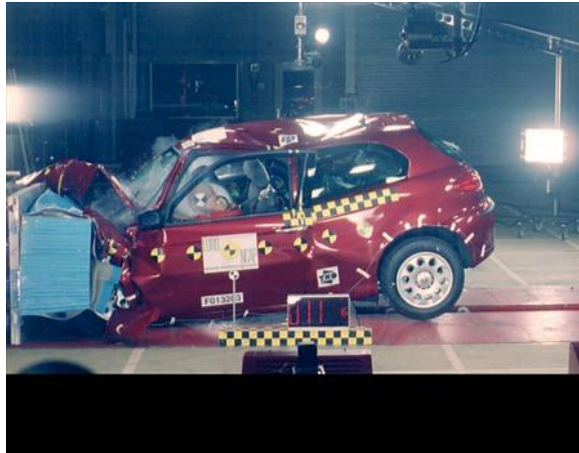


## IF THE NCAP FITS...

You've probably heard of the Euro NCAP (a catchy title) crash tests, but do you realise that the information is freely available on the internet? If you go to <http://www.euroncap.com/home.aspx> you can type in a make and model and all will be revealed - good or bad!



Select your chosen car using the pull-down menus and you are taken to its specific page. There you will find details of the likely damage to the driver and passenger, films and pictures of the actual test and sometimes more.



From the Italian point of view, Alfas are covered from the 147, Fiat from the Seicento and Brava and some Lancias from the original Ypsilon. There are reasons why exotics like Ferrari and Maserati do not figure in the results (see <http://www.euroncap.com/Content-Web-Faq/5076ae48-c23c-4933-ad63-0449b3a6425b/cars-chosen-for-testing.aspx> ), but given their performance one would like to think that their makers make sure that they are up to the mark in this respect.



One thing which is clear is that over the last 10-15 years real advances have been made in the engineering behind the way in which cars behave in an accident and airbags -for anything which might be said against them- have certainly done much to cushion the tremendous forces to which the human body is subjected in such situations.



I was prompted to look at the site by a call from a friend who knew that I was a Seicento owner and the results of that test are frankly pretty alarming, especially if compared to those for a Smart car which went into production at about the same time: For instance, see the above picture from a DEKRA test. As we've also got one of the latter I hope that is what we'll be in should the fateful moment ever arise!

**MJB**