



Wings West styling is making tidal waves on the UK's west coast. Meet the two dudes who are making it happen...

LIKE GOING FOR A DIP IN Weston's ice cold sea, building a modified car needs to be approached with caution – particularly if your bread and butter for the past umpteen years has been restoring classics. Not that Kevin and Alex of Avon Custom Engineering (ACE) have been put off. They've hitched their jeans up to their knees, made sure their hankies are securely knotted on their heads and charged headfirst into the deep *Maxific Ocean* to make a west coast Wings West Saxo, UK-style. It hasn't been

plain sailing, though, and they've learnt plenty about the industry on the way. 'We were told the Wings West G5 kit would only fit the very late Saxos,' says Kevin. 'So we paid a little extra to buy a brand new one, but I'll be bloody buggered if I can see the difference.' **Stripped off** Mind you, by stripping the VTR with just 81 miles on the clock, they avoided having to battle against seized nuts and bolts, so the extra money was no doubt well worth it. 'It needed to show off our ability at modifying cars and >

W I N G S
W E S T O N

ICE CREAM



Hiring a man to erect the headline was effective, but extravagant

Milky was never quite the same after having the laughing gas fitted to his hip...



Milky did to fit in with the locals is as successful as his Beckham haircut

It wasn't the first fat tank Fly had pulled

MAX METAL
CITROËN SAXO VTR



Doncaster was going to be where we launched the business and the car properly,' continues Kevin. 'But to be honest, the whole show was a nightmare from start to finish.'
Blow-outs, wrong tent pegs and a position among the parts suppliers, rather than bodywork specialists, meant the response from the show wasn't what they'd hoped for.

First person to invent colour-coded seatbelt fasteners is gonna be a rich man

'THEY WERE ON A SUNSHINE BUS DAY TRIP'

'It was still a laugh and we'll be back next year,' says Kev. 'But *Max Power* featuring the car will get across what we can do much better.'

So, as we made Kev and his son Alex dress up in silly hats and wave buckets and spades like they were on a Sunshine Bus day trip, we probably owe them one. So here it is...

More rear-end additions than a prison shower...



Wash out

The Saxo was stripped and 11 litres of Lechlär Blue/Violet Pearl were used for the mesmerising, so-deep-you-could-dive-in finish.

But not only did they spray the exterior, they also got busy inside. The door mouldings, rear panels and dash all got totally sanded, smoothed and then treated to a layer of this gorgeous paint.

'I'd been spraying the dash for ages and >



The drag racing

... and the man in



Some bodykits fail to meet expectations...

'MOD'D CARS ARE A MAIN ATTRACTION'

The radiator leak had clearly worsened...



SEAFRONT DANGER



The ref points to the spot

Seaside – a great place to be... we think not. There are hidden dangers to Maxheads lurking at every seafront, from Southend to Blackpool. Know your enemy, my boy, and make sure you are very well prepared...

- 1 Drag-racing pensioners**
They're drawn to seaside towns like a post-sex piss to a toilet seat. The fresh sea air gives the oxygen thieves a new lease of life that manifests itself in the underground cult of electric wheelchair
- 2 dB dragging arcades**
When your ICE is kicking out 130dB, the last thing you need is some annoyingly gay siren that goes off every time some little old lady wins 10p on the 'penny falls' machine.
- 3 Fat birds in bikinis**
No self-respecting Maxhead needs to get an eyeful of Lisa Riley lookalikes spilling out of G-strings. Heavy window tints and car-mounted harpoons are the only solution.

racings. Reaching top speeds of up to 5mph, the coffin-dodgers can cause cruise-hampering congestion.

Having a lovely time - What you see here

didn't think it was going to look any good," remembers Kev. "But when I'd finished, I walked back to it after cleaning the spray gun and was amazed."

