

CB-26P Fitting position
Crysler Neon (magazine review)

jon betts
chrysler neon

No matter what us blokes say, size does matter! Which is why the 14-inch wheels on the Neon just had to go. Flicking through various wheel catalogues, the 16- and 17-inch rims on offer really appealed to me, that was until I saw the Wolfrace (01621 843770) catalogue, and in particular the six-spoke Voodoo alloys. The thing that struck me about these wheels is that the spokes extend to the very edge of the rim, giving the impression of a larger wheel. With this in mind, I was able to go with a 7.5x15-inch wheel and 50 series tyre. Fitting 16-or 17-inch wheels would have meant that the tyre profile would need to be even lower to retain the same rolling radius, resulting in a very hard ride, not



what I wanted for the family hack. Toyo's Proxes T1-S now adorn the Voodoo alloys and I cannot praise the package enough. They have completely changed the car's handling, the steering is much more responsive, it feels a lot more stable at speed and it sticks to the road like glue, especially on fast, winding country roads.

On the aesthetics front I've added a set of chrome fender trims from American Auto Barn (01733 553132). The only drawback is that they have highlighted the bloody great gap between the arch and the wheel! The US is awash with aftermarket suspension kits for the Neon but over here it's a bit limited. Even so, by the time you're reading this I should have sorted something out.

I'm always sceptical when I read about products that improve performance and

economy, etc, so when I saw the new Ecotec (020 8287 3472) device, and the rave reviews it had received, I was keen to try it out for myself. Fitting the device was a doddle as all you need to do is cut into the brake servo pipe close to the inlet manifold and install the valve with the aid of a couple of jubilee clips. The noise is the first thing that you notice; after blipping the throttle there's a sound emitted not too dissimilar to the sound of someone finishing off a McDonald's milkshake! The small filter from Pipercross goes a long way to reduce the noise, but you still get a few strange looks from pedestrians. On the road you can really feel a difference as the Neon is much more agile going through the gears. As yet I have not put enough miles on it to check the fuel figures, but I'll report on these next month.

