

AUTOMOTIVE

Aston Martin future-proofs historic vehicles for EV evolution

December 6, 2018



Aston Martin is giving its classic cars an electric makeover. Image credit: Aston Martin

By BRIELLE JAEKEL

British automaker Aston Martin is hoping to future-proof its classic cars with a new invention, as the threat of ecological damages becomes prominent and zero emissions legislations could be a reality.

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The automaker has created a concept kit that will allow consumers to convert classic cars to be powered by electric. The move comes as more legislations have been made to fight for greater sustainability within the automotive world, and Aston Martin hopes to preserve its legacy.

"We have been looking for some time to find a way of protecting our customers' long-term enjoyment of their cars," said Paul Spires, president at **Aston Martin Works**, Newport Pagnell, Britain. "Driving a classic Aston Martin on pure EV power is a unique experience and one that will no doubt be extremely attractive to many owners, especially those who live in city centers.

"We also foresee collectors adding another dimension to their collection by commissioning EV-converted heritage cars," he said.

Driving into the future

Aston Martin has released its designs for a concept development to future-proof its heritage models, which it believes are precious.

The development is the world's first reversible EV powertrain conversion kit, allowing heritage models to be made into electric-powered vehicles.



Aston Martin's heritage EV project. Image credit: Aston Martin

Rapide E and development for the all-new range of Lagondas have provided the groundwork for Aston Martin's initiative.

The automaker designed its first kit around the 1970 DB6 MkII Volante. The kit would create a cassette enclosed within a self-contained cell to sit on top of the original engine and gearbox mountings.

Cords would then feed into the electrical system of the car, coming from the power unit.

A dedicated screen fitted into the car's interior would operate power management.



Aston Martin's EV kit. Image credit: Aston Martin

Aston Martin is looking to be a forward-thinker with its new model, hoping to preserve the heritage of its historic models as well as look to the future without holding back. With the social and legal pressures mounting in the auto industry, a world in which zero-emissions are allowed could be the future.

Electricity in auto

Many other automakers are moving along with the EV evolution.

For instance ,U.S. automaker Tesla is responding to luxury automotive's growth in China by signing a preliminary agreement for an endeavor that will dramatically reduce cost in terms of product sales in the region.

The *Wall Street Journal* has reported that Tesla signed a preliminary agreement with the government of Shanghai to build a factory. Luxury automakers have been bullish on the Chinese market with the demand steadily growing ([see story](#)).

German automaker Porsche also recently created a forward-looking strategy that leans on electric vehicles, despite the "burden" it is.

In an interview with *Automotive News Europe* in November 2017, Porsche chief financial officer Lutz Mesachie explained that the brand would like to invest in EV to compete with brands such as Tesla, but doing so is an "extreme burden on a company of this size." The automaker's CEO announced at its museum in Stuttgart, Germany that

Porsche will undergo a "three-pronged" strategy to tackle EV and mobility to compete in the future, but the driving experience will still be the focus of the brand ([see story](#)).

"We are very aware of the environmental and social pressures that threaten to restrict the use of classic cars in the years to come," said Andy Palmer, president at [Aston Martin Lagonda](#), Gaydon, Britain. "Our Second Century Plan not only encompasses our new and future models, but also protects our treasured heritage.

"I believe this not only makes Aston Martin unique, but a truly forward-thinking leader in this field," he said.

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