

particularly on a car that is required to have a large standard specification, luxurious interior and whose brothers are already built from aluminium.

So the DBS features lightweight but very strong (and expensive!) Carbon-fibre panels for the front wings and bonnet plus the boot enclosure (and lid), the rear diffuser, door opening surrounds and within the interior, giving a saving of around 30kg. Further proof of their attention to detail is evident with the way the Carbon-fibre panels are painted, Aston have used a new patented 'Surface Veil' process, this adds a 200 micron layer of epoxy and glass to the panel delivering what they term as *"A class- A surface that is in line with Aston Martin's tradition of high-quality finish"*. Returning to the subject of weight loss, the specification does not feature rear seats saving further weight and the standard ceramic braking system (more on this later) saves a further 12.5 kg's. Aston officially states the kerb weight at 1695 kg (3737 lb), a 65 kg saving over a DB9 despite the DBS' very high standard specification. With an extra 60 bhp and 65 kgs less to lug around the power to weight ratio jumps from 256 bhp

(267bhp/09MY) for the DB9 to 301 bhp (per metric tonne) for the DBS, which is now starting to show its true potential. You could also save a further 20kg by specifying the expensive optional Carbon-fibre bucket seat, but you won't find many on the secondhand market as they are slightly less practical and don't feature side airbags; so haven't proved to be a big seller on the DBS.

The final change in the search for increased acceleration would be the gearing: the final drive ratio was changed to 3.71:1 for the DBS, the shorter gearing allows slightly improved acceleration from the 6 speed manual gearbox, particularly in-gear.

The power increase, weight loss and gearing change combine to create one of the fastest Astons of all time and the DBS takes a useful step forward in both standing start acceleration and in gear flexibility when compared to the original 2001 Vanquish. Aston quote an official 0-62 (0-100km) time of 4.3 seconds for the DBS vs 5.0 seconds for the 01 Vanquish and 4.8 for the S. By way of comparison Autocar quote the 0-100 mph and 30-70 mph in gear times as follows, DB9 - 11.3/4.6, Vanquish S 10.1/3.6, DBS 8.7/3.2,

