

Hullo, isn't this the mighty Mini Cooper S, beloved of rally drivers and bullion robbers?

Actually, no. It isn't.

What it is is a replacement for that irreplaceable car. It's the E.R.A. Mini Turbo.

The E.R.A. is, to start with, faster than the Cooper S. It's turbocharged 1275cc engine pushes it up to 60mph in 8.8 seconds and takes it on to a maximum of 110mph (only on a race circuit or autobahn naturally).

Its superb handling is the result of skilled suspension modifications backed by computer simulation and a long, tough programme of testing at racing speeds.

The interior? Well, after 20 years you would expect some differences and the E.R.A. Mini Turbo has plenty. It now sports beautifully shaped seats, a totally re-designed dash with

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a full complement of traditional VDO dial instruments, acres of Connolly hide, thick sound-deadening carpets, a sun roof and an expensive stereo radio/cassette player.

Finally, if you're admiring the E.R.A.'s aggressive good looks, you won't be surprised to learn that the bod-mods were the responsibility of none other than Denis Adams, creator of the legendary Marcos sports car.

The E.R.A. Mini Turbo is a classic in its own right, built upon the heritage created by the Cooper S. But, before you're overcome by nostalgia, ask your Austin Rover dealer for a test drive. You'll find that the way this car takes you back is nothing compared to the way it takes you forward.

THE E.R.A. MINI TURBO