



# HIGH FIDELITY

Aston Martin Works Service offers an increasingly comprehensive range of audio-visual upgrades to all modern models – all the way from iPod® connectivity to bumper-mounted multi-view cameras. We visit Newport Pagnell to admire Special Vehicle Operations' latest hi-tech conversions

While most know Aston Martin Works Service for its impeccable restoration work on some of the world's most valuable cars, few visitors expect to find such a choice of unusual conversions and modifications on offer at the Newport Pagnell facility. Even less are aware that the Special Vehicle Operations (SVO) department, headed up by Works Service stalwarts Andrew McCloskey and Ian Rhodes, is rapidly expanding its portfolio beyond interior re-trims and transmission conversions to encompass a host of hugely technical audio and visual enhancements – all of which complement the modern audio platform used in the Vanquish and all Gaydon-produced 'VH' (Vertical Horizontal) platform Aston Martin cars.



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Readers might already be familiar with some of the 'infotainment' packages available, from Issue 5's article on the Alpine touchscreen head unit, speakers and DVD changer systems that can be retro-fitted to your Vanquish. Now, instead of replacing the centre console's existing radio/CD head unit with a new screen, SVO have engineered a system that displays video images on your V8 Vantage, DB9 or DBS's pop-up navigation screen. Video is streamed via the composite video network, whilst audio is fed through the vehicle's fibre-optic MOST network.

Most significantly, this system offers the facility to display video images from optional front and rear multi-view cameras, which Works Service can mount discreetly on your front and rear bumpers. Employing top-end Alpine components, the camera option (from £2,765.00 plus VAT) offers a superb degree of visibility when manoeuvring through garage entrances, preparing to pull into 'T' junctions or parking near high kerbstones. No longer need your paintwork be at risk from those awkward blind spots.

The rear camera is operated automatically when reverse is selected, while the front camera is manually switched on, and both cameras can be switched through three settings: panoramic, top view or corner view. The latter splits the screen in two, to show a 180° sweep – ideal for driving out of narrow alleys for example. Top view points the selected camera downwards to help avoid contact with high kerbs when parking.

In conjunction with the cameras, Aston Martin Works Service can now integrate several alternative AV sources as well. One of the most popular is video iPod® connection via an Alpine interface (from £1,375.00 plus VAT). This allows the user to stream videos or view pictures through the vehicle's infotainment system from your discreetly mounted iPod®. Control of the function is either via the iPod® itself or a small remote control, with a choice of audio, video or picture display modes, conveniently using the same on-screen menu as your iPod®.

Other possible AV sources even include digital TV (signal permitting of course), as well as DVDs, CDs, games consoles and, within reason, any other AV device you care to imagine – just as long as it has a standard digital connection... and just as long as you leave it to your passenger to operate while on the move!

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