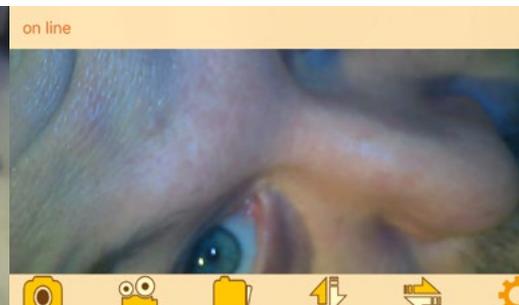
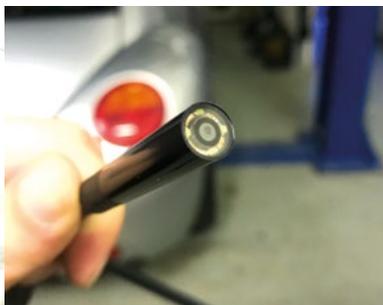


Silverline HD WiFi Inspection Cam



Any professional mechanic will tell you that fixing cars is 10 percent hitting the spanners and 90 percent arsing about trying to find the problem.

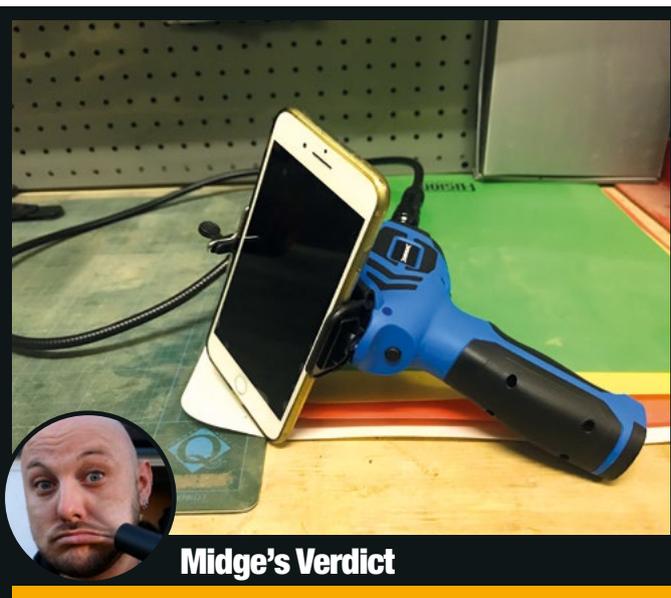
Now I'm not saying that's the only reason inspection cameras have become a must-have time-saver for garages, but it's got to be up there. In fact, this type of tool has been a professional staple for well over a decade now. But it's only in the last few years that we've

seen prices drop enough for them to be viable in the home market too. Inevitably this has seen them become one of the most popular products out there, and it's pretty easy to see why. I tested one of the first home-use items available way back in 2004, and it still holds its own to this day.

So, you may be asking, what makes this new inspection cam from Silverline Tools different? Well, it's more than the

fact it's around half the price. The truth is that technology has moved on somewhat and this one is specifically designed to cater for a whole new generation of automotive fettlers. Internet-savvy gadget freaks, bloggers and social media demons delight!

PRICE: £62 (LIST PRICE)
www.silverlinetools.com



Midge's Verdict

In the Box...

Crack open the carry case and the first thing you notice is that there's no screen on the device (Well duh – Jules). But, don't worry. That's the whole point. The idea here is this camera utilises the rather expensive one you've already got in your pocket. And why not? If you're already packing a modern smartphone, one that will display high-definition footage much better than any screen they're likely to put on any product under 500 quid, why should you pay the premium?

So there's a little mount to clip your phone on the back too. But what's even better is that this camera will connect wirelessly to any iOS or Android device (via Wi-Fi and the free pp) within 10 metres. This means you can also use a tablet for an extra-large display.

The hardware feels suitably robust for workshop use. It's simple to set up and the 9mm-thick waterproof camera is on a one-metre flexi-cable, so you'll have no trouble slipping it into all those hard-to-reach places.

The addition of an extra LED torch on the body and some handy accessories (including a hook, magnet and angle-mirror) is a nice touch, and they've even chucked in the batteries too.

Even at twice the price, this would be a bargain.

There's a shed load of applications for tools like this. I can say this with absolute certainty, because I have a similar item in my workshop (that was way more expensive and not even as good), and I use it all the time. The truth is you don't have to be some sort of amateur gynaecologist or spend your life checking out cylinder bores like an F1 engineer to see the benefit of having one of these.

Here in the real world, inspection cameras are ideal for accessing any hard-to-reach part of the car without having to mess about removing under trays, wheels and the like. What with the adjustable-brightness LED light on the camera and all the accessories that can be fitted on the end, it makes the soul-destroying stuff much easier when space is at a premium. Why do you think every garage and main dealer in the country will already have an item like this stashed away? Because time is money.

Perhaps the most important point with this particular version though, isn't so much the live viewing bit, it's what you can do after. It's not only pretty genius that they've kept the price down by not including a screen but, as you'll be using a mobile device for that anyway, it means you can record, store and share HD footage and photos in no time at all. Just think about it, how important is social media, forums and texting your friendly neighbourhood mechanic to help sort problems nowadays? How often do you use your mobile for this sort of stuff? Pictures or it didn't happen and all that.

If you like a hard life, that's fair enough. But if you want to make it easier, then get yourself one of these.

In a nutshell: Good quality, great value, rude not to.