

The Car for the Perfect Man

By Ian Lynas

A recent survey revealed that the 'Perfect Man' drives an Audi; no doubt one of the latest offering the A1 Sportback would be on his shopping list and a lot more people besides.

The newcomer offers greater appeal with five seats and improved versatility than the



three door version and there is a slight increase in head and shoulder room despite the identical exterior footprint. The buyer gets an excellent choice of engines; four advanced, ultra-efficient TFSI and TDI engines, initially available in our market, 1.2 TFSI petrol (86PS), 1.4 TFSI petrol (122PS), 1.4 TFSI twin-charge petrol (185PS) and 1.6 TDI diesel (105PS).

The engine I had to try recently was the 1.6 TDI with a CO2 rating of 99g/km and Audi state an economy figure as much as 74.3mpg. Over my test period my average figure was 49.4mpg. I found

this power unit a trifle on the noisy side, but with such good economy I suppose I should not complain. A two litre diesel engine will be introduced later this year. Equipment levels are good with the baby Audi, standard alloy wheels, split/folding rear seat, front and rear electric windows, air conditioning, single CD audio system with MP3 compatibility and ESP with latest differential lock system and a nice touch is the option of full roof paint finish in contrasting colour exclusive to Sportback.

The price walk is £560 over each equivalent three-door A1.

The Sportback is actually six millimetres taller and six millimetres wider than its three door brother and the end result is slightly more head and shoulder room. It also makes provision for an extra passenger, up to three can pass through its rear doors and take a seat, each of them protected by a headrest and full three-point seatbelt.

Luggage capacity is on a par with the three-door version at 270 litres with the backrests of the standard split/folding rear seat in place or 920 litres with the seat folded.

The L-shaped, retractable head restraints do not have to be removed to do this and the loading lip is a comfortably low 66 centimetres, and stowage can be further simplified by an optional luggage package featuring usefully divided storage compartments under the loading floor and other amenities. Features common to the SE, Sport and S



line options available with the A1 Sportback models include alloy wheels, remote central locking, air conditioning, electric front and rear windows and mirrors, split folding rear seat and a six-speaker single CD Concert audio system linked to a 6.5 inch retractable display.

Sport model additions include larger 16 inch wheels, sports suspension, sports seats,



Bluetooth mobile phone preparation and a Driver's Information System, while S line versions upgrade with extras such as an exclusive S line exterior treatment including larger 17-inch alloy wheels, S line sports suspension and leather and cloth combination upholstery.

There are a number of individual options including Xenon plus headlights with LED daytime running lights and LED tail lights, a high-beam assistant, light and rain sensors, the advanced key, two different parking system versions and cruise control, to name a few.

The list of more indulgent extras extends

to everything from electronic climate control, heated front seats and special colours for the air vent sleeves to fine leather upholstery.

There is a performance version, the turbocharged and supercharged 1.4 TFSI with 185PS and it features a seven-speed S tronic twin-clutch gearbox with exceptionally rapid shifts. This version can reach 62mph from rest in 7 seconds with a top speed of 141mph.

The model I had on test recently was the 1.6 TDI Sport with a price tag of £15,675; however a number of options were fitted bringing the final bill to £19,190.