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[Aston Martin Rapide - New Official Photos](#)



With a world launch anticipated within the next 12 months, the Aston Martin Rapide has taken a break from cold-weather testing to visit the studio.

These are the first official pictures of what is likely to be a productionised Rapide. Based on the DB9, but lengthened (by 30cm, according to the concept's specification) to incorporate proper rear-seat space and extra doors, the Rapide is a contender in the Quattroporte/ Panamera/ Lamborghini Estoque Concept class.

It will most likely, however, be more expensive than either the Maserati or Porsche; perhaps around DBS-level pricing.

Compared with the concept car that debuted in 2006, the latest version appears more rounded, with a slightly taller roof. It appears to retain the darkened glass sunroof and hatchback of the prototype, while losing its flatter nose treatment and shallower roofline.



Power will come from a version of the company's 6.0-litre V12, mated to the highly regarded 6-speed ZF automatic gearbox. The new car will be produced by automotive specialist Magna Steyr at a dedicated facility in Graz, Austria.

Text: Steve Wakefield

Photo: Aston Martin

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