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Maserati MC12 A Winner

By John Hartley

Designed to win races, the Maserati MC12 is actually sold as a road car, albeit it a very impractical one. Still what do you expect with a 620 bhp exotic car? The car looks just like the sports racing car that it is. To be fair, it is a real two-seater while the cars that race at Le Mans are more like single-seaters.

Only 25 MC12s were built initially, and quite a few were used for racing. Actually, when they heard about Maserati building the MC12 for the GTA championship (oops, sorry for sale as a road car, was the official line, I think) some of the other companies threatened to withdraw as they thought the presence of the MC12 on the starting grid would make a farce of the whole series.

Although the Maserati MC12, is a true exotic car, it is based on the Ferrari Enzo. The whole idea was to upgrade Maserati's image following a checkered history. The glory of the 50s, when Maserati was a regular winner of Grand Prix, got lost in the mire of an economic downturn, when the company took the wrong turn more than once.

As Ferrari and Maserati are both part of the Fiat Group, and were in fact in the same sub-group, it made sense to modify the Enzo to get Maserati back as a winner. Now, Ferrari and Maserati have been put in different sub-groups, so this sort of collaboration is not expected in the future.

V-12 from Ferrari with 622 bhp

The Maserati MC12 looks completely different from the Enzo, though,, with a long nose and very long tail. Where the Enzo is angular, the MC12 is curved. It has a carbon fiber body structure with steel sub-frames front and rear. Power comes from a 6.0 liter V-12 developing 622 bhp @ 7,500 rpm, and 480 lb ft (652 Nm) torque @ 5,500 rpm. A semi-racing engine to be sure. It is coupled to a semi-automatic six-speed sequential gearbox, developed by Ferrari in racing.

Suspension is by double wishbones, with inboard spring and damper units acting through pushrods. These are mounted horizontally as on the Enzo. The dampers have variable rates. Quite a car, but not as extreme as the Bugatti Veyron or the latest Saleen S7.

Maserati MC12 A Winner

Following the racing success of the MC12, Maserati is now to build a more extreme version – the MC12 Corsa. The MC12 Corsa has a massively uprated Enzo V–12 engine giving about 750bhp. You can get this for about \$1.3 million – or £700,000 or Euros 1 million depending where you live.

But this is not a road car, nor will you be able to race it in any official categories - so this is a trackday special at a huge price. Maserati plans to build about 12 MC12 Corsas a year.

John Hartley is editor of

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, an online magazine devoted to fast cars and

supercars. He has written from many of the world's top auto magazines, and has written many books about cars and the auto industry, including 'Suspension and Steering Q&A'.

CNN Anchor Kyra Phillips Turns Bad Press Into A Win...

By Kim Klaver

How do you come out a winner when the bad press you get is national and it's all over the Internet in 24 hours?

A winner is someone like Kyra Phillips, CNN anchor who accidentally took a microphone into the bathroom and then went on David Letterman to redeem herself.

Her reaction was on a scale with the bad press she got: national.

No matter where the bad press comes from, from the local paper to the national media, you can come out a winner if you adopt a transparent attitude, a sense of humor, if you're authentic and if you have confidence.

Everyone goofs up once in a while. Companies also goof up once in a while. Maybe they overhyped the product, as a local paper accused Mannatech of doing.

But that accusation, even if true, doesn't change what the product has done for anyone over the past 10 years, does it?

Hype and promises can kill good products.

Stick with YOUR story and the stories you know. That's all I'd need. After all, everyone says their science and technology is the best. What matters first to me is whether it WORKS for me. Everything else is either second or irrelevant.

P.S. Silly comments like "It's just a sugar pill" are usually from people with an agenda or axe to grind,

on a par with "Oh, it's just pond scum." Like "the iPod is just another fad gadget," from the lips of a competitor.

Kim Klaver is Harvard & Stanford educated. Her 20 years experience in network marketing have resulted in a popular blog,

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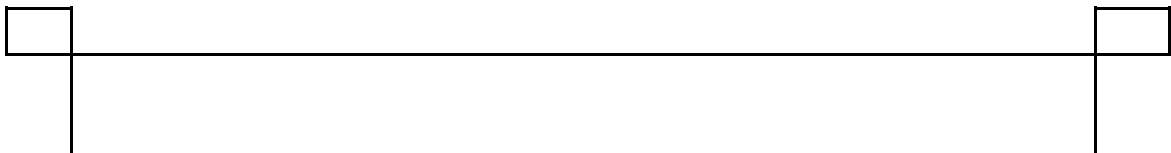
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