Dirty business

And according to Alex, there's very little glare off it when you're driving. While all this was being done, Kev's wife got the sewing kit out to stitch dark silver leather – intended for ballet shoes – onto the centres of the standard seats. She was finding time to trim the doorcards, too, which begs the question: who was cooking dinner and cleaning the bathroom?

Nonetheless, the interior was transformed with its Rockford Fosgate 10in sub-centred ICE install, a host of Richbrook goodies and one rather large bottle of laughing

gas, while the bathroom probably very mucky, a lads very hungry.

"The nitrous had to go 'cos that's one of the things we supply," adds Kev. "Any old nitrous, mind, NoS, the genuine article." The VTR is set up to 50bhp shot, but trials to be suspended when the burst of power pushed rear arches down so far began scrubbing the t that wrapped around the Wolfrace ikons.

Once that problem's though, ACE are going the performance – and car worthy of their name.

Main attraction

More importantly, Alex has a car that's going to illuminate Weston seat. And if the police don't grow up, they might see that mod'd cars like the more of an attraction to chip shops and arcade that's stale with



Fly's attempt to fit the tripod into the door pocket was doomed from the start



Next stop: Santa Pod



CITROEN SAXO VTR
 >> **ENGINE** 1587cc, 4-cylinder, 9-valve - Green cotton induction kit
 >> Longlife stainless steel exhaust
 >> NoS nitrous injection (50bhp jet)
 >> **TRANSMISSION** Standard 5-speed manual gearbox
 >> **SUSPENSION** KW - 40mm springs - KW shock absorbers

>> **BRAKES** Standard
 >> **WHEELS & TYRES** 7x17in Wolfrace ikons - 205/40 2R17 Uniroyal tyres
 >> **BODYWORK** Wings West G5 bodykit - Wings West Commando roof spoiler - Wings West Type 2 mid-wing - de-locked doors - meshed grille - clear rear lights

• blue tinted windows • under-car neon lights • flashing number plate screws • neon washer jets • full respray in Leclier Mariner Blue/Violet Pearl • sponsors' graphics
 >> **INTERIOR** Full blue, violet and silver leather retrim • painted dash, door panels, rear side panels and

seat cappings • air vents and handles sprayed to match leather • retrimmed Momo Apache steering wheel • blue/violet leather garters • Richbrook interior accessories • switch panel for neons and nitrous
 >> **ICE** Alpine head unit • Rockford Fosgate 5.5in midrange speakers

• Rockford Fosgate 10in sub • Rockford Fosgate amp
 >> **PERFORMANCE** Max power - 150bhp (with nitrous) • max speed - 135mph • 0-60mph - 9secs
 >> **THANKS & FREE PLUG** Wings West for the bodykit • Leclier for the paint (01606 738600 • Wolfrace

(www.wolfrace.co.uk) • Uniroyal tyres (01895 425900) • Richbrook (020 8543 7111) • Sound Advice in Weston (01934 613141) • If you want custom bodywork, NoS or styling goodies, phone Avon Custom Engineering (01934 830188) • Max Power would also like to say big

thanks to Grand Pier Ltd (01934 620238) on Marine Parade for letting us use their 'leading amusement attraction' and Regent Gift Shop on Regent Street for lending us the seaside props. If only the police in Weston weren't wankers, it would be a lovely place



ALEX BUCKLEY Alex could pull the birds...

>> **AGE** 19
 >> **JOB** Right-hand man at Avon Custom Engineering (ACE)
 >> **DO YOU ENJOY YOUR JOB?** Yeah, it's cool now we're getting into Max'd cars, too
 >> **IS THAT YOUR INFLUENCE ON YOUR DAD?** Maybe. Hopefully, in a

year, I'll take over this side of business, too. I want to start importing more kits from abroad as there's a lot of cool Jap stuff that definitely needs to come in.
 >> **YES, LIKE GIRLS WHO TIDY UP BEDROOM AFTER YOU SHAG?** I mean, that after the homework's done

TECH SPEC

GALLERY SECT