

VERY HOT RANGE ROVER SPORT

It looks stunning, especially when it squats down in 'access mode' when you've also selected the lowest position on the Matzker system. The huge 20-inch alloys almost disappear into the wheelarches (just make sure you remember to raise the suspension before you tackle a speed hump...).

But straightening out bends and clambering about off-road with the surefootedness of a mountain goat aren't the car's only tricks; it also accelerates more quickly, cruises faster and stops even quicker.

This is because Matzker has also developed the TR6, its own performance package. The TR6 control unit releases an extra 33bhp from the TDV6 and also increases torque by 44 lb ft (60Nm) to 369 lb ft (500Nm). Matzker assures us that the sturdy TDV6 can handle this significant increase in performance without being overloaded, while the servicing schedule remains unaltered and the diagnostic system is totally unaffected. You can easily remove the TR6 unit at any time, too.

The extra power starts to make its presence felt from about 2800rpm. It keeps on coming, too. Even when you're hammering along in the CommandShift gearbox's top ratio (sixth), the Sport is still accelerating where the standard version would be nearing its limit.

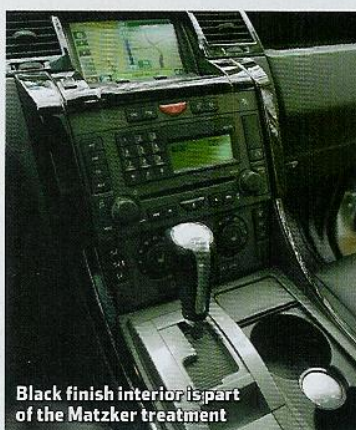
Yes, the standard Sport's capped limit of 120mph has been bypassed thanks to a little black box somewhat clumsily called a Speed Unlimiter. There's nothing clumsy about its power delivery, though. It's smooth as you like to the claimed 130mph.

Modifications

- ⊗ TR6 Performance Package £1275
- ⊗ Speed Unlimiter £665
- ⊗ Selective Control shock absorbers £2375
- ⊗ Electronic Handling and Off-Road Kit £1195
- ⊗ High-performance brake upgrade £1015
- ⊗ Wheel spacers £375
- ⊗ Outback underbody protection kit £1130
- ⊗ Contact: Outback Import International, www.outback-import-international.com

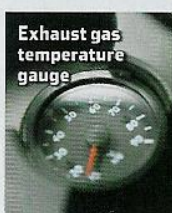


"Pretty as a picture and fitter than a butcher's dog"



Black finish interior is part of the Matzker treatment

Although the TR6 performance tune is designed not to overstrain the engine, this Sport is nonetheless fitted with an exhaust manifold temperature gauge, neatly tacked on to the cup holder (Eddie Evans has some interesting comments on exhaust manifold temperatures in his column on page 143).



Exhaust gas temperature gauge



Matzker suspension control

The sensation of speed is quite disarming. It's only when your windscreen is suddenly full of blurred hedgerow and chevrons that you realise quite how fast you're going. It's at moments like this that you appreciate the superb suspension.

And the beefed-up brakes. The Matzker anchors have 45mm larger discs and four-piston calipers in place of standard items. If you choose this high-performance brake upgrade, you'll need larger wheels as well.

But what a result. Big brakes, blistering performance, beautiful suspension – this has to be one the most cultured tune-ups ever. **LRO**

The Sport's capped limit of 120mph has been bypassed by a Speed Unlimiter

