

## New BMW 7 Series Offers Technology Aplenty

by Ian Lynas

Technology packed is a term often used or indeed abused in motoring terms; however after seven days behind the wheel of the new BMW 7 Series I can say with

confidence that this car bubbles over with technology.

The model I had on test was the 740 Ld M Sport, a blend of sporting driver and top end luxury.

Clearly the 7 in its latest guise is designed to go head to head with its arch German rival the S-Class from Mercedes-Benz. While both cars bring luxury there are distinct differences.

The new 7 has a strong sporting character aided by X-Drive which in no way detracts from the luxury that it delivers while the Merc definitely does major on luxury.

This may sound strange coming from a motoring scribe, but the new 7 is a car to be driven in rather than to drive. However if it were in my possession I would be aiming to spend a good deal of the time behind the wheel.

The 7 has been around since 1977 in various guises and it was the successor to the E3; very much the flagship of the BMW line it is available as a saloon or extended limousine, my test car was the latter.

Other BMW owners have benefited from the 7 in that it traditionally introduces technologies and exterior design themes before they trickle down to smaller models in the BMW line-up.

Since 1995, diesel engines have been included in the 7 Series range and today it is a first choice by many. Certainly my test car was not lacking in power or performance.

Delivering performance more akin to a compact sports saloon this big BMW was an absolute joy to be in control until it came to parking.

Thankfully it was loaded with park assistance aids but even they can not





compensate for the tight spaces that we find in our towns and out of town shopping centres. Clearly the car park designers were thinking of the Fiat 500 when they put pen to paper. An added option on my test car was remote control parking.

Despite the abundance of power and performance, yet another surprise in store, a relatively low emission figure at 142g/km.

Infotainment was one of the plus points of this set of wheels and as already noted a car packed with technology.

No fewer than three screens to view your favourite DVD or watch your favourite soap, of course the one on the dashboard does not operate visuals when the 7 is in motion.

Wi-fi is also on offer and of course the now almost standard in every car sat nav. Should you be lucky enough to have someone drive the 7 for you, then courtesy of headphones in the rear you can leave him or her to concentrate on the road ahead.

Summing up this generous proportioned BMW is just too big for my taste, oh if only I could have a 3 Series with all these creature comforts.

Back to the end story, what cost for all this luxury? The car as tested, £91,845, that includes the array of options and without the add ons, £79,675. Sorry beyond my budget, but what a joy to have driven.



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