



Mr David Yong paid about \$500,000 for the McLaren MP4-12C coupe (far left), which he drives mostly on weekends. He drives the Porsche Cayenne (left) daily.
ST PHOTOS: CHONG JUN LIANG

MeAndMyCar

Flashy ride is his style



What's in the boot?
• A first-aid kit
• A car emergency kit

Mr David Yong put his stamp on the McLaren MP4-12C coupe by wrapping it in rainbow chrome and pasting his initials on the car doors

Toh Yong Chuan

When businessman David Yong wanted to upgrade from his Porsche 911 Turbo last year, he had two main criteria for his next ride.

"It must have gull-wing doors and it must be the right colour," says the 31-year-old.

He found a five-year-old McLaren MP4-12C coupe on sale and bought it in August last year. "I paid about half a million dollars," he says.

The dark-grey car that he bought,

registered in April 2012, was among one of the first MP4-12Cs in Singapore.

The model was launched in 2011 at nearly \$1 million apiece. All 40 units allocated to Singapore were reportedly sold out and the first two were delivered in January 2012 to tycoon Peter Lim, who is a shareholder of McLaren Automotive.

One of the first things Mr Yong did was bid for a new registration number - SLS8787T. "The number is my birth year," he says, adding that he paid \$1,500 for it.

The next thing he changed was the colour. "I wanted something unique," he says.

He had the car wrapped in rose gold. But he changed his mind and had it re-wrapped in rainbow chrome in April this year for about \$5,000.

Car-wrapping is a process where coloured plastic foil or vinyl that resembles paint is used to cover the exterior, like a sticker. It has gained popularity in recent years.

Besides the unusual colour, the customisation also includes adding stickers of Mr Yong's initials "DY"

on both of the car's gull-wing doors.

Does he find the colour a tad too flashy? "Maybe a bit," he answers with a smile. "But that is my style."

The bachelor admits that his car catches attention wherever he goes. "Sometimes when I stop at traffic lights, I see people taking photos with their mobile phones," he says. "I am used to it now."

He also has a white Porsche Cayenne, which is his daily drive. "It is easier to get around in the Cayenne," he says of the sport utility vehicle.

Before the Porsche 911 Turbo, Mr Yong was driving a BMW M6. He was then studying at the University of Bristol in Britain, where he graduated with a law degree in 2012.

His first car, a gift from his father when he turned 18 in 2005, was a Honda Civic Type R.

Mr Yong is the scion of a family who is in the timber business, where he holds the position of executive director.

But he dismisses the idea that family wealth had brought him success - and the McLaren supercar. "I

bought the car with my hard-earned money," he says.

In 2014, he started a new arm within the business that designs and sells Burmese teak furniture.

He has not abandoned his legal training either. On Nov 1, he started his own law firm, which focuses on car insurance claims and general litigation, "as well as pro bono criminal work".

His work keeps him busy and he travels to Myanmar frequently for his family's timber business.

"I wish I have more time to drive the McLaren," he says.

He drives the supercar mostly on weekends and occasionally to Malaysia. His last trip up north was last month to Port Dickson with several other supercar enthusiasts.

Asked what his next upgrade would be, he names the Ferrari 488 or the new Bentley Continental GT.

"Maybe next year," he says.

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