



Mercedes W124 500E

Faraway cousins of the Stuttgart stallions

Performance cars with Porsche underpinnings

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BENTLEY CONTINENTAL

One of the many perks of being a Volkswagen Auto Group sibling is getting to raid the closet, or in this case, the parts bin of Porsche. That is exactly what Bentley turned to when co-developing the new Continental GT, which goes like a spaceship thrust by the W12, while corners like one too (if spaceships could corner) thanks to the Porsche Panamers toolkit.

FASCINATION ON THE NURBURGRING.

While some tend to associate RUF with a viral montage of an onboard and aerial footage of the yellowbird tail happily gliding through the Nordschleife, most of us subconsciously associate the yellow 911 (which is a severe understatement) with the playstation, namely Gran Turismo, with no small thanks to EA and Porsche's exclusive licensing honeymoon period. Since RUFs manufactured unmarked 911's with their own specific VIN's, the German marque is technically a manufacturer in its own right. However, blank 911s were not the only canvas RUF played with. The RUF Dakar was a Porsche Cayenne, with widened track, a plush interior and 911 headlights. Not



Ruf CTR Yellowbird



Singer Octagon Commission 911

quirky enough for you? RUF's Deucalion (Dr. Frankenstein's monster) was a 993's 3.6-litre twin-turbo powerplant strapped to a VW T4 van.

911 REIMAGINED AND REMASTERED

911 recreations have always been more of an art piece than tools of precision driving. Such is the case with Singer 911, a no expenses spared, turned up to eleven, reimagined 964 that drives as good as it looks, and looks as good as it sounds.

Similarly, Guenther werks remasters 993's in a treatment akin to Singer; bespoke reiteration down to the nuts and bolts.

KOENIG SPECIALS

Purveyor of souped-up Ferrari's of the



Bentley Continental

era, was no stranger to Porsche, as disbanded group C left an abundance of arguably the most successful customer Porsche chassis, the 962. The mad men at Koenig simply offered to road convert the race car for the road which translated to completely reworking the 962 tube chassis out of carbon fibre, detuning the engine, adding code-



Lykan HyperSport

compliant head and tail lights and installing A/C to name a few. And voila, an actual race car for the road.

W MOTORS

W Motors made their debut on the big screen with the launch of Fast and Furious 7. Powered by a RUF developed, quintessentially Porsche 3.7-litre twin-turbo drivetrain, the Lykan HyperSport is the first Arab supercar



Koenig C62

to move under its own power, unlike the much contentious Devel Sixteen. Moreover, a 3.8 litre RUF developed flat 6 seems to be the choice of power house and drivetrain for the Lykan Fenry SuperSport coupled with Porsche's proprietary PDK gearbox.

HONOURABLE MENTIONS

Even though every bit of the Mercedes W124 500E is deservingly Mercedes, however, engineers hired then strapped for cash Porsche to fit the massive V8 under the bonnet snug, to which Porsche replied with a dosage of flared body styling, evident on the hood itself and the fenders all around. The entire process took 18 days, as the 500E travelled back and forth in-between the two factories.

Porsche's greatest wagon that isn't a Sport Turismo and Audi's first RS car: the RS2 Avant was as every bit a Porsche as it was an Audi. Produced at the very same zuffenhausen production assembly line as the 500E was, the co-developed Audi received instantly recognisable 964 wheels and mirrors along with ever so special badges. And the nogaro? Enough said. And for a very short period, you could see a Porsche, Mercedes and an Audi all under the same roof.



Audi RS2 Avant

Promoting environmental awareness with plantable seed paper 'Bonkagoj'

JINAT JAHAN KHAN

Piles of papers and paper products are adding more to the landfill waste day by day. Human consumption of such products cannot be reduced abruptly despite its adverse effects. However, this disposal of papers can be turned into a way to save the environment by creating a safe alternative for these discarded ones. One of the most impactful remedies is to use seed paper. It is a biodegradable handmade paper, which is made from recycled paper and embedded with different plant seeds. Shalbrikkho—a startup working with biodegradable and recycled products came up with its project 'Bonkagoj' to promote such plantable seed papers in Bangladesh.



FROM DISCARDED PAPERS TO SEED PAPERS

While working with renewable energy solutions as well as biodegradable and recycled products, Shalbrikkho has always been careful about using minimum papers or better alternatives for their work purposes. "The idea of recycling used papers just struck us when we were making visiting cards for Shalbrikkho. As we continued to work on this, we thought

of embedding seeds in these papers to make them eco-friendly. And the result was our Bonkagoj", said Mahbub Sumon, the founder of this organisation. It took around 2 years to complete their experiments and launch this product, officially in December 2019.

The procedure of making Bonkagoj is similar to that of traditional handmade paper. But as seeds are embedded in these papers, some unconventional methods are also introduced to complete the whole procedure. For Bonkagoj, they collect and shred waste papers and then soak the paper scraps until it gets mushy. Converting this mush into a pulp through some steps, they make the papers in a particular size by using the pulp and different seeds. The process to make the seed paper from the prepared pulp takes around 22 hours. Due to its complicated methods and limited capacity, the team



of Bonkagoj can make 50 seed papers per day for now.

Most of the pieces of machinery for the whole procedure are customised by Mahbub Sumon and his team according to their convenience. However, primary steps such as cutting and shredding papers are done in conventional ways. This particular type of production contains 16 to 17 types of seeds of different vegetables and flowers. While choosing the seeds to embed in these green papers, they keep two important things in mind. One, these seeds should easily be able to help in organic farming for sustainable agriculture. And two, ensuring that birds get enough food from the plants that grow from these seed papers.

HOW PLANTABLE SEED PAPER WORKS

When the Bonkagoj is discarded and it comes in contact with damp soil and a suitable atmosphere, the seeds get activated and the seed paper starts to germinate within a few days. You can see sprouts coming out directly from the seed paper. But due to the seasonal changes and air masses, it may differ which seed bombs work. While discarding a Bonkagoj or seed paper, it is better to throw it out after tearing it into pieces on some damp soil. If you are fond of plants and want to do

something for nature, this is a good way to grow them in your balcony tubs or garden using these papers. However, this Bonkagoj has an expiry date which is very unlikely for normal papers. The reason is the seeds in Bonkaj have an average germination rate of 35% to 38% only for one year. After that the germination rate begins to fall, reducing the chances of the seed paper working.

Bonkagoj is thicker and pricier than any normal paper. However, they are now making a thinner version of this paper for writing purposes. An A4 size Bonkagoj weighing 70 to 100 GSM costs 20 Taka and a 15"x 8.5" Bonkagoj weighing 250 to 300 GSM costs 130 Taka. Prices mostly depend on their size and weight. Production of Bonkagoj notebooks is already underway. Sumon shared that Bonkagoj's price can be reduced in case they get the opportunity to produce them on a large scale. But the demand for such seed paper is very limited, much like their resources. "We are indebted to nature for every moment of our life. And if we are able to save this nature in any way, it'll be our pleasure. We are hopeful to be more efficient in producing such seed papers with a cheaper price and better quality overcoming the financial and other constraints that we are facing right now", said Sumon.