

Easy on the Pocket the New Renault Clio

I have no hesitation in stating that the new Renault Clio is the most economical car I have driven for many years; in fact I cannot remember what other car delivered such an impressive figure. I managed an average figure just shy of 60mpg.

The driving pattern which delivered such excellent economy did not include a lengthy drive, if I had indulged in such I have no doubt the figure would have been better.

Looking at the official figures stated by the manufacturer, 88.3mpg combined, 94.2mpg extra urban and 78.5mpg urban and the good news story continues the CO2 figure 83g/km so no tax to concern you.

Now to the model in question, my test example was the Dynamique MediaNav dCi 90 ECO with an on the road price of £15,545. My test car had a number of options bringing the final price to £16,080.

The new Clio now in its fourth generation is sleek, boasting a curvaceous new design, the first Renault with styling led by Laurens Van Den

Acker.

Low and sporty with the profile of a coupe. There is no doubt in my mind this is by far the best Clio to date.

Wider, longer, lower with an extended wheelbase, yet is on average around 100kg lighter than its predecessor thanks to a comprehensive weight-saving programme, this no doubt in no small way aids economy.

Customer choice is wide with five trim levels (excluding Renaultsport 200 Turbo EDC): Expression, Expression+, Dynamique MediaNav, Dynamique S MediaNav and GT-Line.

According to Renault the model tested is expected to be the big seller. The Expression+ trim level can also be specified as ECO version, providing better fuel consumption and emissions performance.

The new Clio is a very complete compact five door hatchback and standard equipment includes: front and side and curtain airbags, Bass Reflex speaker system, electric front windows and door mirrors, Bluetooth radio with USB port and jack socket, ESC (Electronic Stability Control) and ETC (Electronic Traction Control), folding front passenger seat, Hill Start Assist, keyless entry and ignition.

The model tested added a new seven inch touch screen MediaNav



infotainment system with integrated navigation.

Options include panoramic fixed glass sunroof, rear parking camera, new R-Link system for on-board connectivity and access to downloadable apps.

During the past 22 years, more than 11.5 million Clio models have been sold in more than 115 countries around the world, truly an international car from Renault and during this time it has collected a number of awards, the only car to be voted Car of the Year on two occasions: first in 1991 at the time of Clio's launch, and again in 2006, when Clio III received the honour.

It was also the first car in its class to obtain a four-star safety rating from Euro NCAP, in 2000, and it went on to also be the first to score the maximum five-star rating, in 2005. The new model has gone on to replicate similar success, being the safest supermini tested by the organisation in 2012.

I have to confess in the past you would not have found me in the Clio owner's club, now I would be delighted to join such. A truly impressive offering from Renault.

Ian Lynas