

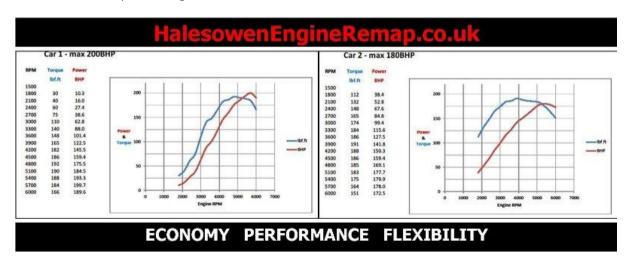
The Folly of the Numbers - Peak Power Nonsense and Real World Sense!



When looking at the performance of an engine, it is easy to get fixated on the peak figures - maximum BHP and maximum Torque. While these figures are an important indicator of a vehicle's performance - a 200bhp car is probably quicker than a 180bhp car - it's not necessarily so, and it's definitely not the whole story! Take a look at the diagrams below, showing the power output of two cars right through their rev range. Car 1 has a maximum power of 200 BHP & Car 2 has a maximum of 180 BHP, but look at what happens on the way to those maximum figures. For most of the time, Car 2 is developing more power and will therefore be faster. It will also be more drivable and flexible, as the torque and power is available at more 'sensible' engine speeds.

Good quality remapping is all about producing a smooth delivery of the power throughout the entire rev range, favouring good drive-ability rather than peak figures; and giving good response at all accelerator positions as well.

So, if you want a car that drives well and quickly, then go for car 2; if you just want to boast about maximum BHP in the pub, then go for car 1!



Jeremy Howell 2016

