CLASSIC DRIVER

Aston Martin just took the phrase 'F1 car for the road' too seriously...

Lead

Many manufacturers claim their products make use of Formula 1-derived technology – but Aston Martin has taken things a step further, collaborating with Red Bull Racing to create the striking AM-RB 001 road car...

Spearheaded by Aston Martin's design chief Marek Reichman and Red Bull's engineering guru Adrian Newey, the project has been informed by their collective experience – but also benefits from the freedom afforded to Newey through the lack of regulatory or political restrictions to which he is usually bound. So, while the 001 employs ultralightweight construction and cutting-edge aerodynamics, it will not use the equivalent of a turbocharged lawnmower engine, but a good 'old-fashioned' (in no more than principle) naturally aspirated V12, sans heavy hybrid technology. Further technological details will be revealed in due course, but AM-RB has promised a 1:1 bhp-per-kilo power-to-weight ratio (possibly the new yardstick by which the next generation of hypercars will be judged). May we remind you that this is not a track-only special à *la* Vulcan, but a homologated road-going reality 'engineered to be entirely useable and enjoyable as a road car, but with the capability to perform like no road car before it on a race track'.

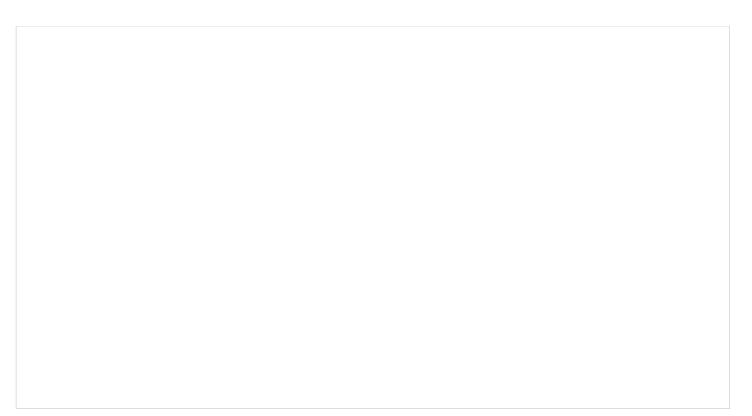
The end of the 'F1 car for the road' cliché?



Between 99 and 150 road cars will be built (including prototypes), with 25 track-only versions said to have LMP1 prototype-equivalent performance also in development. Aston Martin's CEO Dr. Andy Palmer brands it a 'history-making hypercar' – and regardless of how successful you deem the design in terms of retention of brand cues, few would argue that the overall idea sends out a better signal about the marque's future than a badge-engineered city car. First deliveries begin of the AM-RB 001 begin in 2018; prices are yet to be revealed, but we imagine you probably wouldn't get much change from £3m. A substantial figure to most, but a relative bargain for the lucky few when compared to the average F1 team's R&D budget...

Photos: Aston Martin

Gallery



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