

TOP GEAR  
GA gear reviewed

# TOP GEAR | PRODUCT REVIEWS

A ROUND-UP OF THE LATEST AVIATION KIT WHERE WE IMPARTIALLY TEST AND EVALUATE EVERY PRODUCT FEATURED



## Oil Spy

£12.95 Tel: 01590 689777 [www.oil-spy.com](http://www.oil-spy.com)

Here's a simple idea that allows a quick analysis of your aeroplane's engine oil. Warm oil is dropped from the engine dipstick onto an Oil Spy sheet. Due to simple chromatography, the oil's constituents separate at different rates on the paper allowing assessment of the level of 'Grime', 'Condition', 'Water' and 'Fuel' content of the oil sample. Basically, concentric rings radiate away from the initial applied oil drop, with the lighter constituents travelling further, the heavier ones less far and staying around the centre spot. The result is that the middle ring is the oil less sediment, water and fuel, and shows the condition of the oil. If the colour is remains the same as new oil, then it's in good condition. If, however, it has darkened, that indicates an oil change is required due to oxidation and or contamination. The outer boundary of the middle ring, meanwhile, shows the water content of the oil, while the outer ring shows any fuel content.

The kit is supplied in a neat metal tin complete with 26 test sheets and instructions of how to interpret the results with clear colour diagrams. Each card has an area for recording details of the test, allowing the cards to be catalogued to allow a trend analysis.

While Oil Spy is a useful guide that provides basic information of the oil state, it is no substitute for inspecting the contents of the oil filter at the oil change, or if required, a Spectro Analysis of the oil which enables the contaminants to be specifically identified. **JC**