

Bentley's glamorous powerhouse: "beguiling and opulent"

Bentley's Continental GT convertible is a "classic low-speed, sunny-day cruiser", said Steve Copley in Autocar. The manufacturer's "mantra" is that this car should be practical enough to drive every day (for the kind of clientele that can afford to drive it every day), and that is exactly what it delivers. Exceptionally well built – when the fabric hood is up, it's so quiet you "might as well be in a hard top" – it's also comfortable, beautiful inside and out, and very, very powerful. This is a "deeply impressive" car that's like its coupé version, but with a touch of extra glamour.



Bentley Continental GT Convertible
From £175,000

The all-new model is a "huge leap" ahead of its predecessor in terms of performance, said Sean Carson in Auto Express. In its third generation, the Continental GT has a 6.0-litre twin-turbo W12 engine with 626bhp. That means this 2.4 tonne "tank"

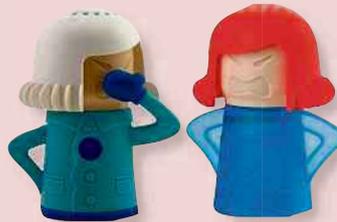
gets from 0-60mph in 3.7 seconds; it "shrugs off" its weight "like you might not think possible". But given how most Bentley owners drive, the "deep reserve" of power is fairly useless, and of course its fuel consumption, at 20.2mpg, is hard to justify nowadays.

Where the GT Convertible really shines is inside, said Andrew English in The Daily Telegraph. Its interior is "beguiling and opulent", and the work that has gone into the leather and wood veneer is "unsurpassed". Much has also been made of the novel "Toblerone-shaped" spinning centre console display. There's just about enough room for four, and despite having to make room for the roof in the convertible, there's still 235-litre capacity in the boot. Outside, the car has a "lovely" profile too. It's just a shame that its massive weight gives it fuel consumption figures that are simply no longer "acceptable".

The best... cleaning gadgets



▶ **Bosch GlassVAC**
Bosch's hand-held vacuum cleaner for glass is great for windows and mirrors. You clean the glass using a microfibre cloth and the accompanying spray bottle, then remove the soapy water with the vacuum (£57; amazon.co.uk).



▶ **HandingSM Angry Mom Microwave and Fridge Cleaners** These gadgets are simple and cheap. Fill the fridge one with baking soda, and it will help eliminate smells; fill the microwave one with water, and the steam will dissolve the grease in the oven (£9; amazon.co.uk).



▶ **Karcher FC3 Cordless Hard Floor Cleaner** This modern mop makes it very easy to clean hard floors. Just add cleaning solution, and the spinning pads do the work. The battery lasts for 20 minutes (£280; argos.co.uk).



▶ **Trixex keyboard cleaner putty** We may prefer not to contemplate what's lurking in the various cracks and crevices around the house (such as between the keys in computer keyboards), but this putty should dig it out (£3; amazon.co.uk).

▶ **iRobot Roomba s9+** The latest Roomba robotic vacuum cleaner doesn't just clean your house on its own – it also empties itself into a stationary base when it's finished, so you can leave it unattended for weeks at a time (£1,500; shop.irobot.co.uk).



SOURCE: LONDON EVENING STANDARD

Tips of the week... how to prep the garden for winter

- Bring tender plants under cover to a cool porch, conservatory or a sunny, cool room.
- Cut perennials that have collapsed or become scruffy back to the ground, and weed around them. Cover them with a blanket of mulch, such as spent mushroom compost, to protect them and feed the soil.
- To protect dahlias from frost, lift their tubers out and store them indoors.
- To prune climbing roses, remove dead stems, cut those that are crossing and rubbing each other, and tie in young shoots that will flap about in poor weather.
- To create a nutritious mulch, collect fallen leaves and run over them with a mower on a high setting, then leave them in a black plastic bag with a few holes in it.
- Collect seeds on a dry day to plant next year. Store them in a cool, dry, dark place.
- If you want to plant trees or hedges, the best time is between November and March, while they are dormant, so get planning.

SOURCE: THE SUNDAY TIMES

And for those who have everything...



Billed as "the ultimate gift for car and design enthusiasts", this pomander is handmade from stencilled steel and has a leather lid. It's available in racing green, tan or black, and its fragrances include "Along the Plain of Castelluccio".

£145; charabanc.com

SOURCE: FINANCIAL TIMES

Where to find... websites for making new friends

Easy to join, especially for those who use its sister platform for online dating, **Bumble BFF** is most commonly used by younger people. You have to check it regularly, because unanswered messages disappear after 24 hours (bumble.com/bff).

Meetup helps people organise online groups for real-life gatherings. You might join a group of Londoners looking to go on a walk in the country, or people who meet to play board games, or to discuss issues of local interest (meetup.com).

Patook's bots aim to match you with similar people, and it has a "flirt filter" to stop inappropriate advances. But be warned: the explanation about how your data is used is "terrifying" (patook.com).

For women only and costing £19 a year, **Together Friends** is a simple website pitched at slightly older users. It aims to introduce you to people in your area of a similar age who share your interests (togetherfriends.com).

SOURCE: THE DAILY TELEGRAPH