

Project: Aston Martin Lagonda Series 2 digital dashboard
1976's vision of the future, restored for today



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The facts

- **Engine:** 5.3L V8 (around 280-300 hp).
- **Dashboard Brain:** Zilog Z80 microprocessor (groundbreaking at the time). Full computer system designed by Javelina Corporation in Texas.
- **Display:** Triple CRT monitor setup by Clinton Electronics (USA).
- **Additional feature:** Voice synthesis system, offering audible warnings in English, French, German, or Arabic.
- **Complexity:** Developing the dashboard alone required **four times** the budget of the rest of the vehicle combined.
- **Rarity:** A total of just 645 Series 2 examples were ever produced.



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1976's Vision of the Future

The unveiling of the Aston Martin Lagonda Series 2 in 1976 sent shockwaves through the industry. Beyond its radical 'wedge' silhouette by William Towns, the interior was the real showstopper: **the world's first-ever fully digital production dashboard.**

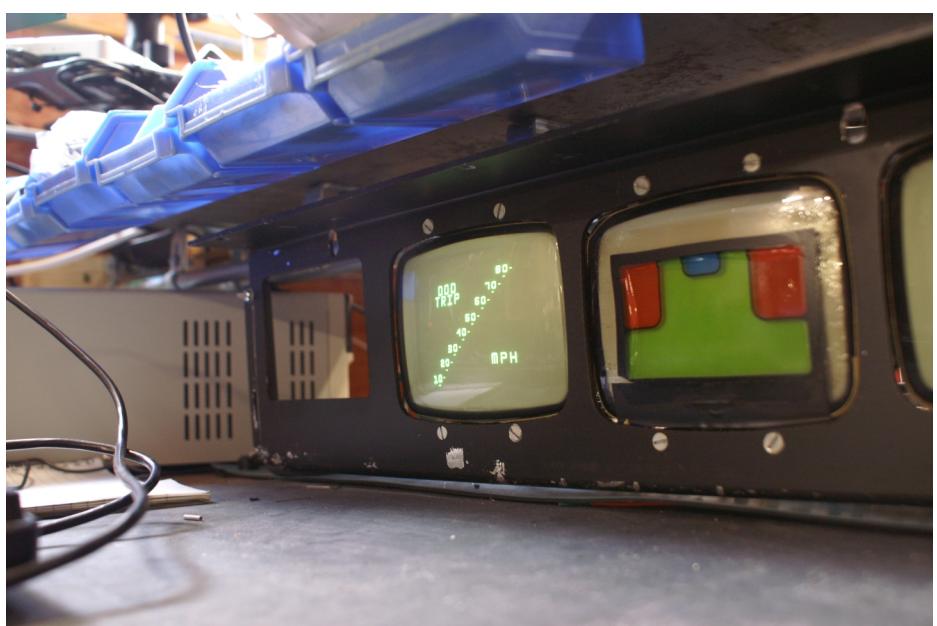
Moving beyond the early LED versions, the Series 2 evolved in 1984 to feature three revolutionary **Cathode Ray Tube (CRT)** displays, utilizing the same advanced technology found in the **F-15 Eagle fighter jet**.



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A Leap into the Unknown

Even for Aston Martin, this technology represented a leap into the unknown: the development of the digital dashboard cost four times more than the entire rest of the car. At the time, it was the most complex computer on wheels. We possess the in-house expertise to restore this precious and historic technology to its former glory.

