

Aston Martin V8 Cygnet: The Ultimate City Car

- A one-off creation for a customer through the 'Q by Aston Martin Commission' service
- 4.7-litre, naturally aspirated V8 sits under the bonnet and drives the rear wheels
- Carbon composite flared wheel arch extensions
- Power-to-weight ratio of 313bhp/tonne

Thursday 12 July 2018, Goodwood: One of the most exciting, outrageous and diminutive creations ever to wear the famous Aston Martin wings will be making its world debut at the 2018 Goodwood Festival of Speed. Dubbed the 'The Ultimate City Car', a one-off Aston Martin Cygnet has been built with a 4.7-litre, 430bhp V8 engine from the Vantage S and a very short torque tube.

The V8 Cygnet has been brought to life for a single customer through the 'Q by Aston Martin – Commission' service. This section of the British marque's bespoke personalisation service allows the ultimate in freedom of expression when designing an Aston Martin and the V8 Cygnet continues to push these boundaries.

Aston Martin Vice President & Special Operations Officer, David King said: "The V8 Cygnet shows the fun side of both Aston Martin and its customers. It is also a fine example of the engineering talent within the company as it's no small achievement to fit the Vantage's V8 engine so harmoniously into the Cygnet's compact body. I am sure that it will amaze and thrill people when they see and hear it on the hill at the Festival of Speed."

Developed in-house by Aston Martin's engineers, the starting point for the project was a right-hand drive Cygnet steel body shell and panels. A roll cage was welded to this, becoming an integral part of the chassis in the process, while a new front bulkhead and transmission tunnel were fabricated from sheet metal to accommodate the characterful 4.7-litre naturally aspirated V8 Vantage S powertrain. Subframes and suspension are also derived from the previous generation Vantage and a steel fuel tank housing has been mounted in the boot area, utilizing every inch of space.

Despite all this work, the car remains very recognisably a Cygnet from the outside. The face of the little Aston Martin remains largely untouched, with no extra bulges in the bonnet and just a subtle black mesh for the famous grille. However, there is no disguising the extra width of the wheel arches.

In order to accommodate the significantly wider front and rear tracks, beautiful carbon composite flared extensions were made. These also house the new forged, five-spoke, diamond-turned wheels, which have grown from 16" to 19" in diameter.

At the rear of the car the distinguishing new feature of the V8 Cygnet is the central twin exhaust pipes. The exhaust is a bespoke system with twin underfloor mufflers and catalytic converters. With relatively short distances involved from manifold to tail pipe the V8 Cygnet has a voice that belies its compact size.

The engine itself is the 4.7-litre, naturally-aspirated V8 that is more usually found beneath the bonnet of the previous-generation Vantage S. Bespoke intake trunking had to be designed and there are twin conical air filters. There is no sense in which the engine has been neutered for the Cygnet, however, with power and torque figures remaining at 430bhp and 490NM (361lb ft) respectively.

The gearbox is also taken from the V8 Vantage S with a seven-speed Sportshift II transmission taking care of the shifting. Power is transferred via a miniature torque tube to the 9.5" rear wheels, which are complemented by 275/35 Bridgestone tyres.

Weighing just 1375kg when full of fluids, the V8 Cygnet has a power-to-weight ratio of 313bhp/tonne. As a result, the V8 Cygnet is capable of accelerating faster than the V8 Vantage S with 0-60mph taking just 4.2 seconds. With a top speed of 170mph it is over 60mph faster than the regular Cygnet.

Braking is taken care of by 380mm discs clamped by six-piston monoblock calipers at the front and 330mm discs gripped by four-piston mono block calipers at the rear. The calipers are painted yellow to contrast with the Buckinghamshire green of the bodywork. Most of the remaining parts of the braking system are taken from the V8 Vantage S with ABS and a fixed brake bias valve. Inside, there is a bespoke brake pedal housed in the V8 Vantage-derived pedal box.

The rest of the interior is largely indicative of the fact that this V8 Cygnet could easily be used for competition. In addition to the roll cage there is a fully FIA compliant fire extinguisher system and seating is taken care of by composite, fixed back Recaro bucket seats with four-point harnesses. The alcantara covered steering wheel is removable and behind this sits a bespoke carbon dash with the familiar Vantage instrument cluster. There are, of course, little touches of luxury inside as well, with leather pull straps on the unique carbon door cards and two USB ports alongside the bespoke controls for the air conditioning.

This very special one-off Cygnet is a timely reminder of what a ground-breaking car the original was, bringing luxury to the city car segment. What's more, the market place shows that prices of Cygnets

are rising as it looks set to become a future classic. Of course, classic status is already almost assured for this new V8 version of the Cygnet that epitomises the concept of a 'pocket rocket' and is sure to be a firm favourite of the crowds at the Goodwood Festival of Speed this weekend as it joins a plethora of other Aston Martins on the hillclimb.

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V8 Cygnet - Technical Specification

Body:
RHD Cygnet steel bodyshell and panels with integrated welded-in cage

Vantage subframes

Steel fuel tank housing mounted in the boot area

Carbon composite flared wheel arch extensions

Mesh front grille

Dark exterior hardware

Body painted Buckinghamshire Green

Yellow brake calipers

Interior:

Two seat configuration

Fixed back Recaro composite driver and passenger seats with

Adjustable seat runners driver's side, fixed position passenger side

Four-point harnesses

Bespoke carbon composite instrument panel incorporating Vantage instrument cluster

Bespoke HVAC controls

Twin USB ports

Bespoke carbon fibre door cards with leather pull straps and Cygnet door release handles

Full FIA compliant fire extinguisher system

Removable alcantara steering wheel

All-Alloy Quad Overhead Camshaft, 4.7-litre V8

Dry sump lubrication

Front mid-mounted engine, rear-wheel drive

Vantage S cooling system

Twin concial air filters on bespoke intake trunking

Bespoke exhaust system with twin underfloor mufflers and catalytic convertors

Twin centre exit tailpipes

30-litre ATL Savercell fuel tank

Electrical System:

V8 Vantage S electrical architecture

Cygnet front and rear lights

FIA compliant cut off and isolation system

Rear mounted battery

Bespoke lightweight HVAC system

Performance

Maximum Power: 430bhp

Maximum Torque: 490Nm (361lb ft) Maximum Speed: 170 mph (274 km/h) Acceleration: 0-60 mph in 4.2secs

Transmission:

V8 Vantage S seven-speed Sportshift II gearbox Bespoke torque tube with steel propeller shaft

Limited-slip differential

Suspension:

Front Independent double wishbone, coil springs, anti-roll bar and passive dampers Rear Independent double wishbone, coil springs, anti-roll bar and passive dampers

Wheels and Tyres

Lightweight forged five-spoke silver diamond turned wheels Bridgestone tyres Front 8.5x19" 235/40/19 Rear 9.5x19" 275/35/19

Brakes:

V8 Vantage S braking system with ABS and fixed brake bias valve Front 6-piston monoblock calipers, 380mm 2 piece floating ventilated discs Rear 4-piston monoblock calipers 330mm 2 piece co-cast ventilated discs V8 Vantage derived pedal box with bespoke brake pedal

Dimensions

Length: 3708mm

1920mm (excluding door mirrors) Width:

Height: 1500mm 2020mm Wheelbase: Front Track: 1570mm Rear Track: 1560mm

Weight: 1375kg (kerbweight) Weight Distribution: 50%/50% (Front/Rear)