



RUBDOWN LOWDOWN

Audi

Jaguar

Mercedes-Benz

AVAILABILITY	A8, A8L	XJ, XJL	CL-class, S-class
PRICE OF MOST AFFORDABLE MODEL WITH UPGRADE	\$79,625 (A8)	\$78,575 (XJ)	\$94,475 (S-class)
PRICE OF UPGRADE	\$2000	\$4000	\$3490-\$3630
SEAT ADJUSTABILITY	22 ways	18 ways	22 ways
SEAT CLIMATE CONTROLS	heat/vent	heat/cool	heat/cool
MESSAGE BLADDERS	10	10	7
MESSAGE SETTINGS	25	1	4
PUMP LOCATION	backrest	backrest	trunk
MESSAGE DURATION	10 minutes	10 minutes	5 minutes
PAYLOAD	One sausage tycoon	Two Ford models	One Texas oilman

+ More choices than a Chinese buffet, a thousand fine points of light (okay, maybe just 10).
 - Confusing controls, didn't seem to be listening when we vented about our boss.
 = The best in-car massage still loses to its out-of-car competition.

+ Four play, tickling front seats are standard on supercharged and long-wheelbase models.
 - Single-minded masseuse, touch-screen control is slow to respond.
 = Scheming on a thing that's a mirage, Jag's trying to tell you now it's a massage.

+ Most forceful push, simple controls, feels like a rolling pin running up and down your back.
 - "Fast and vigorous" setting is neither; "slow and gentle" is too much of both.
 = Kneads more. But not quite enough.

→ EVERYMAN'S MASSAGING SEAT

Fear not, ye washed but cheaply perfumed masses unwilling to spend 80 large on a vehicle. There are aftermarket solutions for in-car massage.

On walmart.com, for example, we found the Comfort Products Relaxzen six-motor massage cushion with heat for \$29.99 (plus shipping). Simply place the pad on your car seat, plug it into a 12-volt power source, and you're driving a poor man's A8L. Use the 120-volt adapter to get the Audi treatment in the home or office.

Or not. The Relaxzen cushion is the portable analog to the Magic Fingers bed, albeit with fewer stranger stains. It doesn't massage; it vibrates. Loudly. You know that weird itchiness you get on your palms after pushing a lawn mower for a few hours? Imagine that on your back. Yeah, not good. -JG