

STEALTH CARS

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If the Mustang was a little tardy off the line then Jones's Skyline looked like someone had pressed the fast-forward button. A lot of us expected the car to turn itself inside out when trying to download its 1000bhp on to the grippy Millbrook surface. But we were surprised. Jones held the car at 7500rpm, slipped the clutch and the all-wheel drive system did the rest. We expected clutch slip but there was none. We certainly expected wheelspin, but again there was none.

With a whistle from the huge Garrett turbochargers, the Skyline catapulted itself down the straight in a series of controlled explosions. Jones barely touched third gear before he hit 100mph in an awesome 6.93sec. But because the car was accelerating so hard by the time it hit a ton, the best reaction time Jones could manage was 1.79sec. The braking between 100-0mph was a superb 4.02sec. But that reaction time meant the overall time was 12.74sec.

Shatteringly quick, yes. But not as quick as it might have been considering the average reaction time was between 0.3-0.6sec.



Stealth looked fast even at a standstill - then blew us away with its speed



Deafening 6.3-litre Chevy V8 with 511bhp produced awesome performance

Butler's Dax Rush was up next. Butler hillclimbs the Rush so it's hardly surprising he looked so competent on his first run. The car looked pretty swift too, again not surprising considering it has four-wheel drive, 400bhp and an anorexic kerb weight. To 60mph the little Dax was only one hundredth of a second behind the Skyline at 3.69sec. But Butler was unable to maintain this rate up to 100mph, cracking the ton in 8.15sec and then taking a further 5.52sec to hit zero.

Add a reaction time of 0.73sec and the Rush returned a time of 13.67sec. A phone call from Butler showed why his car was off his expected pace - a post mortem showed that a sticking throttle cable was preventing the engine from drinking its full dose of fuel. Pity.

And then the Stealth was unwrapped, looking worryingly quick before it had even turned a wheel. This car's first ever outing was when owner Davidson crawled into its goldfish-bowl cockpit, fired up the crackling 6.3-litre Chevy V8 and erupted down the mile straight. Making the most incredible cacophony - a violent barrage of gear whine, induction hammer and V8 roar - the Stealth very nearly drove into the record books on its first run.

A little later, once its brakes had been sorted, it eventually posted





the following times: 0-30mph in 1.89sec, 0-60mph in 3.88sec, 0-100mph in 6.85sec and 0-100-0mph in 11.73sec. That's faster than the halfmillion pound Porsche GT1 and only two tenths shy of the McLaren F1 LM's all time world record. A pretty good result for a car you've never heard of, wouldn't you agree?

Ben Whitworth

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