



SO EASY: Fast Fit's Nick fits the socks to the car

SOCKING IT TO THE WEATHER

BY GERALDINE COMISKEY

IT'S not often that I get to hijack Santa's sleigh. But that's what I felt like this week - in my own car!

Call me car-azy, but as the roads turned into bobtled chutes, I was cruising the snowy suburbs in my convertible sports car, with the wind in my...furry hat.

And the reason I was able to give it welly? My car was wearing...socks! Designer socks from Italy! And those Weiss Socks wheely put manners on my Mazda Mx-5.

Earlier this week, it was a cheeky little car in more ways than one, as it did tailspins on every corner!

Fear-wheel drive is all very well for the likes of 007 in his Aston Martin. But it's snow joke when a car behaves like the souped-up Dodgem from Hell.

It didn't help that the roads in my housing estate had not been gritted.

My second-hand car is an older, grittier version of the model that got the thumbs up from Top Gear a few years ago for its old-school style - and the way it "hugs the road". This week, as it sat on the driveway in its very own igloo, my car was about as cool as a Reliant Robin crossed with a pram.

Snow chains were a no-no, since they can only be driven in deep snow. So I was wheely thrilled when I found out about the "Weiss Socks". And I liked the idea of giving a Christmas present of socks - to my car. Recently invented, the socks are already a hit on the Continent as the big freeze grips.

They are so safe that AXA insurance is offering discounts if they're bought from Fast Fit tyre specialists, Irish online shops Micks Garage and Beep Beep are also selling them. Priced between €68 and €109 euro a pair, depending on wheel size, they are not cheap.

Nick Byrne from Fast Fit took less than five minutes to fit the "socks" to my back wheels. I had given him the tyre's measurements on the phone. As I reversed out of the driveway, I wondered if I was about to go for yet another scary spin.

But, amazingly, there was no skidding, not even a shimmy. I thought the brakes to fail as they gripped the socks, but it was like stopping on a dry road.

As soon as I reached the main road, which had been gritted, I got out and simply removed the socks, using the plastic gloves which come with the socks.

"You'll wear them down in no time if you drive on the tar", Nick had warned. "They're just for emergencies - getting you around that corner or up that hill."

Of course, he would say that - after all, most of his customers are people who just want to get from A to B. The kind of people who scoff at my "fair weather car".

But this week I spent a blissful day driving around every icy corner and hill I could find - slowly, of course. My car is no longer be naughty. But it sure was n-ice!



NO WORRIES: Geraldine in her 'socked-up' motor