



MONDEO/JAMIE



Something as simple as new bumpers can transform how a car looks

BUMPER TIME

Jamie shows his new Mondy some lovin' with a pair of brand new bumpers.

As usual my toy has stolen all of my attention this month. As I said last month the bumpers on my Mondeo were letting the whole car down. The customary cracked rear bumper, and the scuffed and scraped front one were the only things that made the car look like a £400 motor. This month I'm pleased to announce that I've put that right.

Auction site eBay came up trumps with a pair of brand new bumpers for just £50. I then went to Sidegate Motors in Great Yarmouth to see a couple of mates of mine, James and Terry, who happen to specialise in vehicle repairs.

My thinking was that a man who spends all day repairing brand new motors for a main dealer should have no problems spraying a couple of Mondeo bumpers. However, I didn't realise

just how involved and complicated modern paint technology is. My only experience with painting stuff involves popping down to the local hardware store for a rattle can of black paint followed by a point-and-squirt technique.

Modern paints are incredibly complicated though, and I couldn't believe that they are actually water based. James and Terry explained how it all worked, but to be honest it all went over my head and I was glad I'd left it up the experts to sort out.

BE PREPARED

James entrusted the job to one of his colleagues and Ford nut Tom. He got kitted up in what looked to me like a *Star Wars* meets *Apollo 13* fancy dress outfit and cracked on with prepping the bumpers. With that done the paint was mixed and he started spraying some colour.



SPENT THIS MONTH
Not saying - just in case the missus reads this! (if she is, absolutely nothing, honest!)

SPEC
W-reg Mondeo Mk2 Standard (for now!)
New bumpers

NEXT MONTH
Not sure yet, got to check what's in the piggy bank

THANKS
James, Terry, and the guys at Sidegate Motors Accident Repair Centre
01493 652588

It was at this point that I knew I'd made the right choice in letting the professionals do it. I don't do art very well and know full well I would have cocked it up if I'd tried to do this myself.

When the bumpers came out of the oven all that was left to do was a quick polish up and they were ready to fit.

After letting them cure for a couple of days, and letting the weather dry up, I got round to fitting them. Removing the old bumpers was a messy job as everything was covered in cack. With the old bumpers removed I gave everything one last clean up and started bolting the new ones on. It was a nerve-racking job, not because it was difficult but because I was scared I was going to scratch them. I'm renowned for being ham-fisted, and this was a fiddly job, especially considering I was handicapped by my infamous sausage fingers!

I got there though, and the difference is amazing. It's surprising how something as simple as new bumpers can transform a car's appearance. I'm well chuffed with the finish. It looks like a new car now. The boys at Sidegate Motors did a top job with the paint, and I'm just glad I didn't ruin it when I fitted them.

The transformation is well under way now, and I'm already thinking of more upgrades and mods I want to do to the Mondy. Black Eye headlights, lowered suspension, bigger wheels, better brakes, and a bit of engine tuning. I can't wait!

Professional paintjobs can't be replicated