

## Face lifted Suzuki S-Cross Delivers

by Ian Lynas

With every step taken the Suzuki range goes from strength to strength and the latest facelift for the S-Cross delivers more than ever before in terms of quality and value for money.

Recently I had the opportunity to put the S-Cross SZ4 through its paces, if you like the entry level model, the other two grades, SZ-T and SZ5.

Over the past couple of years there has been an increasing trend to offer small capacity engines, the VW Group are leaders in this field; but wait a moment the S-Cross I had on test was powered by a one litre engine and for me this was the most surprising element of the vehicle.

This one litre three cylinder Boosterjet turbo petrol engine is bright and offers nine per cent more torque than the outgoing 1.6 litre petrol unit with 11 percent lower CO2 emissions and up to ten percent better fuel economy- good news indeed.

The Boosterjet engines were first used by Suzuki in the Vitara and Baleno models.

I know living in Northern Ireland it can be an irritation re DAB radio, some areas it is good while in others it is non existent, but with every S-Cross DAB radio is a standard fitment.

The S-Cross first went on sale three years ago and it has steadily gathered its followers, with this face lifted model, distinguished by a bold grille, existing customers and new ones will be more than pleased.

Overall the styling has moved up a slot and ground clearance has been slightly improved.

The interior is attractive, well appointed and SZ4 and SZ-T models benefit from new seat fabric designs.

Five people can travel in comfort and boot space is adequate at 430 litres and of course for those awkward loads you simply fold down the rear seats and the reward a very usable multi-purpose vehicle. Little wonder that the saloon car is slowly dying.

So why buy the SZ4 version? This model has daytime running lights, sat



nav, 16 inch alloy wheels, a rear parking camera, air conditioning and cruise control with speed limiter.

Living with the S-Cross is a pleasant experience, I was taken by a lack of rattles, a sure sign of good build quality and it proved equally at home out on the country roads or in the town and with those parking aids a real joy for those all too tight parking bays that we have to contend with.

I am often asked re safety, well with the S-Cross it gets the 5 star Euro NCAP rating and it has all the aids to keep driver and fellow passengers safe in an environment which is becoming more hostile by the minute.

I must not forget one of the key points of some S-Cross models– ALLGRIP. Just as the name suggests you have four selectable modes to tackle a variety of surfaces.

The four modes are Sport, Auto, Snow and Lock. The latter is for those really tough situations such as extracting the vehicle from snow etc. All are easily engaged and this system is available on SZ-T and SZ5 versions.

Yes the S-Cross is a very complete, enjoyable, practical vehicle, one which the family or business user would be delighted to own.

Driven November 2016

