

## The Well Appointed Mazda6

by Ian Lynas

Many may not be aware but Mazda was founded in 1920 but it was not until 1931, then known as Toyo Kogyo, that the company moved from manufacturing machine tools to vehicles with the introduction of the [Mazda-Go](#) autorickshaw and the company formally adopted the Mazda name in 1984, though every automobile sold



from the beginning bore that name. This now well established Japanese carmaker is renowned for producing quality vehicles, quality which can challenge the German manufacturers and that is no mean feat.

While many are forecasting the end of the saloon, after having spent a week behind the wheel of the Mazda6 I would not be so sure.

With this model Mazda has produced a very well appointed, thoroughly enjoyable car to drive and one so easy to live with.

For those in the market for a saloon it would be no bad idea to arrange a test drive; if you have never ever sat in a Mazda I suspect a pleasant surprise awaits.

The model I had on test was the 2.2 Saloon 150PS Sport Nav Diesel; one which delivered good performance and while not sporty really, the drive experience was more than satisfying.

In harmony with the diesel power unit a slick six speed manual transmission, for those who favour an automatic transmission, this option is available from Mazda.

Looks wise and the styling is modern, uncomplicated and my test example was finished in an attractive Blue Reflex Mica finish and adding the final touch a set of very smart alloy wheels.

Completing the exterior packaging, LED headlights with LED daytime running



lights, LED front fog lights, an adaptive front lighting system and to aid parking a reversing camera. I find it strange to drive a car without any form of a parking aid, so it is always very welcome.

The smartness of the exterior is matched by the interior. Leather seat trim, the driver's seat has an eight way adjustable system with memory and lumbar support and the front seat passenger benefits not just to the same degree but has a six power system. Oh and I should add for those chilly days the front seats are heated. Better still the steering wheel is heated, such a joy first thing into the Mazda6 on a frosty morning. The instrumentation is crystal clear and the sat nav is very comprehensive.

Most enjoy music on the move so with this Mazda you will not be disappointed as you get a BOSE system with no less than eleven speakers.

Now for a few facts, performance: rest to 62mph in 9.1 seconds and on to a top speed of 130mph where legal to do so. The CO2 figure is good at 107g/km.

One area that did disappoint I managed to average just 43.5mpg, for a diesel I would have expected more. Finally to the important question re price: £26,395.

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