ROLLS-ROYCE | MEDIA INFORMATION

STORIES BENEATH THE SURFACE:  
ROLLS-ROYCE REVEALS THE MOST   
INTRICATE WOODWORK IN ITS HISTORY

Tuesday 30 September 2025, Goodwood, West Sussex **(Embargo to 13:00 BST)**

* Rolls-Royce reveals the most intricate woodwork in the marque’s history
* Introduces three Rolls-Royce firsts: 3D marquetry, 3D ink layering, and 24-carat gold leafing
* Artisans undertook special training as part of a one-year development process
* Extraordinary interior reserved for an exclusive Rolls-Royce Private Collection, soon to be revealed to celebrate Phantom’s centenary

*“Our Bespoke Collective of designers, craftspeople and engineers are exceptional at what they do. To honour Phantom in its centenary year, they pioneered groundbreaking techniques in their mastery of wood, combining 3D ink layering, 3D marquetry and gilding within a single surface. These intricate processes push materials to the limits of their natural tolerance, transforming each panel into a stunning, tactile sculpture. Having seen first-hand the challenges and possibilities with wood techniques at Rolls-Royce, I can say with certainty that the Collective has unlocked remarkable new possibilities for Bespoke, a breakthrough made possible by their extraordinary dedication to the Phantom nameplate on its 100th anniversary.”***Phil Fabre de la Grange, Head of Bespoke, Rolls-Royce Motor Cars**

In 2025, Rolls-Royce Motor Cars marks the centenary of Phantom – a name that has defined the pinnacle of luxury for 100 years. Across decades and continents, Phantom has remained the measure of what can be achieved when the rarest and most precious materials are placed in the hands of master craftspeople.

To mark this milestone, Rolls-Royce will soon unveil an exclusive Private Collection. For this landmark motor car, which honours the brand’s pinnacle product, designers, craftspeople and engineers pushed their artistry further than ever, developing three woodworking techniques never before seen on a Rolls-Royce: 3D marquetry, 3D ink layering and gold leafing.

Each composition tells a different story – first sketched by hand, then translated into digital form and recreated in wood – capturing **[places, moments and journeys that have shaped Phantom’s legend](https://www.press.rolls-roycemotorcars.com/rolls-royce-motor-cars-pressclub/article/detail/T0452919EN/phantom-at-100:-rolls-royce-reflects-on-places-and-moments-that-shaped-phantom%E2%80%99s-first-century)**. These innovations give the woodwork an intricacy and richness that hint at the extraordinary methods and technologies behind their creation.

**THE PINNACLE OF CRAFT: THE MOST INTRICATE DOORS IN ROLLS-ROYCE HISTORY**

The interior door treatment created for the upcoming Private Collection to celebrate Phantom’s centenary is the most complex and detailed in Rolls-Royce history, with every journey etched into its surfaces – a tribute to Phantom’s 100-year legend. It took a full year to develop these pieces alone, pushing the medium of veneer to its sculptural limits, just as Phantom itself has pushed the definition of what a motor car can represent. The artwork visually blends geographical maps, winding routes, sweeping landscapes, floral elements and depictions of experimental models into a single, stunning composition.

The creation of the door pieces is achieved by individually crafting sections of the overall composition and then assembling them like an intricate mosaic. Rendered in Blackwood, selected for its unique grain pattern, the design uses textures, contrasts and reflectivity to celebrate the material, creating a rich visual effect with a monochromatic palette.

Oversized veneer sheets were specially commissioned for this project to accommodate the generous size of Phantom’s doors. Based on the natural grain pattern of the piece, each of the large veneer leaves is assigned to a specific section of the composition. The designer responsible gave particular consideration to how the grain catches the light at different angles, ensuring that new details and textures are revealed at every glance.

To ensure nothing detracts from the overall composition, Phantom’s metal speaker grilles are replaced by small openings milled directly into the wood. The expansive panel is then stained to ensure absolute colour uniformity.

