

LONG TERMERS

PORSCHE 911 CARRERA 4

Whoops. Got it a bit wrong last month when I said that my shiny new OEM brake parts came from Porsche Shop. They didn't. In fact, it was the lovely people at Type 911 (020 8402 8424) that supplied them. Sorry about the gaffe.

Anyway, since having the new brake and rubbers fitted, the 911's life has mostly involved long periods of nothing interspersed by short periods of not a lot. I've had every intention of taking the Porsche out for a spin during the weekends; the weather has been decent enough to warrant heading out into the countryside, but every time I try, the fates conspire to land me with some household chore or another and the car has been left sulking in the garage.

Even when I finally did clear my schedule and try to go for a spin last weekend, the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune still seemed to be levelled at me. Bloody typical really – the weather was perfect, the roads dry and I had all day to immerse myself in driving. But the car wouldn't start. Weeks of neglect had run the battery flat, and it had to be charged.

A few hours on a charger saw the battery resurrected, and the 911 subsequently started at the first turn of the key. I must admit, having to scutter around with the battery dampened my enthusiasm for driving, but there was still time to go out and it was far too nice a day to spend it moping around the house.

Getting back in to the 911 after spending the last few months hacking around in my old 5 Series was something of a revelation. It's amazing to think that it took me just a few weeks to forget just how fast, and how responsive the Porsche was. Needless to say, after a few miles I made sure to reap the buzz of B-road blasting for all it was worth.

Handily enough, I recently acquired a new widget that would help prevent the occasional spot of enthusiastic driving from resulting in me losing my licence. With speed cameras infesting just about every decent stretch of black top up and down the country, I decided that it was time to invest in a detector, so I bought myself a Black Spot Laser Alert.



Going for the bargain price of £99.99, this ingenious little doofer can detect lasers being pointed at you from both the front and rear from a range of two kilometres. It plugs in to the cigarette lighter, so I don't need to bother with batteries and it simply suckers on to the windshield. Easy. Of course, I've yet to have someone point a speed camera at me, so thus far the detector has done little more than decorate my dash. Still, I'm bound to run in to a camera sooner or later and if the detector can save me from being fined, or worse, it will have already paid for itself. But with winter quickly drawing in, it could be sometime before it gets the chance.

Ian Hunt

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PORSCHE 911 C4

Total Mileage: 124 979
Mileage this month: 127
Cost this month: £99.99



Ian takes the initiative and invests in a potentially licence-saving unit. Possibly a telling indicator of somebody with a lead foot?

