

The All New A4 From Audi

The A4 is the biggest seller for Audi in our market and the news of a new model is an important milestone for a car which can be traced back to the 80 of 1972. In fact I was once the proud owner of an Audi 80 and then it was a pretty impressive set of wheels.

Nine generations later and the newcomer is packed with technology which puts it in class right at the top.



The new model is made of steel and is lighter than the outgoing version, is more aerodynamic and is much more fuel efficient.

All of the engines are EU6 and I had the opportunity to try two, I also sampled the transmissions on offer.

Audi claim that with their new A4 they offer customers the most advanced car in terms of technology, infotainment and connectivity.

I would describe the new A4 as “the car to be connected” and it is going to go down a treat with many, not just the business user but the private buyer as well.

Safety is a key element and there is a wide range of driver assistance systems, setting benchmarks for the class.

Most of the equipment has been completely redesigned or greatly enhanced in comparison to previous models.

Some of the systems are standard features and optional solutions can be chosen. All versions have a safety system which scans the road ahead up to 52 mph for other vehicles and pedestrians using a windshield-mounted front camera with a range of up to 100 metres. Should there be the threat of a collision, the driver receives a series of warnings, and if necessary the car starts to apply the brakes fully. At speeds up to 25 mph, it can fully prevent accidents within the system limits and at higher speeds up to 52 mph, warnings and brake intervention can reduce the impact velocity. This is only one example of what Audi offer with the new A4.

Amongst the optional systems, adaptive cruise control Stop&Go including traffic-jam assist. It maintains a specified distance between the A4 and the car ahead; you can choose one of five distances and use Audi drive select to adjust the rate of acceleration and control dynamics.

The system relies on the signals from the two front radar sensors and the camera, interacts with the S tronic and the tiptronic to cover the full range of speeds from 0 to 155 mph.

The ACC's Stop&Go function, only available with automatic transmissions can brake the new A4 to a full stop, and at your wish it can automatically

resume driving again.

When the system is deactivated, the distance display shows how far the car ahead is and it warns drivers when they are tailgating.

I noted earlier connectivity; I doubt if there are any cars which offer so much. For example you can make use of a number of services via the smartphone app MMI connect. Destinations from Google Maps, points of interest and dates from the

City Events service can be transferred from a smartphone to the car using this app. Contained within the well appointed cabin is an array of driver aids with clear to read instrumentation etc.

Providing the power a choice of engines, three TFSI and four TDI engines delivering maximum power of between 150 and 272 PS. Fuel consumption has been reduced by up to 21 percent, while their power output has increased by up to 25 percent.

There is a standard 12 litre tank or an optional 24 litre tank for the required AdBlue additive.

I tried the 150PS diesel which looks like being the top seller and the impressive diesel with 272PS.

On the road not only is the handling sharp and comfort levels high but noise levels are surprisingly low. Lessons learned from the A8 I am reliably informed.

I can sum up the new A4 in just one word-quality. Prices start at £25,900 and first customer deliveries are next month.



Ian Lynas