

**A DASH OF INSPIRATION**



# MESSERSCHMITT KABINENROLLER KR200

**W**ho needs a steering wheel when you can have handlebars? That's the question the brave new Kabinenroller asked the world upon its 1953 launch.

And, to be frank, a whole wheel would have been an extravagance in this frugal yet exciting microcar.

The brainchild of former aircraft engineer Fritz Fend, the little two-seater's

aeroplane-without-wings theme extended beyond being built by the former fighter-plane manufacturer.

Cocooned in a greenhouse-like Perspex dome, the lucky Messerschmitt pilot sat cosily between their rear passenger's knees, while the tiny silver-painted speedometer indicated a terrifying 55mph top speed.

Although a little more spartan than a truly airborne cockpit, four brightly-coloured warning lights kept the two-stroke powerplant in check.

The updated KR200 in 1955 came equipped with a ferocious 191cc one-cylinder motor spinning the single rear wheel. You'd have been gripping the cream handlebars very tightly.

**RALLY PREPARATION**

## STUDENTS SEEK HELP FOR RALLY

**T**he Oxford Universities Motorsport Foundation, which provides engineering students with hands-on experience in preparing competition cars, is seeking sponsorship and spare parts to tackle the 2010 Sol Barbados Rally.

The OUMF, which has campaigned its Riley 1.5 at the event for the past two years, needs assistance to attend this year's rally, running from May 28-30.

The team would also like to track down an MGB race-



prepared cylinder head, or an entire engine, to replace the road-spec 1800cc unit.

Ding Boston of the OUMF has high hopes that the Riley will be participating in

September's Goodwood Revival, following successful trials for the event in March.

Anyone who can help with either sponsorship or an engine can contact Ding at [dboston@oumf.org](mailto:dboston@oumf.org), or call him on 07761 823609.

## TOP 4 CARS WITH ILL-SHAPED CURVES

Just one slip of the designer's pencil can make all the difference to a car's looks – here are four that we think were so close, yet so far...



### 1 Triumph Mayflower (1949)

From the front, the nautically-named Coventry compact was almost handsome, in an old-school way. Placing the rear axle where you'd expect to find rear doors, though, was bizarre.



### 2 Ford Zephyr/ Zodiac Mk IV (1966)

With a bonnet long enough to land a light aircraft on, few cars said 'cash' in the mid-Sixties like a Zephyr or Zodiac Mk IV. Unfortunately, the rear end looked stunted.



### 3 Bond Equipe 2-Litre (1967)

Dressing the Triumph Vitesse 2-Litre in a sharp suit created the man-about-town Equipe. While the raked screen and headlamps looked good, the too-short wheelbase meant the new clothes looked baggy.



### 4 AMC Gremlin (1970)

To create a new city car for the Seventies, AMC carefully trimmed down the rear end of its Hornet saloon, before fitting a hatchback. As a finishing touch, a frugal 5.0-litre V8 was fitted under the bonnet.