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## [DDMworks Announces 430-hp Twincharged Engine Upgrade for Ariel Atom 2](#)

January 26, 2010 at 11:18 am by [Jake Holmes](#)



To get an idea of how power-to-weight ratios work, consider the minimalist Ariel Atom. When we last tested an [Ariel Atom 2 in 2007](#), it made just 245 hp. Yet thanks to its skinny curb weight of 1431 lbs, the Atom still managed 0–60 mph in 3.0 sec and finished the quarter mile in 11.4 sec at 117 mph. That's quick.

That Atom used a variant of the supercharged GM engine found in the [Chevy Cobalt SS Supercharged](#). There's now an [Atom 3](#), which uses a 300-hp supercharged Honda engine and was the third-quickest car in our recent [Lightning Lap](#) test. But if you've got the older model and want to go faster, South Carolina–based tuner DDMworks can bump your Atom's output to a claimed 430 hp at the crank—375 hp at the rear wheels.

It's all thanks to a new twincharger kit, which replaces the GM supercharger with a larger unit and adds a turbocharger. Other changes include an electronic boost controller, re-flashed engine computer, and three-inch exhaust piping. It adds up to an increase of nearly 200 hp over stock levels.

DDMworks doesn't quote any performance times for the tuned Atom, but our educated guess says it's *reallydamnfast*, assuming it can put the power down. The twincharger kit starts at \$6500 installed, and DDMworks expects to sell about ten per year. The upgrade is only available for the Atom 2 powered by the GM LSJ engine; there are currently no plans to offer upgrades for the newer Honda-powered Atom 3.

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