beneath. If there are smaller chips bunched together, you can put a large dab of paint on a cloth and swipe it across the area to cover up all of them at once. Repeat the process with the blending solution and it instantly looks neater. Is it worth the £64.99 price tag? That depends how much you value the finish of the car. It's a lot cheaper than a proper respray and we reckon the cheaper kits will do the job almost as well.

## news, deals & events



### SUV breaks new ground with stereo

THE new Lexus NX SUV (tested in Issue 1,341) will be the first model to use in-car entertainment expert Harman's new Clari-Fi technology (above) as standard. As we reported in Issue 1,331, Clari-Fi software analyses and restores compressed audio files to make up for lost sound quality. While a lot of music can be stored on a device in MP3 format, Harman claims that 90 per cent of audio content is removed in the process.

### Parrot updates in-car tech software

PARROT has updated its Asteroid 2.3 software, used on Asteroid Tablet and Asteroid Smart in-car hardware. The new software offers advanced voice control features – so drivers can control their Parrot multimedia via voice commands – as well as a redesigned dashboard layout. Plus, Asteroid users can now take or avoid calls by saying "answer" or "reject", while text messages will be read out, too.

### Ghoulish Beaulieu in Halloween spirit

STUCK for something to do with the children this October half term? Get in the Halloween spirit at the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu, Hants, where a host of spooky activities are planned from 25 October to 2 November. A Halloween Trail takes in 250 vehicle exhibits, while there are ghost-themed rides within the grounds. There's also half-price entry for children in fancy dress. See [www.beaulieu.co.uk](http://www.beaulieu.co.uk) for info.

Know an event coming soon? Contact [Henry\\_Willis@dennis.co.uk](mailto:Henry_Willis@dennis.co.uk)

# Crash cam keeps watch on traps

**NEW PRODUCT**  
**Snooper DVR-3HD crash camera**  
 RRP: £149.99 Contact: 01928 579579, [www.snooper.co.uk](http://www.snooper.co.uk)

**RRP £149.99**

SNOOPER has launched its first dedicated DVR recorder with safety camera-locating software. Not only can the DVR-3HD capture high-definition footage, it could be the ultimate accessory for keeping drivers safe on the road. The device is intended to fit discreetly behind a car's rear view mirror to capture action on the road almost as the driver would see it. GPS-locating software is built in, so it can show where any accidents occurred or detect sudden movements. All the footage filmed can then be reviewed instantly on the DVR-3HD's 2.4-inch LCD screen, although everything is stored on a microSD card, so you can watch it back later on a computer or in full high definition on a TV screen. The inclusion of camera alerts from Snooper's own Aura database means the device will keep drivers informed about the location of fixed speed zones. And it gives buyers the reassurance of the company's 30-year history in producing speed camera location hardware.



**NEED TO KNOW...**  
 "The new DVR-3HD is one of a range of new crash cameras to have been introduced to the market by the company recently"