

Getting a closer look with a borescope

A borescope is a flexible, bendy inspection camera with an integrated screen. Ring Automotive explains the advantages, and just some of the jobs a hand held borescopes can help you with.

A borescope is an ideal tool for inspecting areas or parts which are difficult to reach. The flexible camera probe is able to look inside narrow gaps and pipes, making it easy to inspect, diagnose and fix potential faults on engine, gearbox and wiring systems.

A borescope will have a screen for real time viewing. With some borescopes, it is possible to capture images or video. Images or video can be saved to show or email your customer, to help you sell the repair. Some borescopes are also able to output the screen via USB for display on a larger screen, such as a laptop or tablet computer.

The benefit of using a borescope is the speed in which some faults can be diagnosed. A good example is a suspected fault within a turbocharger. Without a borescope, on some makes you would have to physically remove the turbocharger, to properly see the turbine blades or see the part number to order the proper replacement.

Another use for borescopes is inspecting the condition of components inside the engine such as pistons, valves and bores. This kind of inspection would typically involve removal of the cylinder head, however, a borescope removes this hassle. The camera probe of the borescope can be inserted down into the combustion chamber via the spark/glow plug hole.

A waterproof camera probe, with integral LED illumination, provides a clear view in this sort of



Suspected damage to turbines can be easily verified within a few minutes



Scan this QR Code or go to tinyurl.com/5stm58m to see a borescope in use.



Attachments allow the borescope probe to retrieve objects and see at an angle

poorly lit area. By using a mirror attachment on the borescope probe, a view of the valve condition can then be observed and recorded. Any pitting, carbon deposits or damage can be identified, allowing for a quick diagnoses of what work is needed.

Another use is the easy inspection of brake pad thickness, without the need to take a wheel off. The borescope can be put through under the wheel arch to take a close look.



Valves can be examined by inserting the probe in the spark/glow plug hole

The uses of a borescope are extensive, and with a bit of thought more will come to mind. Inspection time can be greatly reduced, allowing significant savings in labour costs. Problems can clearly be identified to the customer, helping speed up the sale and completion of the repair. A borescope will pay for itself in a short matter of time.

There are a variety of attachments that can be used with a borescope. A magnet and hook can be fitted on the probe to retrieve objects. Another handy attachment is a mirror, for viewing different angles. Probe extensions of up to 3 metres are also available, that put almost any area of a vehicle into the range of a borescope.

Scan the QR code above to see demonstrations of the borescope in use, or visit tinyurl.com/5stm58m.

For further information on borescopes, contact Henry Bisson at Ring Automotive on 0044-113 213 7338 or email henry.bisson@ringautomotive.co.uk.

