

STEALTH CARS
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WHERE SPEED COUNTS

B6 Sport
 The ultimate roadcar

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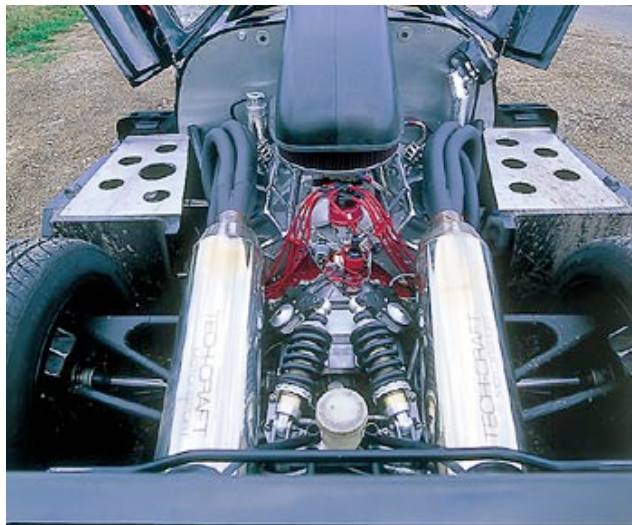
- Introduction
- B6 Specification
- Prices
- Roadtest Reports**
- Video & Imagery
- Contact Details

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evo
 THE THRILL OF DRIVING
DARK FORCES

PAGE 3 OF 3

Words: Harry Metcalfe | Pictures: Andy Morgan



It's time to take the brave pills and bring all four chokes into play. Jeeeee-sus! I hope no-one's looking. It may be a 6.3-litre engine but at 4500rpm it comes alive and suddenly all five change-up lights are flashing at you - In fact the gearbox is a revelation. Get it right and changing from second to third happens in milliseconds - put some pressure on the lever and it swaps cogs as soon as you start to depress the twin-plate clutch; in fact you have to stop your left foot from using all the pedal arc as it simply wastes so much time. With practice you can even do up-changes without the clutch. I'm becoming a Hewland junkie, even if it does cost £10,000 more than the Porsche five-speeder that's the other option.

How fast? Well, 70mph becomes 120mph without apparently passing through any of the in-between speeds on the way, and you live to red-line the engine and pop the next gear in. It's a seriously naughty car. Speed vanishes almost as quickly as it appears as you bring the four six-pot brakes into play, but all the time you're fighting the camber changes on this sort of road. The limits of grip are sure to be high - and best explored on a track. Unfortunately the fuel pump failed, curtailing our test prematurely, which was probably just as well, since I was really starting to enjoy myself.

If you're looking for the most extreme road-going track car, you've just found it. Swap the numberplates for race numbers when you arrive at the track and you'll need a trailer for all the silverware you're going to win. As a road car it's just too uncompromising - the Ultima, with its years of development, has to be a better bet. But put the two on the track and, in the right hands, the Stealth will just run right away from it. True, £90,000 is an awful lot of money but this sort of speed doesn't come cheap and, when the conditions are right, the Stealth delivers. Big time.



[Roadtest Index](#) | [Front Cover](#) | [Page1](#) | [Page2](#)

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