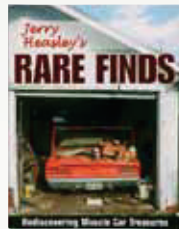




But it's not all American ingenuity here. We were fascinated to learn about Frenchman Robert Lebouder's obsession with aviating his Vespa 400 runabout; adapting and modifying the car in his back garden, he made it airworthy and flew his family to Biarritz for a holiday in 1976.

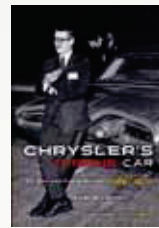
A nice touch is a chapter on flying cars in the movies, including such obvious fare as *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* and the Syd Mead-imagined vertical take-off 'spinner' from Ridley Scott's *Bladerunner*. But our choice remains the modified AMC Matador from Bond flick *The Man with the Golden Gun* – even though the car in the 'flying' scenes was actually a remote-controlled model. An excellent book and endlessly fascinating.



## Jerry Heasley's rare finds

**JERRY HEASLEY**  
Car Tech, \$29.99  
ISBN 978 1 934709 52 8

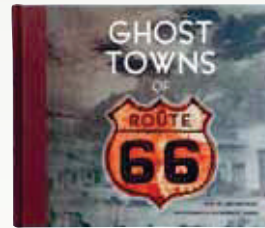
CULLED FROM Heasley's columns for various magazines, this is essentially a rundown of muscle-car discoveries. Many are historically significant, not least assorted Le Mans Corvettes and stellar drag racing hardware, with each getting plenty of background gen, tales of how they were found and what happened subsequently. To be honest, we had low expectations when this book arrived, largely because it isn't a new idea and the design is poor, but it's a great time-wilder for any would-be discoverer.



## Chrysler's turbine car

**STEVE LEHTO**  
Chicago Review Press, \$24.95  
ISBN 978 1 56976 549 4

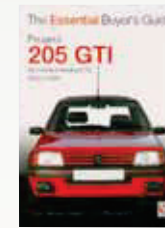
WHILE WE'VE only seen a PDF of this book – contrary to our normal review policy – all indications are that it will be well worth having. It tells the whole story of Chrysler's turbine programme, from its genesis in the early '50s through to its demise in the '70s. The Ghia cars are the main focus, and there are lots of reminiscences from people who were lucky enough to live with the 46 turbine cars that were loaned out to members of the public. Having cruised LA in Jay Leno's example, we can confirm what fabulous things they were.



## Ghost towns of Route 66

**JIM HINCKLEY & KERRICK JAMES**  
Voyageur Press, £16.99  
ISBN 978 0 7603 3843 8

WE HAVE become increasingly inured towards anything Route 66 related, largely because an entire industry has been constructed around it. There's a mythology surrounding The Mother Road which doesn't ring true, but the thing is, this really is a good book. There are no faux patinated store fronts, just honest-to-goodness decay which is photographed beautifully. The text is easy to digest and well written and the design and layout complement the subject matter. Remarkably good value, too.



## The essential buyer's guide: Peugeot 205GTI

**JON BLACKBURN, Veloce, £9.99**  
ISBN 978 1 845842 83 3

ANOTHER IN VELOCE'S series of pocket buyer's guides, this is a comprehensive effort despite its small A5 size. Focusing on the much-loved French hot hatch, it relates the history of the model (including the CTI ragtop), a checklist of things to inspect when looking at a car, and an exhaustive rundown of when a GTI is worth buying and when it's best to walk away. The author clearly knows his stuff and we must admit to having forgotten about the many special editions such as The Griffe and The Gentry. A tenner well spent if you're in the market for a GTI.



## The definitive guide to Gaydon era Aston Martin

**Sceptre, £19.99**  
ISBN 978 0 950682563

ANY BOOK THAT has the word 'definitive' in its title is asking for trouble. But this really is just about the most comprehensive guide to post-Newport Pagnell Astons imaginable. From historical info to stereo options, it is simply packed with detail. Though low on gloss, it's a useful buyer's guide and a must for anyone in the market for one of these good-value thoroughbreds. We had no idea there were quite so many limited editions and spin-offs – UB-2010, anyone? We look forward to Spectre's next offering.