

Mini test

OUR CHOICE

Silverline DIY 110W Orbital Car Polisher 261362

Price: £25.38 Rating: ★★★★★

Pad diameter (mm): 240 Motor: 110W

Contact: 01935 382222, www.silverlinetools.com

SILVERLINE'S polisher comes supplied with two pads: one terry cloth and one synthetic wool. The former was thinner than we would have liked, but it was tied with a cord, which made fitting much easier than the strongly elasticated pads.

We felt the 3.7m power cable length was mean, but the three-year warranty wasn't stingy. The fixed handle nearly surrounded the motor and the on/off switch was sensibly placed for ease of use. And while the unit vibrated a bit in use, it's a good price, and this gave it an edge over the Halfords product.



Which budget polisher is a smooth operator?

DAVE POLLARD

POLISHING the paintwork and buffing wax on your car can be hard work, so many drivers don't bother. But a 240v polisher will take the grind out of the job.

It can also be used with a suitable cutting compound or scratch remover to lift out swirl marks and light scratches from the surface of the paint.

Detailing enthusiasts may pay hundreds of pounds for a top-level, multi-speed polisher, but most of us don't need to go to such extremes.

We lined up three budget-priced examples to test on a variety of body panels. Despite their keen prices, all were DA (dual-action), which is better for cleaning and buffing.

A little motor vibration was outweighed by a better price and similar performance to put the Silverline ahead of the Halfords. Those with smaller cars will be pleased with the Sakura, despite its price.

"A 240v device can take the grind out of polishing and buffing wax"

SMOOTH OPERATION

Halfords 110W Polisher

Price: £35 Rating: ★★★★★

Pad diameter (mm): 240 Motor: 110W

Contact: 0845 057 9000, halfords.com

DESPITE being the priciest and the heaviest (2.5kg) choice, this was easy to use due to its large, twin handles, which move into three positions.

The 240mm pad made light work of our bonnet, but was clumsier on smaller panels where there were odd angles or projections. The two pads were of good quality, if tricky to fit, and the motor pleasantly powerful and really smooth in action.



INNOVATIVE DESIGN

Sakura 240v Car Polisher SS5340

Price: £29.99 Rating: ★★★★★

Pad diameter (mm): 150 Motor: 60W

Contact: 01488 689400, saxon-brands.com

WE thought the Sakura's kettle-like shape would make it harder to use, but it was as comfortable as its larger rivals. This was partly due to its lower weight of 1.6kg.

To suit the reduced 60W power, the foam pad was a smaller 150mm and took slightly longer to complete the larger panels. Yet it was more manageable where things got tight.



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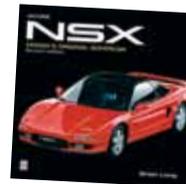


Acura NSX – Honda's Original Supercar

Brian Long (Veloce Publishing, www.veloce.co.uk)

Price: £45 Rating: ★★★★★

A GREAT resource for the original Honda NSX. Long's writing isn't that engaging, but it's easy to read, very detailed and accurate. We're disappointed to see that this re-published version hasn't been updated with the incredible new second-generation NSX; it gets only a tiny paragraph.



Top Gear: Epic Failures

Richard Porter (BBC Books, penguinrandomhouse.co.uk)

Price: £8.99 Rating: ★★★★★

ALTHOUGH it's a few years old now, books like this rarely disappoint, detailing some of the automotive world's worst misjudgements and useless cars. Not especially thorough, but a good read that's told in an engaging style. Some of the language may be too strong for young readers.



[Project:OffRoad]

Available for: iOS, Android

Price: Free Rating: ★★★★★

DECENT fun at first, but the game's vast, barren terrain, ugly background graphics and weird physics grate rather quickly. The gameplay is quite fun in small doses, and the chunky off-road vehicles are well detailed and even quite accurate. But add in awkward menus riddled with spelling mistakes, and this just feels like a slightly unfinished game.



App of the week



Autovizz

Available for: Android

Price: £1.19

Rating: ★★★★★

THIS app lets you list used car test drives and viewings, with photos and a checklist of items to watch for. It's not perfect, but is useful. An iOS app is on the way.

