

>> PBMW'S FLEET

Louise's E36 M3 Evo:

Laid off for a week (after failing its MoT for the most ridiculous reasons), now 'legal', it's just a matter of getting to work without killing myself in this wet weather



Louise's E30 325i:

Still got the callipers and brake hoses to fit along with a few miscellaneous bushes, but plans are in motion for the Alpine install and interior retrim. All that's left, then, is to sort out the exterior!



Joel's E39 523i:

He's out of luck again. Not long after the Z3 M Coupé was stolen, Joel got fined for illegally parking, having no front number plate and no MoT! We almost feel sorry for him!



Tony's E30 325i Saloon

The latest addition to the fleet has had the obligatory service and now feels like new. So, basics out the way, Tony can move on to mods, exciting stuff!



Adrian's E30 318i

No update on the 318i this month as Adrian's only spent one week of the last five at home. He is looking for a set of (cheap) spare E36 rims though, email pbmw@unity-media.com if you can help



>> SMART MOVE

Having had the Touring for well over a year now (first introduced in October last year), progress has been, if I'm completely honest, a little slower than I envisaged. So far, it's been gifted a short shift kit, Scorpion exhaust system and Alpina-style manifold from Automac, EBC 3GD Sport discs and YellowStuff pads all round, KW Variant 1 coilovers, and H&R adjustable anti-roll bars, which we'll bring you news of next month, along with Powerflex bushes, new calipers and Goodridge braided brake hoses, hopefully. And last but certainly not least, the Image Billet 60P wheels, taken from my 318i, have been given a makeover courtesy of Max Powder with brown centres and white lips to tie in with the planned interior and exterior overhaul, which is what I'll be busy sorting out over the winter, as well as a much-needed stereo system. Now that it's in black and white it seems I've been busier than I thought, but I did originally plan on having it finished for last year's show season, so I somewhat, slightly missed the deadline. 2010 it is then.

Impressed with the way window tints enhanced the look of my M3 (BMW 07/09), I thought it would be an excellent place to kick-start the 325's cosmetic surgery, especially after Cahit Cetinbas, the technician who worked on my car at Pentagon Glass Ltd, emailed to say he had started his own company. So amazed with the quality of his work and attention to detail last time, I was more than happy for him to tint my E30. As well as a fully-equipped workshop in Basingstoke, Tintsmart is a mobile service too, and whether you live in Newcastle or Newquay, it makes no odds to the overall price. After seven years in the business, not only is Cahit more than qualified for the job but he's an absolute pleasure to work with, and even with my constant questions, he went out of his way to explain the entire process. It sounds like a bit of a sales pitch but he really does pride himself on using the highest quality materials (to avoid the creases and bubbles you get from poorer quality film adhesives breaking down) so the result is professional and maintenance free, with a five year guarantee to boot.

Not only do tinted windows look cool, but Tintsmart's film helps to keep your car cool in the summer, eliminate glare from headlights, protect you and your passengers



from harmful UV rays and protects the interior from sun damage. It also offers privacy and, depending on what shade you go for, can hide valuables. Talking of which, you can choose from Light Smoke, Smoke, Midnight and Limousine. Now, I'm neither a wannabe gangster or a fan of picking up points, so I went for Light Smoke, which is what I have on M3, it's also fully legal.

It normally takes the ever-energetic and passionate Cahit two hours to tint a car, but the Touring's age brought its problems again, with perished window seals and plastic trim (which need to be removed for a better finish), making his job all the more difficult. Still it only added an additional hour. He is like a whirlwind to watch but with his standards and expertise as high as they are, it's almost impossible to distinguish between the original glass and the new tinted window. Pretty astounding given it's over 20 years old, and by its nature, film shows up scratches and slight marks.

Established for just nine months, hundreds of private customers, new and used car dealership vehicles, company cars and commercial vehicles have all benefited from long-lasting and affordable window tinting and glass protection installed by Tintsmart, which similarly speaks volumes. With great customer service and after care to boot, what more could you ask for? I couldn't recommend Tintsmart more.



Words & Photos: Louise Woodhams

>> Recently established, but certainly no stranger to the profession of car window tinting and glass protection, step forward the skilful Cahit from Tintsmart, who's managed to improve the Touring's looks no end.

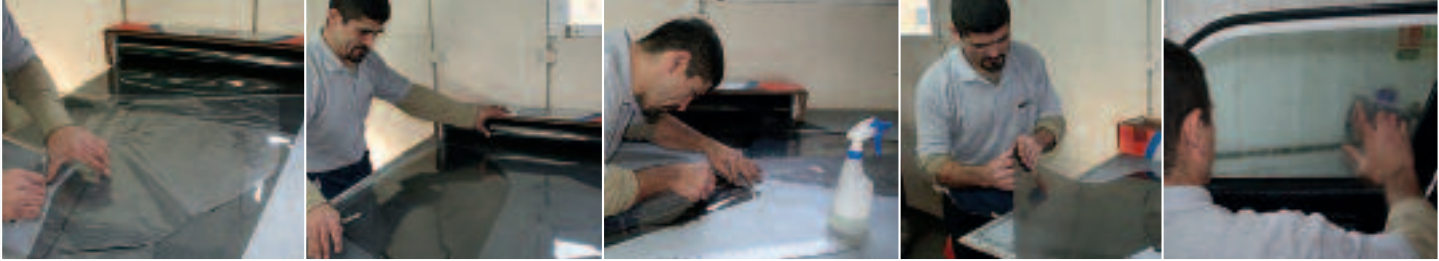
COST THIS MONTH
 E30 Touring Light Smoke tints all round (excluding windscreen): £300 (normally POA)
THANKS & CONTACT
 Tintsmart: 0118 962 4278 or 07772 028514
 Web: www.tintsmart.co.uk

FITTING GUIDE



> After removing all of the window seals and relevant plastic trim, Cahit then...

> makes templates for all of the glass sections



> The templates are then used to cut the film to shape, which is just larger than the glass itself

> The protective layer of the film is then removed

> Cahit now cleans the glass using an abrasive pad...



> ...and a squeegee, then applies a mist spray of water to both the glass and the film, removing the second layer to expose the adhesive. This keeps everything slippery for the next stage

> The film is then laid over the window...



> ...with it wound down slightly so it goes over the top of the glass

> Using a squeegee, Cahit works off the excess water against the window and tint before...

> pressing the film right into the outer corners of the glass and trimming off the excess with a blade knife and then a metal file



> Cahit uses a squeegee wrapped in a good quality cloth to chase out any remaining air bubbles

> A heat gun is then used to shrink the film evenly to the glass and evaporate the water to provide good adhesion

> Cahit cleans the outside and inside of the newly tinted windows and refits the trim. He recommends allowing three days before using the windows (leaving the film to dry and adhesive to cure), and then I'm good to go!