

2007 Products of the Year

2007 PRODUCTS OF THE YEAR

Presented by

auto salon

MAGAZINE

Intro

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN WHEN WE GO BACK THROUGH 12 MONTHS OF REVIEWS TO PICK THE BEST PRODUCTS WE'VE PUT UNDER THE MICROSCOPE.

Position

2ND

Text

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Xforce Varex exhaust

Like Exedy, Xforce again feature in ASM's Product of the Year awards, this time securing second place for their Varex exhaust. Xforce has always been about affordable exhausts rather than being an exotic, luridly expensive brand and thus their strong point has, and always will be, their accessibility to average Joe Enthusiast.

The Varex offers a truly innovative approach to what has long been the bane of modified cars: loud exhausts. With a blaring muffler almost always attracting the unwanted attention of authorities, Xforce saw it fit to offer a solution that allowed the driver to pick when he/she wanted maximum performance (ie: loud) or when a silent exhaust note was more appropriate.

Although there are other types of similar mufflers - such as A'PEX's ECV - the Varex system differs in that it offers a remote control. While a similar butterfly system is used to open and close the exhaust, there's no need to drill a hole in your floorpan and there's no need to use a tedious winding control. Instead, a simple remote with an open and close button takes care of all the hassles.

The butterfly (not unlike that in a throttle body) opens and closes incrementally, allowing the user to pick a specific aperture that offers the best compromise between power and noise output.

By far one of the loudest cars in ASM's fleet was our Subaru Forester XT that, thanks to its 2.5-litre boxer and straight pipe exhaust, emitted one of the loudest Scooby burbles you'd ever hear. On back-off it was twice the legal decibel limit, yet with the Xforce Varex fitted it could be silenced well below the limit.

With the Varex's valve closed, the XT's idle was quieter than standard, with the muffler's design pushing exhaust gases through an independent side chamber. At 4000rpm, the output was just a smudge over 80dB.

The best part was that there was no noticeable drop in power, meaning that the Varex muffler didn't hinder exhaust flow dramatically. With a price tag of only \$499 for the entire kit it is priced in the same ball park as conventional exhausts, with Xforce offering it with oval, twin and cannon tips as well as pipe diameters of 2.5-inch and three-inch. For those sick and tired of getting pinky fingers waved at them, this just might be the perfect solution. www.xforce.com.au

Quick Contacts

XFORCE

www.xforce.com.au