



This month, Rob gets his hands on the BrakeCheck product from Bowmonk. Here are the results.

# CHECK PLEASE

### verdict

This product arrived at the workshop with a very good reputation and I am pleased to say that it lived up to everything that it said it would do. It is a really easy to use product that does everything that it is designed for. It is a rugged piece of diagnostic equipment that I would definitely recommend to any workshop.



I was really keen to test the BrakeCheck product from Bowmonk as I had heard a great deal about it and it came with a very good reputation. When I read through the details it claims to be able to monitor the condition of the brake components in conjunction with normal, routine inspection. It also says that it will test the performance of both the service brake and the hand brake and then report the magnitude of any sideways pull detected during testing. I was therefore keen to see if the product lived up to expectations and it is safe to say that it did.

The main benefit of this product is its ease of use; you really can just pick it up and start using it within a matter of minutes. This might sound like a trivial

point but so often you get a product these days which has too many bells and whistles on it, which don't actually make your life any easier. That isn't to say that the technology in this product isn't sophisticated, it is just nice to see something that is designed to do a particular job and it does it very well with no fuss.

There is very little that can go wrong with the product. It is rugged and hardwearing and it is controlled with only three keys on the front panel, while LEDs indicate all of the unit's status, the test to be performed and the results. All you have to do is place it flat on the floor of the vehicle and then perform the brake test on the road.

### Print out

Once the test has been carried out the product will store the result. The BrakeCheck product that we were testing had a one test memory. I do know that the company produces a Brakecheck Plus product which has the capacity to store 99 tests, although the ability to store the one test was perfect for us. Reviewing the result is very easy – all you have to do is press the Menu button three times.

You can then print this result by using the wireless printer. This function is incredibly good for the workshop, not only because VOSA need to see a record of the test, but because you can also show the printout to customers. Our customers do not like to spend unnecessary money on their vehicles (understandably so) so having a record to show them what has been done and what needs to be done to fix the vehicle is crucial for us. It acts as another selling tool, which is a huge plus point in my opinion for this product.

The print out provides a time and date stamp that shows when the test has been performed and will show whether it has been a service or a hand brake test. It then goes onto show the results of the test, whether it pulls left or right and to show you if there is a particular element of the vehicle that needs to be serviced – it really is as simple as that.

**For more information on the BrakeCheck product circle 118 on the readerlink card**