

CLASSIC DRIVER

BMW M6 Convertible



BMW will debut the soft-top version of its flagship M6 sports coupé at the British International Motor Show (July 18 - 30). It is the first time a BMW M version of a 6 Series Convertible has been built and will, with its 507 HP V10 engine, be capable of 0-62mph in 4.8 seconds before going on to an electronically limited top speed of 155mph.

The M6 Convertible goes on sale in the UK in September 2006. The new open-top M6 uses BMW's 4,999cc V10 powerplant developing 507hp - unchecked, the car could continue to a top speed approaching 200mph. Drive is via a seven-speed Sequential Manual Gearbox with Drivelogic - the world's first such transmission that has already seen service in the BMW M5 and the M6 Coupé. The BMW M6 Convertible's Drivelogic function offers the driver a choice of 11 different gear change options - five in auto mode and six in manual mode - each offering a different speed of gear shift. In its fastest setting, the driver of an M6 Convertible can make gear changes in just 50 milliseconds - far faster than can be achieved by an experienced driver using a conventional manual gearbox.

BMW's Variable M Differential and BMW M's version of the Dynamic Stability Control (DSC) system provide the highest levels of traction and the ultimate dynamic capability. The Variable M Differential permits up to 100 per cent of drive forces to be fed to one rear wheel to optimise traction while the DSC system, in its optimum M Dynamic Mode, permits a greater degree of wheel slip for even higher levels of performance.

The BMW M6 Convertible comes with a triple-layered hood for the ultimate in noise and heat insulation and, like other 6 Series Convertible models, also incorporates a Fin Structure roof for a Coupé-like silhouette. This triple-layered hood contains a middle component of polyurethane (PUR) foam. The resulting fabric sandwich gives the car near identical standards of acoustics and thermal insulation as a fixed-head coupé. Intelligent soft-top design also allows a large luggage compartment. Three hundred litres of capacity is available with the roof down. With the roof closed and the flexible soft-top storage compartment folded up, luggage capacity expands to an even more generous 350 litres.



The car features bespoke 19-inch double spoke light alloy wheels shod with low profile performance tyres - 255/40 R19 at the front with 285/35 R19 at the rear. Large vented and drilled high performance brakes

deliver excellent stopping power. The front discs measure 374mm in diameter while the rears are 370mm.

The front and rear styling also highlights the stance of the M6 Convertible when compared with the 'standard' 6 Series Convertible. BMW M's signature quad exhaust pipes also protrude from the restyled rear valance that delivers enhanced aerodynamic efficiency and drivetrain cooling.

Prices for the M6 Convertible and full specification details will be announced nearer the launch date.

Story: *Classic Driver*

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