

SIMPLE SECURITY TO STOP HI-TECH THIEVES IN TRACKS

FIRST TEST

The OBD Saver

Price: £169 Rating: ★★★★★

Contact: 01386 554210, www.obdsaver.co.uk

KEYLESS vehicle theft is on the rise, with criminals breaking into cars and using on-board diagnostic (OBD) ports to program blank keys which they can then use to start the engine. But The OBD Saver promises to stop the crooks in their tracks.

It's not the most attractive piece of kit, but it works by fastening on to the OBD port and blocking access. The port is the gateway to the heart of the car's electronics, and the way thieves are able to take control. Hooks secure the device to the port, then silver metal fasteners slide over the top to keep the hooks in place.

The maker has produced OBD Savers to suit a wide range of cars. VW Group models, such as those from SEAT, Audi and Skoda, have a fairly accessible port, and the device for these takes more time to fit – we found it quite fiddly installing it on our SEAT Leon, and spent about 45 minutes getting it right. OBD ports in BMW, Toyota and Lexus cars are trickier to access, but the OBD Saver for such models is more straightforward to attach.

A hex key secures the device in place, and unless you plan to use vehicle health apps or other OBD-based gadgets, you should leave it in place. But make sure you remove it at service time.

“It works by fastening on to the OBD port – gateway to the car's electronics – and blocking access”



OBD Saver is available for a wide range of models, and blocks access to the port, stopping thieves from cloning keys and stealing cars



NEW PRODUCT

Shell Fill Up and Go fuel payment app

Price: Free Available for: iOS and Android

DRIVERS have been able to pay at the pump for their fuel for years, but it's just got even easier. The new Shell Fill Up and Go app lets you scan your phone at pumps to pay.

Just register with Shell and link to your PayPal account. The app stores your data, but verifies access each time with a five-digit pin. Opt to Fill Up and Go, select the maximum value for fuelling in £20 increments and scan the QR code next to the pump you're set to use. Then fill up – simple as that.

It's one of the easiest and cleanest apps we've used in a while, and it keeps your digital receipts, as well as locating filling stations, storing loyalty info and listing personal offers.



news, deals & events



Survey says drivers baffled by car tech

NEARLY half of all drivers feel there's too much tech in their cars, according to a survey by pollster Nielsen and automotive consultant SBD. A huge 43 per cent of motorists polled said they'd never used one or more of their car's infotainment features.

Plus, the study showed that if consumers can access preferred content providers on smartphones, it's not important to have access via their car. The news comes ahead of development in health-related features in the car, which monitor heart rate and emotional state.

Test products raise £1,200 for charity

KIM'S Corner at the recent Waxstock detailing show in Coventry raised an impressive £1,186 for the East Anglian Air Ambulance.

The stall, run by Auto Express product tester Kim Adams, sold car care samples left over from our previous group tests, with all proceeds going to the charity.

Waxstock is organised by Dom Colbeck, co-founder of car care and detailing specialist Dodo Juice.

Classic and sports cars hit Beaulieu

BEAULIEU'S Simply Classic and Sports Cars festival takes place at the beautiful Hampshire estate this Saturday (22 August).

All sports cars and pre-1990 vehicles are invited to the museum for what promises to be a superb day for owners and enthusiasts alike.

Adult tickets cost £10, and if you want to make a weekend of it, the Supercar Showdown follows on Sunday 23 August. Log on to beaulieu.co.uk/events for tickets.

Know an event coming soon?
Contact Cat_Dow@dennis.co.uk