

Looking to buy a diagnostic tool?



READY FOR ACTION: After 3 weeks with the BMW package, Test Bench had the confidence to take on pretty much anything.

Autologic equipment may be on the expensive side but as Test Bench finds out, just like its tipple of choice - it's reassuringly expensive

Autologic diagnostic tool Autologic Diagnostics

Overview

The sight of our senior diagnostic technician salivating over a piece of equipment is not something that I like to dwell on, and yes, we have found and tested some excellent diagnostic and programming tools in the past but Autologic has always been the one to beat when it comes to vehicle-specific software and hardware. So, when the box arrived in reception we knew he would be like a dog with a new bone! Offering dealer-level diagnostic capability over a limited range of vehicles, Autologic first became known to a sceptical trade when in 2001, it launched its Land rover package. Over the last few years the range of marques covered has expanded to include BMW, Mercedes, Jaguar, Volvo, VAG and Porsche. Currently in the final stages of development is a package covering the French trio of Peugeot, Renault and Citroen.

Now it has to be said that we are not dealers, so we are unable to compare the offerings from Autologic with equipment at the main agents. However, when it comes to the aftermarket, we have yet to find any other piece of equipment that allows the level of access and programming

offered here. It is also backed up by a help desk manned by master technicians who really know their stuff. Autologic provide further support by offering marque-specific training from these same gurus.

This is not a piece of equipment that will find its way into every workshop because it's aimed at



those who specialise in one or two manufacturers, and can justify a premium product.

In use

We spent three weeks looking at the BMW package and by the end of the process, felt confident we would get a result on anything but the very newest models. There is evidently a delay of up to 10 months before features on new cars are included in the software. It is easy to use and the backup of a true expert just a phone call away helped increase our knowledge a considerably. Customers have the option of having performance upgrade software installed and yes, this does cost extra, but it opens up an additional market.

Prices

This level of technology and support does not come cheap and to paraphrase a well-known beer manufacturer, Autologic is 'reassuringly expensive'. The BMW package alone costs a hefty £7,995, this includes the first year's technical support and weekly software upgrades. Ongoing help will cost you a further £750 per annum. In addition, programming the very latest models will require the purchase of an optical interface priced at £800. But there is no point in comparing the price with even the very best of the general-purpose diagnostic tools, it must only be compared with those supplied by the vehicle manufacturers and when you do this, all of a sudden it seems like excellent value.

Verdict

We handed it back with a heavy heart, in the certain knowledge that our senior technician would sulk for months at the loss. On the bright side we can confirm that this equipment is tear-proof!

Want to know more?

To find out more about how you could get to the bottom of faults faster using the Autologic diagnostic tool and software, simply fill in **805** on the **free** reader enquiry card.