

Diesel SX4 S-Cross Suzuki Impresses

SUZUKI aims to launch a new model each year over the next five years and their opening shot as they strive to increase market share is the SX4 S-Cross.

This new vehicle is set to enter the fast expanding crossover market and already a number of major players are in there.



I have had the chance to take the wheel of the newcomer and it scores very highly in many key areas, style, space and safety and clearly it will be welcomed by current Suzuki owners and will have lots of appeal to families.

My main focus is on a diesel version and I expect with our diesel culture in Northern Ireland it is one which should prove popular.

However there might be a stumbling block the price walk over an equivalent petrol powered model is £2,000 and that is a hefty amount.

With the UK market the largest in Europe for Suzuki it is certain that the arrival of the new S-Cross will gather even more sales and of course conquests from other manufacturers.

With more room on offer than the SX4 and a larger boot than Grand Vitara and with a choice of a petrol or diesel engine, both 1.6 litres and a manual or a CVT transmission there is choice for the buyer and of course a variety of trim levels.

The trim levels are SZ3, SZ4, SZ-T and SZ5 and all are equipped with seven airbags and ESP as standard.

I was taken by the diesel engine and over a set route I managed to achieve 54mpg. That really does paint a very good picture of this version as it is on par when it comes to economy with many smaller hatchbacks.

The 1.6 litre diesel engine produces 120PS, CO2 ratings, 110g/km for the manual and 114g/km for the ALLGRIP manual.

Looking at performance and the diesel manual can top 111mph with rest to 62mph in 12 seconds while the ALLGRIP version takes 13 seconds to reach 62mph with a top end speed of 108mph. Not exactly sportscar performance but more than adequate for most.



There is also a new four wheel drive system available with four driving modes and with always the spectre of a severe winter for many such would be a very wise buy.

The afore mentioned emissions are class leading with the new S-Cross and it is very



clear from the short time that I spent with the new vehicle that Suzuki have put a lot of effort in delivering a vehicle which can be best described as a good all rounder.

A first from Suzuki there is a double slide panoramic sunroof and the S-Cross is the first car from the company to feature a DAB radio. The sunroof is not just a first from Suzuki but in fact a world first in the motor industry.

Also and more good news for the pocket service intervals have been extended, 12,500 miles or one year.

By offering two wheel drive versions in addition to four wheel drive then the entry level price has been kept low, the

SZ3 with the diesel engine costs £16,999 and the price rise or walk to the ALLGRIP is £1,800.

Over the coming weeks and months the crossover market which was born back in 2007 will continue to expand and more manufacturers will enter the arena and with vehicles such as the new Suzuki competition will be fierce.

Ian Lynas