

Wuffer.net

The Concept

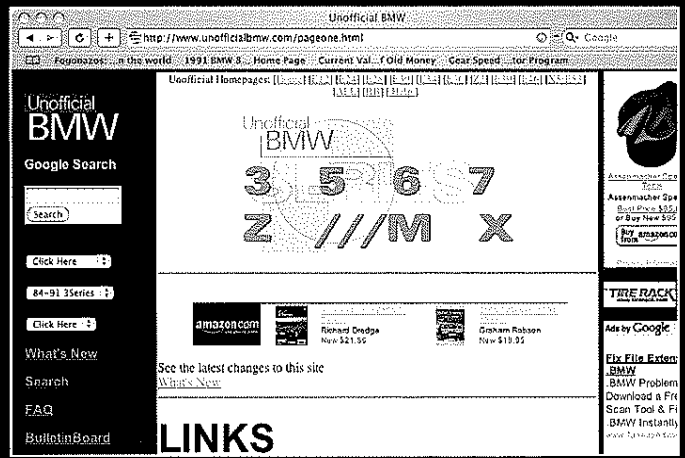
This site belongs to Tom Carter, aka Wuffer, and is the British Columbia 8 Series Special Interest Group and home of the WWWPE – more on that later.

The Content

If you've got Eights on the brain then this website has plenty to keep you interested. It's divided up into a number of different sections, which for the most part deal with the 8 Series but there are also a few general BMW and motoring links. The WWWPE, Wuffer's Weird and Wonderful Parts Emporium, is Tom's collection of E31 parts amassed by him initially with the aim of having plenty of bits on hand when the inevitable break downs happened, allowing him to get repairs done quickly. Tom can supply certain parts such as refurbished DK throttle motors on an exchange basis and if you're in need of other items or have any questions, he should be able to help in some way. Beyond this, you'll also find a parts for sale section, a long list of extremely useful 8 Series-related downloads from engine manuals and pre-purchase checklists to owners manuals and engine troubleshooting manuals. There are loads of 8 Series videos for download, the British Columbia registry and gallery, another gallery and some E31 links. Finally, you'll also find a list of upcoming events, cars for sale and a forum as well.

The Verdict

This brightly coloured, attractive site (red seems to be a favourite of Wuffer) is a great place to visit if you're in need of some 8 Series information. You can't knock what's on offer here as there's a lot to get through. The parts emporium is great for getting hold of tricky to find or expensive parts at a good price, and we're sure that if you asked nicely, Wuffer would be able to help out a UK 8 Series owner. The downloads section is the real star of the show here, giving you access to a whole host of incredibly useful information, allowing you to really get inside your Eight. Throw in the videos, the forum and the galleries, and you've got a real five-star site.



Unofficialbmw.com

The Concept

The clue's in the title really – it's an unofficial site all about BMWs.

The Content

This site is home to a large collection of useful information about most but not all BMW models, with the focus falling on those that are no longer in production. Pick your desired model and you'll find yourself presented with a long list of links to mostly technical articles relating to just about every part of each car. There's a general repairs list with tips on how to fix common BMW problems and then you'll find model specific tips and tricks divided into sections dealing with the interior, exterior, the suspension, the engine and so on. There's an FAQ section, an absolutely massive list of parts pictures and information, a huge links section and a forum. The forum almost deserves an entire review on its own seeing as it's so large and so popular, with almost 19,000 users. There are discussion areas for each model along with an off topic chat section, a gallery area and a classifieds section.

The Verdict

Because of its slightly fussy, link-laden homepage and unexciting layout, Unofficialbmw isn't immediately appealing. However, delve beneath the site design and you'll find an extremely useful and comprehensive site and one that is useful regardless of what BMW you drive. With the numerous tips and tricks coming from owners, you know that they're likely to be useful and just about every section of each car is covered in depth. One criticism is that some of the advice on the model specific areas isn't actually specific to that model - in the E28 section, for example, you'll find advice on replacing the front struts on an E30. It's this that lets the site down slightly as you have to be careful when reading the tips to make sure that they're applicable to your car, rather than just being able to trust the site's content. It's a minor point though and one that is easily outweighed by the site's positives.

