



June 2024 Update

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SLK AMG SPORT

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## An Automatic Pass!

Did you pass your driving test in a manual or an automatic?

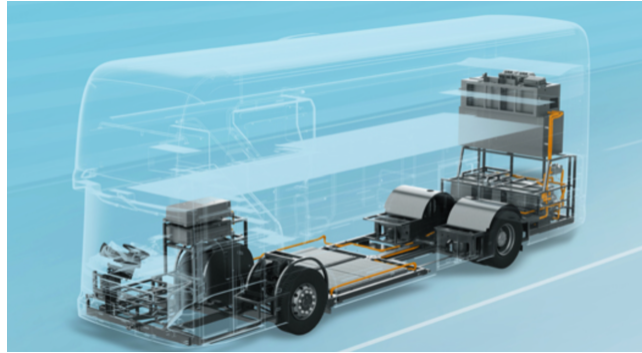
Well the trend is definitely towards automatic with **25% of drivers due to take only the automatic test by 2026**. Electric cars are essentially all automatic and a ban on petrol and diesel cars is looming (we'll see how that goes), so rates can only go up. For comparison, in **2013/14 only 5% of people passed in an auto**. That's quite a *shift*..



Did you know? Automatic transmissions first appeared in mass market vehicles in the 1940s when the "Hydra-Matic" was introduced by General Motors for use in Oldsmobile cars!

[On The Buses](#)

Chinese car maker BYD has revealed an electric double-decker bus, the BD11. Able to carry 90 passengers, the BD11 uses an enormous 532 kWh lithium iron battery which would power your 50w laptop for 1330 working days! It's planned to go in to service for London but as yet there's no date confirmed. Things have certainly moved on since Stan and Blakey's day (if you get the reference, you're probably too old to be driving!). It's almost 200 years since double-decker buses were first seen in London, although these were drawn by real horse-power! ☐



## What's In A Name?

**Disclaimer:** Please be aware there is some interesting language coming up..

Last month we commented on Alfa Romeo having to change the name of its 'Milano' to 'Junior' because it sounds Italian but is actually made in Poland. As far as mistakes go, this was a minor issue. Consider the XAE A -X11 from Tesla (pronounced 'ex-ash-ay-twelve') or the 'Aura Funky Cat', now re-named the Aura 03 to help its Chinese owner sell abroad.



But hold onto your hats, here are the real Lulus! Coming in as just a mistake, 'Nova' from Chevrolet means 'no go' in Spain and the 'Laputa' from Mazda means 'prostitute'. But in at number one for sheer stupidity, the 'Pinto' from Ford translates as 'small penis' in Brazil - who would want one of those ☐ Appears it's not just your kids that aren't doing their homework!



Summer Solstice Next Week,

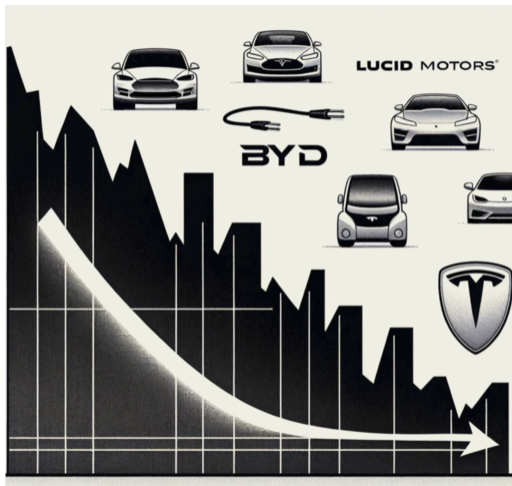
Get Prepared For The Summer Heat!

❄️ **A/C Service Just £79 INC VAT** ❄️

..Although with June temperatures apparently the coolest for 11 years, perhaps anti-freeze checks are in order too!



## **A Tale Of Investment Woes!**



I have commented here before regarding some seemingly mindless investment in new tech and ideas (Cazoo springs to mind). But EV investment has seen some similar '*shocking*' losses! Champion performer **Tesla is laying off 10% of the workforce and its market value has slumped to \$550 billion, down around 50% since 2021** - poor old Elon is now only the world's third richest man.

So, if you want to make some money, perhaps one of the other EV manufacturers would be better? Many startups get off to a *charging* start. Lucid motors at one point touched a \$90 billion stock market valuation and Rivian around \$150 billion (more than Ford). For context, in 2021 Lucid sold 125 vehicles, Rivian 920.. Ford sold around 4 million!! Together with three large new Chinese firms, which started at a similar time (Li Auto, Nio and Xpeng) these start-ups previously had a combined value of around \$400 billion which has dropped to \$69 billion today. VinFast, which went public in 2023, was briefly worth \$190 billion and sold 35,000 vehicles last year - today it's worth around \$9 billion, leaving you just £47 of your original £1000 investment. Even these losses look good when compared to Faraday future (which sells cars at around \$250,000), now appearing to be no longer viable!

Clearly there has to be a good reason these city types are investing in, and losing, such large sums of money with their investments in EV start-ups, but it's beyond the ken of simple folk like me. There is some evidence that

investment, at last, is becoming a little more discerning. In the words of New Scientist 'gone are the days when money men would throw treasure at any firm with a plausible PowerPoint presentation and an artist impression'. I think the jury is still out on that.. Oh, and because Elon Musk is now so poor, he's trying to claim a **\$56 BILLION pay package from Tesla**. The shareholders aren't sure this is in the car makers best interest. Well, duh!!



**“When a man opens a car door for his wife, it's either a new car or a new wife.”**  
- The Late Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

**\* SEE YOU ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SUMMER SOLSTICE \***

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