**TOP WINTER ESSENTIALS**

**Alcar Stahlrad**

**Steel Wheels, From £36**
These direct-replacement steel wheels have to be an easier solution than an intensive (often daily) winter cleaning regime. They’re absolutely perfect for fitting winter tyres too.
Manufactured by the biggest wheel maker in Europe and available in sizes from 13 to 17-inches. These are built to exact OEM specifications taking into account every small detail right down to brake caliper profiles and clearances. A popular winter addition over on the continent, and it’s easy to see why.
www.wheelwright.co.uk

**Sealey Schumacher 15Amp Battery Charger, £94**
This fully automatic, microprocessor controlled box of tricks not only does a great job of charging 6 or 12Volt batteries (including conventional lead-acid AGM/Gel and leisure units), but what’s particularly useful in winter is it can also be used as a trickle charger to maintain an unused battery over long periods of time. That said, the main selling point will always be that it’s fast, Schumacher fast!
By incorporating patented speed-charge technology, this clever bit of kit actively monitors and constantly modifies output to juice batteries up to 3 times quicker than conventional chargers. There’s no need to leave ‘em hooked up overnight anymore, this will have you up and running in no time.
www.sealey.co.uk

**Yokohama W.drive Winter Tyres, From £56**
It might not be law in the UK to switch to winter tyres just yet but that doesn’t mean they’re not infinitely useful. Most tyres of this type come in very limited OEM sizes so it’s nice to see the W.drive range from Yokohama listing plenty for the larger and wider applications. Just the job for modifiers everywhere.
www.yokohama.co.uk

**AutoSock Snow Socks, From £50**
When it comes to grip in bad weather we will concede that many retro cars aren’t quite as well equipped as more modern motors. Now, here in the UK we don’t have a lot of major snowstorms but, when we do, we already know that everything just stops. Don’t get caught out on even the mildest icy slope when you could have a set of these in the boot, they could be something of a lifesaver.
Manufactured in Norway, unlike traditional snow chains these re-useable TUV-approved socks are designed specifically not to damage your alloys or tyres. Because of their hairy fabric drive-surface they use dry friction to give plenty of added traction, sticking to ice and snow in the same way as a pair of woolly gloves. In the short term these can be even more effective than winter tyres too.
www.autosockdirect.co.uk

**Bluecol 3 in 1 De-icer, £3**
British brand Bluecol have been famous for their anti-freeze products since the 1930s with many prestigious manufacturers choosing them for their OEM-fill applications. There’s nothing quite so old skool about this 21st Century product though. It contains a whole collection of tough cleaning agents, along with a rather uncompromising rain repellent. Developed to remove dirt, grease and finger-marks it leaves leaving behind an invisible coating to make your screen simply bead off rain, sleet and snow. Oh, it also de-ices too.
www.bluecol.co.uk
Prestone Fluids, From £2
The world leaders in winter protection products, Prestone have been doing their thing for over 80-years now and it certainly shows. In fact, independent testing has shown that everything from their de-icer and antifreeze to their award-winning screen wash seriously outperforms just about everyone else on the market. The results, as they say, don’t lie.
www.prestone.uk.com

Osram Night Breaker Unlimited Bulbs, From £12
Osram have been manufacturing light bulbs since 1908 so it’s pretty safe to say they know what they’re doing when it comes to leading the way. Nowadays their famous Night Breaker Unlimited range contains some of the most powerful halogen items in the world, all painstakingly-engineered to emit a whopping 110-percent more light than standard bulbs. These also boast 20-percent whiter light, a 40-meter longer beam and, unlike quite a few out there, come in at reasonable money.
www.nightbreakerunlimited.co.uk

Alphaline Batteries, From £36
The best form of protection is always prevention, and that goes double for electrical systems in winter. Cold weather is devastating to conventional lead-acid car batteries so it makes sense that this time of year is when they’re most likely to go wrong. Replacing your battery now with a high performance, high-cranking sealed unit from Alphaline will solve all these problems before they even happen. For the money, these zero-maintenance, AGM batteries are bang on!
www.batterymegastore.co.uk

AirMan ResQ, £38
If you get a puncture in the middle of winter messing around with a jack and wheel brace is much less appealing than having one of these German-engineered marvels on hand.
Recommended by plenty of car manufacturers, this 2-piece system from AirMan contains an exclusive ‘valve-through’ sealant that uses particle gel technology to repair punctures of up to 6mm in diameter. It also works in temperatures as low as -20°C and includes a compressor that will inflate your tyre in under 6-minutes. It’ll get you back on the road sharpish!
www.airman-uk.com

Silverline Rechargeable Site Light, £29
As it seems to get dark around lunchtime at this time of year, an LED work light like this could prove to be the most essential thing you buy this winter. With a high 700 Lumens output and both 240V and 12V chargers included, this new product from Silverline is certainly a handy item to keep in your car for all those little motoring emergencies. It comes with an added bonus too – a USB output for charging all your new-fangled mobile devices. That’s some seriously good value for money right there.
www.silverlinetools.com

Dodo Juice Future Armour, From £4 (100ml)
Paintwork preservation measures are an absolute must in winter and, although a wax will do the job of providing a sacrificial layer of protection, a paint sealant is arguably a better option because they tend to be more hardwearing and engineered to repel grime on a molecular level. This nano sealant from Dodo Juice offers up to 4-months protection and has to be one of the quickest and easiest to use on the market. Just spray on, wipe off and you’re indoors with a cuppa before you know it.
www.dodojuice.com