

# Motoring Stop thief!

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TODAY'S cars have sophisticated security features, but how do they work? There are systems to trace your car – after it's been stolen: systems to track your car – as soon as it's been stolen: and systems designed to prevent your car being stolen in the first place.

Some of these are highly advanced, many downright smart.

Here are just a few examples of the high-tech systems now available:

**Vauxhall can paint your wagon – invisibly**

It's revolutionising vehicle identification and it's already in use on some of the Vauxhall NETWORK Q range.

SmartWaterTM is a liquid forensic coding 'chemical combination' system that is painted onto both visible and concealed components to uniquely identify the vehicle, in whole or in part.

This makes success at stealing or 'ringing' (the act of fabricating a new car out of other, often written-off cars), more difficult.

A resultant 'ringed' car will contain a combination of all the DNA profiles of its constituent compo-

**EVER returned to your car only to find – nothing? A sickening, stressful feeling. It's something that – until now – only happened to other people.**

**Vehicle theft deterrents are becoming more complex and more sophisticated. Some cars know who is in the driving seat while others have a DNA profile as unique as any human. Richard Hill finds out more.**

nents – identifying the vehicles it was created from.

Vauxhall describe Smart-WaterTM as a liquid that contains a unique forensic fingerprint.

It can be painted invisibly onto components such as the wiring loom, wheels or the interior trim. Each brush stroke contains millions of particles encoded with the car's unique identity.

"We have an enormous security arsenal," said John Winter, Vauxhall's vehicle security manager, and added "...thefts of and from our cars are on a fast downward slope as police records show."

If the police suspect that a vehicle is stolen or a 'ringer' they simply search for the SmartWaterTM 'paint' and send a swabbed sample to the Forensic Science Service

which will identify the vehicle, usually in less than 48 hours.

**Renault hold the key to keyless security**

Renault are also at the leading edge of security. Their luxury Laguna II range includes a unique keyless entry and ignition system, claimed by Renault to be a 'first car on the market to offer this as standard'.

The system features a card instead of a key which the driver slots in the dashboard before starting the engine.

Renault claim that without the card, with its rolling combination of over a billion codes, ignition is impossible.

The card can also memorise a wide range of data such as mileage, emissions and with four person-

alised cards available for each vehicle, the card can, for example, automatically set the driver's preferred seat and mirror positioning.

**RAC Trackstar – It knows where you are**

A system suitable for most cars that tracks the position of your car as soon as you report it stolen.

A module hidden somewhere on the car is the key to the system. If the car is stolen a radio signal is sent, via satellite, from the car to the RAC Trackstar National Control Centre.

A computer takes the output signal and calculates the exact latitude and longitude to provide the control centre, and in turn the police, with the vehicle's exact location, speed and direction.

Once the thief has been apprehended, the RAC will return the car to the owner.

**Get SMART!** The Crimestoppers SMART (Stop Motorcrime And Ring Today) campaign encourages everyone to do their part. Since the start of the campaign over 1,900 arrests have been made and £2 million of vehicles recovered.



■ THE keyless Renault Laguna II features a smart card which the driver slots in the dashboard before starting