

Talk to me Mazda

by Ian Lynas



The world of motoring is full of surprises, almost everytime I take the wheel of a test car something new is present.

What I did not expect was a car which talks. I am referring to the Mazda3 Sport Nav which I recently had on test.

Naughty me I was just two miles per hour over the legal limit, when the radio volume sank and a voice reminded me that I was over the speed limit and to back it up I also had a head up display, no excuse for breaking the speed limit- clever Mazda.

Would it surprise you to learn that the

Mazda3 line-up is 49 strong, thirty one models in the popular hatchback style and eighteen fastbacks, my test car was in the latter style and it certainly is an eye catcher.

With such an array of models you would expect a wide engine choice.

Well done Mazda they do deliver such, both petrol and diesel.

The range is powered by a choice of three SKYACTIV-G petrol engines, 1.5 litre 100PS, two litre 120PS and two litre 165PS or either a 1.5 litre 105PS or 2.2 litre 150PS SKYACTIV-D turbo diesel engine, with a choice of six-speed manual and automatic SKYACTIV transmissions.

My test car had the new smaller capacity diesel engine and the performance best described as brisk.

In addition to Sport Nav other equipment levels are offered, SE, SE Nav and SE-L Nav.

Equipment levels are good and include Smart City Brake Support, alloy wheels, air conditioning, 7-inch colour touch-screen display, DAB radio, USB/iPod connectivity and Bluetooth hands-free system as standard and the Mazda3 sets new

class standards with debut of the company's sophisticated new mobile connectivity system that seamlessly integrates online social media and internet





radio.

The young driver or even the older generation will appreciate the unprecedented level of connectivity with the new sophisticated connectivity system.

This advanced new mobile system uses a cloud-based automotive internet connectivity platform that brings a wide range of free web-based infotainment content safely into the vehicle.

With its combination of sleek rear-drive proportions and low-slung stance, the Mazda3 propels Mazda's award-winning KODO: Soul of Motion design theme on

to a dynamic new level.

The Mazda3 sets new design standards in its class, while creating a powerful visual link with its Mazda6, Mazda CX-5 and Mazda2 stablemates.

Every Mazda3 has Smart City Brake Support which helps to reduce or prevent low-speed collisions by

automatically applying the brakes if the driver fails to act, i-stop idle-stop system, and Hill Hold Assist to prevent roll back on inclines.

I have to add that to have a compact fastback with such a level of equipment, good looks and a sporty drive will make sense to a lot of drivers.

Perhaps you are aware or not aware but the Mazda range is extremely popular in Germany and I reckon that says a lot for the brand.



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