

DB12

HOSE LEDGER FIRST · SOFTWARE BIOGRAPHY · PRODUCTION MONTH MATTERS · FAMILY FILE

Compiled from public sources, the Aston Martin DB12 family, its Model File and specialist review · Personal use only · v2.1

WHAT THIS CHECKLIST IS, AND WHAT IT IS NOT

This checklist gives an enthusiast the context to follow what is being discussed around a DB12 transaction. It replaces nothing. The first of the new Aston generation: a heavily reworked M177-family V8, proven ZF running gear, and a fleet whose real history sits in two places, the oil cooler hose campaigns and the software trail of the new in-house electronics. On an early DB12 the production month is almost as important as the model year, and a fully updated car is a different asset from an early build that never ran the update chain. Without the VIN-level campaign and software record, do not touch the car.

A · IDENTITY & THE LEDGER

- ☐ Identity first: coupe, Volante, S or S Volante, build date and specification against the record.
- ☐ VIN campaign check: RA-03-1926 / 24V249 and RA-03-1973 / 24V712 both closed, current hose standard confirmed.
- ☐ An early hose fix before August 2024 does not close the file: the second campaign applies.
- ☐ RA-30-2015 / 25V001 camera update confirmed; all open campaigns closed.
- ☐ Software biography documented: head unit, cluster, ADAS versions, OTA history.
- ☐ Complete Aston service history with the digital record; Timeless status noted.

B · ENGINE & OIL CIRCUIT

- ☐ Cold start filmed: even idle, oil pressure, no smoke.
- ☐ Oil cooler lines and unions sighted; any oil trace in the bay investigated, not wiped.
- ☐ Misfire counters, turbo target versus actual, wastegate function read.
- ☐ Cooling system and engine mounts checked.
- ☐ Oil level, pressure and leak history documented.

C · DRIVELINE, CHASSIS & VOLANTE

- ☐ ZF8: cold D/R engagement, manoeuvring, shift quality, adaptations, leaks.
- ☐ E-diff: fault memory, lock function, noises, calibration state.
- ☐ DTX dampers: leaks, sensors, valves; bushes and full alignment.
- ☐ Brakes: steel or CCB established; CCB measured, chips and edges checked.
- ☐ Tyres: AML-spec Michelins, DOT dates, even wear; uneven wear = geometry question.
- ☐ Volante: multi-cycle roof test, seals, drains, tonneau, window sync, water traces.
- ☐ Rough-road drive with the radio off: doors, centre stack, dash, speakers.

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D · PRICE & INVESTIGATION ITEMS

The machinery is the calm part: the price sits in the ledger, the software state and the build month.

- ☐ Any open hose or camera campaign: closed before money moves.
- ☐ Outdated software on an early car: the update chain scheduled with Aston and priced.
- ☐ Early 2023 build that never ran the update chain: priced clearly below a late, updated car.
- ☐ CCB near limits: quoted, the big consumable.
- ☐ 12V battery weak or no conditioner use: budgeted, and phantom faults re-read after replacement.
- ☐ Trim rattles on early cars: small money, honest negotiation item.
- ☐ Negotiate from the VIN record and the software trail, never the badge.

E · RED FLAGS · WALK-AWAY OR ESCALATION

- An unverifiable status on either oil cooler hose campaign.
- Oil traces in the engine bay talked away on a pre-June-2024 build.
- A software history that cannot be produced: on this car, that is the history.
- A purely independent service history on an early build.
- Aluminium structure repairs without full documentation.
- A Volante with water traces or an unwilling roof.
- A seller who resists the VIN-level campaign check.
- A car whose findings cannot be named, quantified and priced.

F · FIRST WEEK OF OWNERSHIP

- ☐ The dossier archived: campaign confirmations, software trail, service file, specification record.
- ☐ The Aston relationship established; the next update path and service date confirmed.
- ☐ Battery conditioner in use; tyres, brakes and fluids baselined.

"The new Aston era started here, and it started better than the forums suggested. Close both hose campaigns, read the software like a service book, and mind the build month: a late, updated DB12 is the car the reviews promised."

Deep dive: Supercar Models Paper 118 · Model File 118 · Owner's Intelligence series.