

CAREFUL, THE DIGITAL NANNY IS WATCHING

A new device allows parents to keep track of children's driving, revealing both their location and speed, writes Mark Harris

For years, hidden GPS tracking devices have been used to deter and to catch car thieves. Now, a type of sat nav system has been developed to control far more dangerous individuals: your own children.

Teenage drivers are twice as likely to cause accidents as other motorists, and 10 times more likely to be killed or seriously injured than people in their forties. In an effort to reduce these figures, Blackline GPS, a Canadian electronics company, has created a digital “nanny” that watches over young drivers, logging every time they break the speed limit or borrow the car for an unauthorised midnight joyride.

The Escort Entourage CIS is about the size of a mobile phone. It fits under the bonnet of any car and, by employing sat nav technology, constantly tracks the vehicle's position and reports back to Blackline's secure servers. Drivers are identified by a personalised

electronic key fob, and if any-one drives the car without a fob, text and email alerts to the owner are triggered.

The same security fobs allow Blackline to build up a picture of an individual driver's road habits. Every week, the system generates a school-style report card that details how many miles every-one drove, their average speed and how often they exceeded speed limits. Young drivers are given a rating of A to F. Parents can even set up digital curfews — during school hours, say, or late at night — to see how obedient their children are being when they thought that no one was looking.

“When you're a teenager, you gener-



The Escort Entourage CIS, fitted under the bonnet, and its personalised key fob



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SPIES IN THE CAB

Slow down, watch your mirrors — here's more high-tech kit that controls the way you drive

Alcohol interlocks In the US, many convicted drink-drivers are given the option of paying for an alcohol-sensing device to be installed in their car, rather than a permanent driving ban. The driver has to pass a breath test before the car will start and at random intervals while driving; fail the latter and the car's lights will flash and its hooter sound.

Pedestrian detection Next year's Volvo S60 will come with front-facing radar and cameras. If the radar detects a possible impact, or even that a person is about to step off the pavement, a computer chip analyses the video feed, identifies a human and slams on the brakes.

Live Vehicle GPS Tracker If you want to be sure that your teenager isn't “borrowing” the family car, this £339.99 tracker (plus monthly £15 fee) lets you watch your car live in street-level detail on PC mapping software. The rechargeable battery will last three weeks, or you can wire the tracker into your car's power supply.

FLOWER 400 S

A

Suzuki Alto

The perfect way from A to B

Discover your independence with the Suzuki Alto. It may be small, but its cute styling gives it a huge personality. Easy to drive, easy to get in and out of and easy to park, it's economical and low in emissions too. So whether you're going shopping, going work or heading off to the gym, its 5 doors and stylish body mean you'll always get from A to B in style.

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CO₂ 103 g/km¹

Extra urban fuel consumption of up to 74.3 mpg²



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The Suzuki Alto from £7,655. For more information call 0845 850 8800 or visit www.suzuki.co.uk Calls cost £0.035 per minute from BT landlines. Calls from non-BT phone lines will vary.

¹For vehicles fitted with manual transmission. Finance is subject to availability for Alto vehicles privately registered between 1st January 2010 and 31st March 2010 from participating Authorised Suzuki Dealers only. Credit is available to persons aged 18 years or over, subject to status. Indemnities may be required. The final repayment is payable one month after the last monthly payment. For full details please contact your local participating Suzuki Dealer. Suzuki Finance reserves the right to withdraw or amend this offer without notice or prior warning. The offer is available to customers within the UK (excludes Channel Islands and Isle of Man). Suzuki Finance, part of Black Horse Group, St William House, Tresillian Terrace, Cardiff, CF10 5BH. This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. All prices and specifications are correct at time of going to press.

Model shown is the S22 available at £7,655 on the road (metallic paint available at £370).

Alto range official fuel consumption figures in mpg (L/100km): urban from 42.1 (6.7) to 51.4 (5.5), extra urban from 62.8 (4.5) to 74.3 (3.8), combined from 54.3 (5.2) to 64.2 (4.4). **Official CO₂ emissions from 103g/km to 122g/km.**

35 monthly payments of £95			
First repayment of	£125	Final repayment	£3,015
Deposit 25%	£1,879.70	Alto S22 on the road price	£7,655
Amount of credit	£5,775.30	Total amount payable	£8,344.70
5.2% APR typical			

A Daimler Brand



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Mercedes-Benz

The A160 BlueEFFICIENCY Classic SE 5-Door with Metallic Paint

Monthly payment*	£199	Retailer deposit contribution**	£409.09	On the road price	£15,835	Total amount payable by the customer [‡]	£16,563
Customer deposit	£2,499	Optional purchase payment [†]	£6,625	Total charge for credit	£1,137.09	Total amount payable [‡]	£16,972.09
Number of payments	36	Acceptance fee	£180	Amount of credit	£12,926.91	Purchase activation fee [†]	£95

Standard features available across range include: ESP,* Hill Start Assist and Anti-lock braking system (ABS) with Brake Assist (BAS).

Typical 3.9% APR

Official government fuel consumption figures in MPG (Litres per 100km) for the A-Class Range: Urban 31.4 (9.0) - 53.3 (5.3), Extra Urban 47.1 (6.0) - 74.3 (3.8), Combined 39.8 (7.1) - 64.2 (4.4) CO₂ Emissions: 169-116g/km. Model shown is a Mercedes-Benz A160 BlueEFFICIENCY Classic SE 5-Door with optional metallic paint at £350.00 and optional fixed panoramic glass roof at £440.00. Total Price: £16,275.00 (price includes VAT, delivery, maximum Road Fund Licence, number plates, new vehicle registration fee and fuel). *Based on a Mercedes-Benz A160 BlueEFFICIENCY Classic SE 5-Door with metallic paint on a Mercedes-Benz Agility agreement. **The £409.09 Retailer contribution is only available with this A160 BlueEFFICIENCY Classic SE 5-Door Finance offer. †Payable if you exercise the option to purchase the car. ‡Includes optional purchase payment and purchase activation fee. Credit provided subject to status. Examples based on 10,000 miles per annum. Excess mileage charges may apply. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. This finance campaign is available on all A-Class models registered between 1st January and 31st March 2010. Offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other published offer from the Retailer. Terms and conditions apply. Prices correct at time of going to print. Finance provided by Mercedes-Benz Financial Services UK Ltd, MK7 8ND.