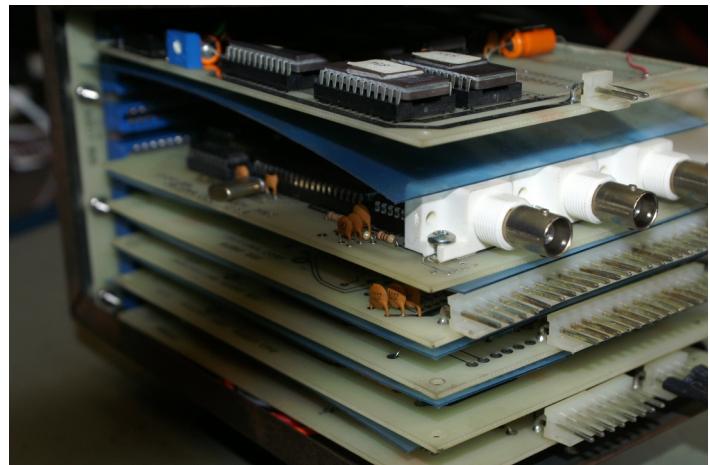


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The dashboard brain

While other cars were still analog, the dashboard of this British luxury classic ran on a sophisticated network of microprocessors.

- **8-Bit Legend:** The system is powered by the Zilog Z80 processor, the same chip that made the ZX Spectrum and the original Game Boy famous.
- **Aerospace Engineering:** Designed by the Texas-based Javelina Corporation, specialists in aircraft electronics. The architecture is identical to systems found in a cockpit.
- **The Challenge:** Decades-old components are fragile; a failed capacitor or chip means a complete loss of all digital displays



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Data preservation

The Lagonda's unique software is stored on obsolete EEPROM chips. After decades, these chips can suffer from "bit rot", a loss of memory that renders the dashboard useless. We go beyond simple repairs: we have successfully extracted and secured the original source code. This allows us to guarantee that we can help other Lagonda owners preserve their digital dashboards for years to come.

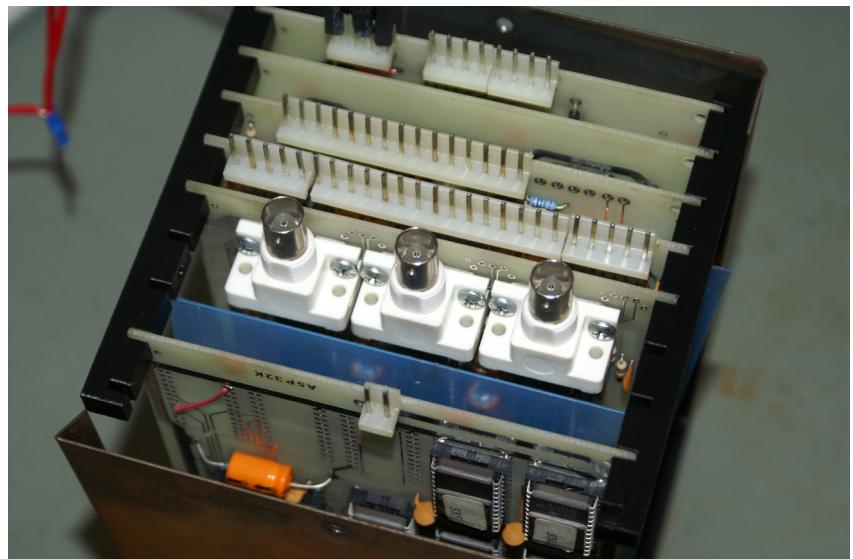
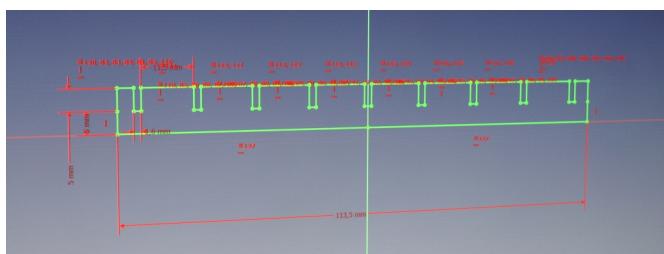


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Structural Improvement of the Computer Housing

During our analysis, we identified a weakness in the original design: the plug-in cards in the backplane (the central connection module) were insufficiently secured. Due to limited support within the housing, vibrations can cause the cards to lose contact momentarily, resulting in a control unit failure.

Our Solution: Using 3D modeling, we developed a custom-made support bracket. This 3D-printed bracket firmly secures the plug-in cards within their housing. By eliminating play, we have made the dashboard's digital brain more reliable than when it first left the factory.



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