

Range Topping A-Class from Mercedes-Benz

The exterior styling really does not give away too much that the new Mercedes-Benz A 45 AMG 4MATIC is a very potent small hatchback.

The flagship of the new A-Class range this is certainly a welcome addition to the range and one which will be favoured by a number of enthusiasts.



At 181bhp per litre, the newcomer has the highest specific output of any production engine. With 360bhp at the command of your right foot, performance is very impressive with rest to 62mph in 4.6 seconds, a car not for the faint hearted.

My opportunity came to drive over a variety of roads around Silverstone, the home of the British Grand Prix.

No I did not get the opportunity to explore the performance of this A-Class over the famous track, instead ever mindful of speed restrictions I had to be content with normal roads and after all

this is where this car will be used.

This is the first compact car from AMG and the first with an engine with less than six cylinders.

Of course the engine is only a part of the story, it is allied to the AMG Speedshift DCT-7 speed sports transmission and helping in no small way the handling, the AMG 4MATIC all wheel drive system is employed

This cocktail of power and handling add greatly to the pleasure of being behind this impressive small car. Stopping power is courtesy of a new braking system.

Very well going on about performance, but in the current climate a concern is fuel economy and with this car Mercedes-Benz claim that a figure of 40.9mpg is possible and the CO2 figure is 161g/km.

Returning to the exterior styling of the car, less aggressive than you might imagine, a new front bumper with extensions to the airdams to feed the intercooler, a new style AMG grille, a deep front spoiler and twin five spoke 18 inch alloy wheels.

Three wheel designs to choose from and a colour palette extending to eight shades.

The interior is decidedly on the sporty theme, hip hugging AMG seats, a sports steering wheel, and of course AMG badging and detailing and a wide use of red stitching and nappa leather.



I must admit the interior of the new baby AMG is more impressive than the exterior.

Behind the wheel a rewarding car in every sense of the word, the AMG Drive Unit allows selection of the gears from the centre console and is joined by metal paddle shifters behind the steering wheel.



There is a unique electronic display located between the instrument dials; DAB and Audio 20 with iPod and Bluetooth connectivity are all standard.

Like the rest of the Mercedes-Benz range a number of options are available and my test car was an example of this. The base price of the model tested, £37,845, but with the options fitted a staggering £51,245.

I suspect few will ever order such an array of options, the reason my test car had so many, simply to illustrate what can be added.

Summing up a car definitely for the sports minded driver, with stunning performance and a good quality of build.