



Spanning more than half a century, the partnership between Aston Martin and the James Bond franchise has a storied history of iconic vehicles that began with the legendary Silver Birch-hued DB5 featured in 1964's *Goldfinger*. But when *Spectre*, the most recent and perhaps most stylish iteration of the 007 story, was released in 2015, Aston Martin had to come up with something equally bold yet refined, without repeating itself: a seemingly impossible request. The company's response was the jaw-dropping, scene-stealing DB10.

Designed and fabricated solely for the film, ultimately only 10 units were produced by the British automaker. Eight of these were used in the filming of *Spectre*, highlighting a truly spectacular chase scene through Rome, while two were held as show cars. The vehicle was partially based on the then forthcoming Vantage, which at the time of filming was still a closely held secret. So the Aston Martin design team, based in Gaydon, England, created a unique exterior for the limited run of DB10s, and the result is one of the most eye-catching designs in the history of the brand, with sleek yet aggressive lines and a thematic paint color, Spectre Silver, to finish it off. The vehicle's form truly evokes the feeling of forward motion, even when the DB10 is parked outside a casino or waterfront villa.

By creating the exterior from carbon fiber, designers shaved pounds and increased the vehicle's structural rigidity, while their choice of fine leather, aluminum, and more carbon fiber for the interior ensures the balance of comfortable, uncompromising luxury and extreme performance that Aston Martin's customers have come to expect from the brand. Powered by a 4.7-liter V-8 engine paired with a traditional six-speed manual gearbox, the DB10 is more than capable on a racetrack (or a film location), where it can reach up to 190 mph. At speed, it devours the road ahead, growling through

a stainless steel-enhanced exhaust. A sports suspension keeps the platform flat through turns, and carbon ceramic brakes provide on-a-dime deceleration.

Only one of the 10 cars has ever been offered for sale to the public, as part of a charity auction of Bond memorabilia in 2016. When the gavel fell, the winning bid was more than \$3.4 million, an impressive sum for a machine that can't even be used legally on public roads. But for all the racetrack thrills one could experience in the driver's seat, perhaps the DB10's greatest gift is to the fortunate bystander as it passes by. Not only is it one of the most breathtaking cars created by Aston Martin and driven by 007, but also one of the most truly beautiful in modern automotive history. A worthy successor to a lineage of iconic vehicles, the DB10 shows respect to its ancestors while also helping to establish a future design philosophy for both Aston Martin's production vehicles and those it will continue to create for its most famous secret-agent client. —*Keith Gordon*



The parallel evolution of the James Bond character and the Aston Martin-designed cars he drives is one of the most synergistic partnerships in the history of cinema

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