

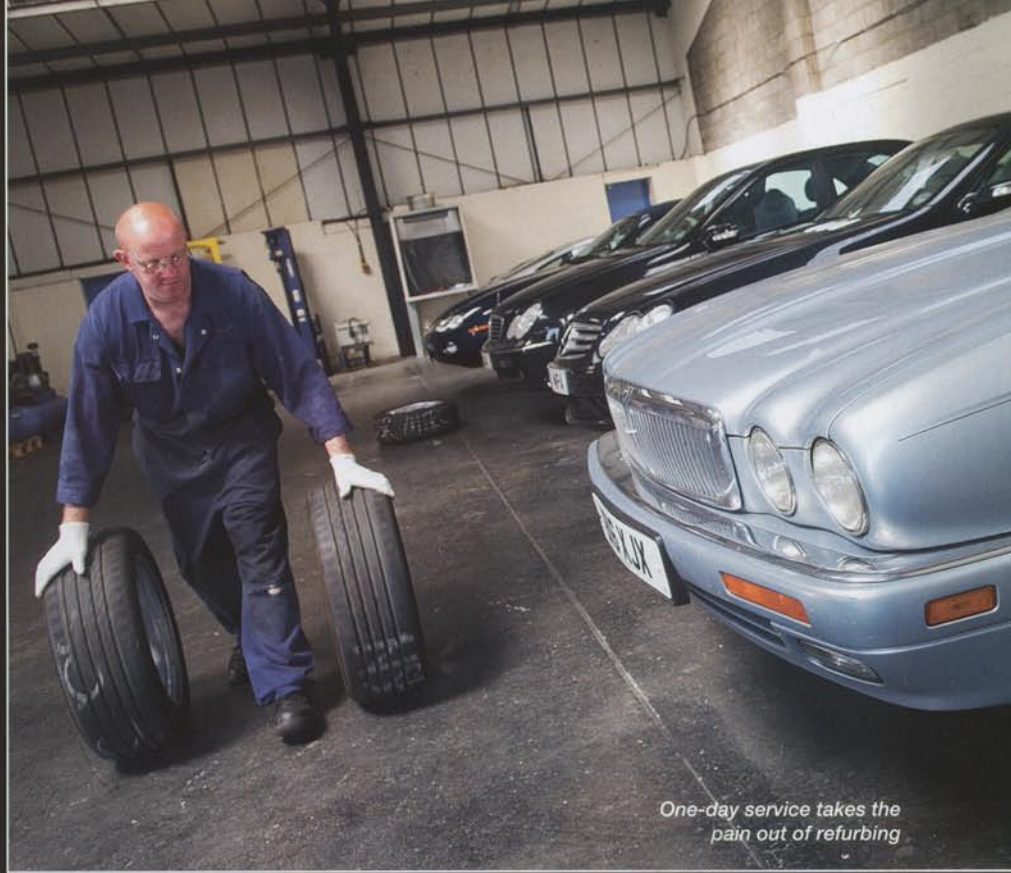
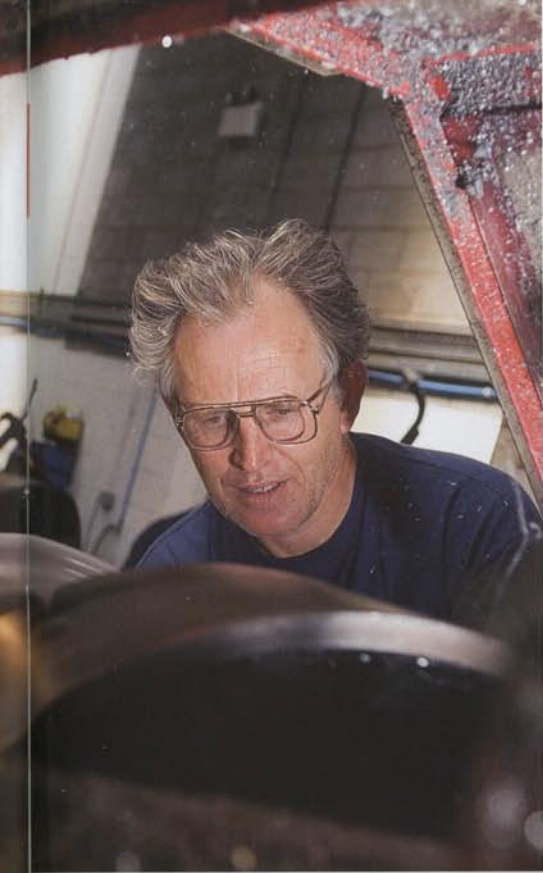


## LEPSONS

We couldn't cover wheel refurbishing and not mention this Kent-based company. With a top-notch reputation Lepsons was established in 1994, and since then the two-strong team has expanded to 19 full-time staff and a 10,000sq ft facility. In fact the first thing that hits you is the size of the place, it really is impressive. With five vans hitting the road every day for trade collection and delivery within the catchment zone (up to and including the Basingstoke area), the guys turn over around 500 wheels per week (24,500 last year alone) and each process has a dedicated and experienced team hard at work. Stripping, prepping, straightening and welding, plus machining and painting processes all boast their own areas spread over four giant warehouses, and the whole production line is able to turn rims around in under four days. To provide an insight in to the scale of the operation, a huge hot bath is able to strip 70 wheels at a time overnight ready for the following morning, (smaller versions are on hand for daytime use) while a two-stage wash consisting of soap and rinsing modes takes care of getting them ready for the spray booths and ovens. Talking of cooking, the baking stage blew us away, with rims hung up and constantly on the move to ensure the perfect end product, up to 110 wheels can be on the production line at any one time.

Finish-wise the guys are able to tackle almost anything, split rims again can cause a few headaches, two-piece wheels aren't so much of a problem but three-piece items will depend on whether you're prepared to split them down yourself, and of course their general condition. Also there's a one-day service where customers can drive in, leave their cars and let the hard work be carried





One-day service takes the pain out of refurbishing

out by the guys, returning to find a full refreshed set of rollers – ideal.

Work-wise the guys are used to approaching around a 70/30% split with what they term high-end kit, so effectively they're used to dealing with expensive rims day in, day out and they're the favoured choice of more than a few owners' clubs (and our publisher) – always a good guide to their level of workmanship in our eyes. Setting Lepsons apart is their ability to offer tyres as part of the package. The guys have been dealing in rubber for some time and pride themselves on offering excellent prices, undercutting all of the major retailers. The advantage of all this of course, is having your tyres applied by the refurbishing company hopefully won't result in any scratching or knocks – a real worry for a set of freshly sorted rims.

Word of mouth and years of experience have made Lepsons the choice of customers and traders alike for some time, this is a company that is set to expand further still, but without losing its super-high levels of workmanship. We delivered the guys a very battered set of Trans Am wheels, and were quite literally blown away with both the turnaround time and level of finish, and it's worth noting that they weren't shy when it came to tackling them either, despite the fact that they'd been refurbished by someone else over the years (and not to a great standard). It's also worth noting that they recommended we polish them with Zymöl and go over them with household window (cream) cleaner to ensure an even more perfect mirror shine. Get in touch and discuss the wealth of options and prices on offer: we're sure you won't be disappointed.



After:  
superb



Before: one  
set of tired rims



**LEPSONS**

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**WEB:** [www.lepsons.com](http://www.lepsons.com)

**LOCATION:** Gillingham, Kent

**PRICES:** £37-£100 per wheel