

Client: University of Warwick
Source: Financial Times (Main)
Date: 24 September 2010
Page: 12
Reach: 376564
Size: 61cm2
Value: 4072.97



Notebook



Jonathan Guthrie

Cylinder symphony

The good thing about electric cars is that they are quiet, which is also the bad thing about them. The racket created by a combustion engine warns pedestrians and cyclists that they face imminent extinction. A little van called Elvin is accordingly bumbling around Warwick University trying out noises that electric cars could broadcast as a safety measure. These include recordings of petrol and diesel vehicles.

But Elvin can also make a nondescript hum or an eerie theremin sound reminiscent of 1950s sci-fi movies. Warwick researchers are working with two businesses, NoViSim of the UK and EC Tunes of Denmark. Disappointingly, the collaborators have passed up the opportunity to broadcast music from Elvin. Perhaps they feared that people would stop the van and ask for a 99.