

The New BMW 5 Series Ticks All the Boxes

by Ian Lynas

The 5 Series has been one of the pillars for BMW and now with the latest generation the bar has been raised to a completely higher level; so much that its main German rivals Audi and Mercedes-Benz will be now in the game of catch up.

I had the opportunity to get behind the wheel of a 520d M Sport which had xDrive; interesting for me that this was my first experience of the system in a saloon BMW and I was not disappointed.

BMW purists may well feel that rear wheel drive is the first choice; no I am not going to enter a debate on this subject, other than to advise, take a test drive and like me you will be surprised.

For many the 520d is the popular choice in the 5 Series line-up and especially more so with the new model; some 190bhp from the two litre diesel engine combined with an effortless automatic transmission and three driving modes combine to provide a superb drive experience.

Thanks to the drive modes the new 5 Series can be one of three personalities and this plays a huge contribution to the overall success of the car, little wonder that it is picking up several best car awards and rightly so.

Increased agility and precise handling thanks to the redesigned chassis and here I enter another admission, I have a four and half mile stretch of road in County Fermanagh for which I use for test purposes, just about the worst piece of roadway you could imagine and with the 520d I was able to sit at the legal speed limit and the handling and comfort levels feed back to me were the best to date in any car I have tested over the same tarmac.

For now I am restricting my comments to the 520d, as I have not driven any other model in the line-up, the four-cylinder diesel engine powering this car has an output of 190bhp at 4,000rpm and unleashes its maximum torque of 400Nm.

Gearshifts are courtesy of the eight-speed Steptronic and according to BMW figures fuel consumption with the eight-speed





Steptronic comes in at 68.8mpg, resulting in CO2 emissions of 108g/km.

Currently the most potent diesel is the 155mph 530d, producing 265bhp and 620Nm. Along with these impressive performance figures, this model achieves 60.1mpg, equating to CO2 emissions of 124g/km.

Yes we all desire performance and economy from our cars, but it is a real bonus when we also achieve high comfort levels and roadholding.

You will not fail to recognise the new 5 Series, clean, uncluttered lines in the best tradition of BMW, however move to the interior, yes every inch a BMW. The quality and presentation stands out, great design and a wealth of technology which no doubt in time will filter down to other models.

With an upgraded driver-focused interior, lots of innovative features including driver assistance technologies, Gesture Control, Remote Parking and the BMW Display key all contribute to a highly satisfying drive.

Space restricts me from highlighting many aspects of this new saloon, but allow me to mention BMW Gesture Control for key functions. It was premiered in the new 7 Series, and the new 5 Series now features the latest version of this system (BMW Gesture Control is optional).

This is the seventh generation model and BMW has created a saloon that is more refined than ever before, significantly lighter, safer, and more fuel efficient with engines sourced from the new generation family of TwinPower Turbo units which provide impressive performance gains, but also show major advances in reducing fuel consumption and emissions.

The exterior dimensions of the new 5 Series Saloon are only slightly larger than those of its predecessor, the new car is 36mm longer than the outgoing model, two mm taller and the wheelbase is increased by 7mm.

Finally thanks to Adrian Pollock and his team at Prentice BMW for making the 5 Series available.



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