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# Musings of a bored driver

**Now that the snow and the ice have disappeared and spring has arrived, travelling to work has become a great deal easier and as a result journeying minds have been much freer to roam – well, mine has been anyway on the 45 minute journey to BIGGA HOUSE each day.**

This morning I found myself thinking about colours – it might not be the brightest, but one thing I do possess is an eclectic brain. I was studying the array of differently coloured cars that were either ahead of me or coming in the other direction. York and its outskirts can be pretty busy during the rush hour so I have plenty of variety to view.

Then a thought struck me. Why do we get cars in any colour we want, but when it comes to tractors, or sports turf machinery, they only ever come in the one colour associated with the manufacturer?

In 1908 Henry Ford announced that customers could have his Model T Ford painted any colour that they wanted so long as it was black... but things have move on since then in the automotive world.

Now you can get every colour under the sun and many fancy new ones that haven't ever appeared in a rainbow.

A short surf over some of the car manufacturers' websites reveals some spectacular colours – Moondust Silver; Tango (orangey); Grenadine (reddish) Avalon (light bluey); Chilli Red; Nayara (blueish), Limina Orange and Crono Yellow, to name but a few.

Wouldn't it be great if you could order up your favourite machinery but, rather than go with the traditional colour it has always come in, decide to have your new compact tractor in

Cayman Blue or Astral Black, or chose to order your new fairway triple in Blazer Blue, Citrus (pale green) or Dacuma Grey. You could tie it in with your own golf club colours or offer a colour option to a company willing to pay sponsorship – a la Formula 1!

Ah, I hear you ask, but how would the different manufacturers be able to identify themselves if not by colour, as is the current practice?

Well, and this shows just how much I was thinking about this, they could develop badges along the lines of their road going cousins.

I'm sure they could easily come up with a range of iconic badges to match Rolls Royce's Spirit of Ecstasy, or the VW badge, so beloved of the Beastie Boys in the 1980s. Before long you'd only need to glance to the front of the machine to confirm the manufacturer of that magnificent Tungsten Blue utility vehicle or the Decuma Grey mulching mower.

As I say, these are just the musings of a bored motorist with a bit of time to kill. I'm sure there are 101 reasons why it's a daft idea – not least the chaos and consternation it would cause in paint shops throughout the industry – but, hey, if Newton hadn't let his mind wander to apples falling from trees; or Einstein hadn't started messing with  $E=mc^2$ ; or Mr Rubic not fiddled about with his cube, where on earth would we be?

Scott MacCallum  
**Editor**