

Baby SUV from Mazda

Mazda a player in the SUV market with the CX-5 has followed with a compact model the CX-3 and currently is going head to head with the likes of Vauxhall and Nissan and recently to follow on from the launch which attended earlier this year I had one on home tarmac for test purposes.

What struck me immediately was the build quality of this new model; had I not have known I was driving a Mazda I would have assumed I was in control of a German built vehicle; it is that good.

Across the three grade line-up they have placed a major emphasis on quality and in particular the attention paid to the interiors.

The new CX-3 is very design lead with its coupe-like styling and it certainly has a giant helping of street cred. KODO design is now a key element of the new generation of vehicles from Mazda which gives a sense of speed and agility.

Clearly with the arrival of this new SUV one of the aims is to conquest sales and no doubt it will also find favour with existing Mazda customers.

Today when it comes to choosing a new vehicle customers, quite rightly, demand a lot and this new Mazda delivers well in all key areas.

Choice of power units and transmissions is catered for with petrol and diesel power units and manual or automatic transmissions.

This time round I had a petrol version on test and I managed to average just over 40 miles per

gallon, I have no doubt that a diesel powered version would score quite a chunk higher in the economy stakes.

Looking at power outputs, 120 and 150PS for the petrol and 105PS for the diesel, perhaps not GT-like, but perfectly acceptable for this type of vehicle.

I was quite taken by the level of standard equipment throughout the grades, SE, SE-L and Sport Nav. All too often buying a new vehicle is like dining in an A La Carte restaurant where the final bill can be nothing short of a shocker.

All models feature alloy wheels, a multimedia system with a generous seven inch screen, DAB radio etc.

Moving up to the SE-L grade and you get rear parking sensors, climate control air con and Smart City Brake Support. Worth noting that the latter is likely to lower the insurance premium.

Right at the top of the range is the Sport Nav which boasts half black leatherette, half black trim cloth, reversing camera, smart keyless entry, digital speedo and integrated navigation with three year's free European map updates.

I first encountered heads up display on a very expensive BMW, the good news is choosing the Sport Nav grade and it is standard. It projects driving information, including speed and turn by turn navigation instructions into the driver's line of sight. In my book this is one item of equipment I would like on every car.

Boot space is on the lean side, but a clever floor arrangement permits changing the depth and of course added security as valuable items can be neatly stowed beneath the floor.

Mazda has left plenty of customer choice when it comes to the CX-3, you can have two wheel drive or all wheel drive. Leaving the decision to the particular need of the individual.



With such a vehicle the customer must decide do they really need all wheel drive, when two wheel drive may very well satisfy their needs.

Summing up the new Mazda CX-3 should have wide appeal and I can see the young set really welcoming it with its styling, ease of connectivity and sheer driving pleasure.

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