**LASER-ETCHED ELEMENTS**

The design motifs, which include maps, landscapes, flowers and trees, are etched onto the wood at three different depths using a laser, each line of light and shadow carrying echoes of Phantom’s century of stories. Areas more deeply-etched into the wood appear to be darker, providing a contrast to the more reflective surface of the unetched veneer. This produces subtle shifts in colour and light, adding a sense of movement and texture beyond the linework.

**REFINED DETAILS: 3D INK LAYERING**

In contrast to the recessed, etched motifs, the marque’s artisans developed a 3D ink layering technology to add fine textures and intricate patterns directly onto the surface of the wood, building Phantom’s narrative in gradual strokes. Built from individual layers, these embellishments achieve an extraordinary level of precision and clarity.

**SCULPTURAL ELEGANCE: 3D MARQUETRY**

To add further texture to the artwork, the designer employed 3D marquetry. This introduces raised motifs, embellished with engraving and 3D ink layering, on top of the main wood surface, allowing Phantom’s history to rise in new dimensions and be felt as much as seen. This three-dimensional approach adds depth, detail, and a sense of tactile intrigue, inviting occupants to explore the motor car’s surfaces and textures with their hands.

**PRECIOUS METALWORK: THE ART OF GOLD LEAFING**

This unique woodwork introduces another Rolls-Royce first: gilding, also known as gold leafing, transforming Phantom’s most significant journeys into luminous threads of history. Drawing on centuries-old cabinet-making traditions, this process was adapted and perfected by Rolls‑Royce to meet the marque’s extreme temperature and humidity testing parameters. Five artisans from the Interior Surface Centre undertook a specialist course at West Dean College, a celebrated centre of craftsmanship in West Sussex, to master the technique.

Once the wood sections were completed, artisans used 24-carat gold leaves to depict roads on the map section – each one a gold thread in Phantom’s story. Squares of gold leaf, typically just 0.1 micrometres (or 100 nanometres) thick, are hand-laid then sealed with a protective coating that achieves a hard-wearing, high-gloss finish. The ‘road’ is precision-cut and inlaid within the marquetry composition.

In its complexity, precision and visual effect, this remarkable wood treatment represents a completely new form of wood sculpting and a significant evolution in contemporary craft. It is only fitting that these exquisite innovations will first debut on a Private Collection celebrating Phantom, the pinnacle of Rolls-Royce.

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FURTHER INFORMATION

You can find all our press releases and press kits, as well as a wide selection of high resolution, downloadable photographs and video footage at our media website, [PressClub](https://www.press.rolls-roycemotorcars.com/rolls-royce-motor-cars-pressclub).

You can also follow the marque on social media: [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/rolls-royce-motor-cars/); [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/user/RollsRoyceMotorCars); [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/rollsroycecars/); and [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/rollsroycemotorcars).

EDITORS’ NOTES

Rolls-Royce Motor Cars is a true luxury house, creating the world’s most recognised, revered and desirable handcrafted Bespoke products for its international clientele.

There are over 2,500 people working at the Home of Rolls-Royce at Goodwood, West Sussex. This comprises both its global headquarters and Centre of Luxury Manufacturing Excellence – the only place in the world where Rolls-Royce motor cars are designed, engineered and meticulously built by hand. An [independent study](https://www.press.rolls-roycemotorcars.com/rolls-royce-motor-cars-pressclub/article/detail/T0414618EN/%C2%A34bn-for-uk-plc%E2%80%99:-rolls-royce-motor-cars-%E2%80%93-the-great-british-success-story) by the London School of Economics & Political Science confirms that since the company first launched at Goodwood in 2003, it has contributed more than £4 billion to the UK economy and adds more than £500 million in economic value every year.

Rolls-Royce Motor Cars is a wholly owned subsidiary of the BMW Group and is a completely separate, unrelated company from Rolls-Royce plc, the manufacturer of aircraft engines and propulsion systems.

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