

**ROGER SMITH SERIES 2**  
// FROM £72,500  
[www.rvsmithwatches.com](http://www.rvsmithwatches.com)



**GRAHAM SILVERSTONE STOWE RACING**  
// £8784  
[www.graham-london.com](http://www.graham-london.com)



**BREMONT ALT1-WT** // £3995  
[www.bremont.com](http://www.bremont.com)



**SCHOFIELD SIGNALMAN GMT PR** // £2958  
[www.schofieldwatchcompany.com](http://www.schofieldwatchcompany.com)

## British sum-up time

**CAR watches** // As the clocks go forward once more, it's time for **Ben Oliver** to do a round-up of the best of British brands

**DAMN YOU**, Swiss! Many of the great advances in horology came from 18th-century British clockmakers. But as with our car industry, a long period of leadership and technical brilliance just faded, and there are almost no British watchmakers left.

George Daniels, CBE, who died late last year at 85, was an extraordinary exception. Probably the greatest horologist for 250 years, the self-taught boy from Tottenham could not only

fabricate, by hand and eye and from lumps of raw metal, watches of unbelievable complexity, but he invented whole new ways of measuring time mechanically. No space here to explain why his co-axial escapement was so clever: suffice to say that the giant Omega group bought the rights, and George spent the proceeds on a small collection of cars and bikes that is expected to make £8m when auctioned by Bonhams

at Goodwood this summer. Daniels only ever made 37 watches, and only made them for people he liked. But his sole apprentice, the brilliant, modest 42-year-old Roger Smith will make you one as unique and with the same skill and obsessive attention to detail. You're going to need patience – his workshop on the Isle of Man issues fewer than a dozen pieces each year, with a waiting list of between two and eight years – and S-Class

money at least. But watches of this rare will never lose value.

If the budget doesn't stretch that far, there are a bunch of new British-owned brands to choose from. Bremont is run by brothers and pilots Nick and Giles English, and their aviation-inspired watches have acquired a cult following. A tie-up with Jaguar saw them provide the dash clock for the C-X75 concept. The movements are Swiss, but the cases are made in the same Cambridgeshire factory that hardens turbine blades for Rolls-Royce aero engines, and there's talk of a bespoke, British Bremont movement in the future.

Graham is another Anglo-Swiss-made brand, named

for George Graham, one of those pioneering British watchmakers; appropriately for a motorsport-heavy brand, he invented the chronograph. These are big, bold watches and not for everyone, but their heft, quality and originality help justify the prices.

But the British brand currently rocking the watch blogosphere is Schofield. Designed by Brit Giles Ellis and inspired by lighthouse men rather than the predictable pilots or divers, the range of just two limited-edition Signalman watches was launched at the recent Salon QP watch show in London. Rare, austere and great value: does the British watch revival start here?

### CAR GADGETS

**LYTRO** // \$400

With the tiny Lytro camera, you focus AFTER you take the shot. It's so revolutionary, Steve Jobs reportedly discussed building it into the iPhone. It shoots every possible focal length at once and images are stored as digital files – simply touch on an area to bring it into focus. See Lytro's site to see its mind-bending potential. [lytro.com](http://lytro.com)



## The stuff you'll be wanting

By Rob Waugh

**VESARO MOTION R BLACK** // £1000-£16,000

For hardcore sessions on Forza Motorsport, this PlayStation steering wheel has triple Samsung 3D screens, a hydraulic system that shifts you round bends, a 'ButtKick' sound system blasting engine noise into your bowels and a bucket seat. [www.vesaro.com](http://www.vesaro.com)



**ARCHOS HOME CONNECT 35** // £120

An alarm clock that plays video and looks ever so slightly like Dom Joly has left his giant phone on your bedside table, this Android-powered media player has beefy speakers, alarm – and apps, to ensure that even in sleep, you can't escape from Facebook and Angry Birds. [archos.com](http://archos.com)

