

The New Toyota Auris Rewards

by Ian Lynas

The Toyota Auris certainly has moved up a gear with the introduction of the new model, with a much stronger focus on driving dynamics.

Designed very much with the European market in mind and UK built, with a new Auris coming off the production line every 66 seconds.

The focus was on weight management, chassis design, clever packaging and improved engines.



This cocktail has worked leaving a more dynamic, better equipped and cheaper to run car.

Sleeker styling, improved driving dynamics, a much higher quality interior design and changes that deliver better fuel efficiency are all key factors for this new Toyota.

From launch petrol, diesel and hybrid are available, thus providing the customer with maximum choice.

Sales are likely to be evenly split between the power units, although I suspect we Northern Ireland will give diesel a second look.

The new Hybrid generates class-leading emissions of 87g/km and this performance will deliver significant cost of ownership benefits, thanks to emissions-linked lower taxation rates.

Toyota's Hybrid Synergy Drive system also brings lower routine service and maintenance charges.

The latest Auris it scores with a sleeker design with a much stronger on road presence and it is one of the most compact cars in class.

It has the new Toyota family look and the new headlamp design incorporates LED daytime running lights.

While its length has been extended by 30mm, there is more room for occupants and boot size is good. Also access to the boot has been improved by a wider opening tailgate.

At the rear, a wider opening tailgate displays powerful convex and concave surfacing and it is topped by an integral roof spoiler and flanked by new wrap-around rear combination lamps which reinforce the shape of both the rear wings and the rear screen, as well as the



strength of the shoulder area over the rear wheel arches.

The new bumper has built-in reflectors at its extremities reinforcing the car's broad and stable stance.

New wheel designs feature on the Hybrid, with 15 inch silver alloys on the Icon model and 17 inch graphite alloys on the Excel.

Ten exterior colours, including new Avantgarde Bronze and Zenith Blue metallics with Pearl White is exclusive to the Hybrid.

The 1.4 litre D-4D engine develops 89bhp and has Stop & Start technology as standard for the first time. Good news 74.3mpg is quoted and the CO2 figure is just 99g/km.



The 1.33 litre petrol engine offers 98bhp, 52.3mpg and 125g/km CO2 while the 1.6 Valvematic engine, which I tried, is available with either a six-speed manual transmission, or Toyota's Multidrive S CVT. It develops 130bhp and can reward with 47.9mpg.

With the new Auris comes a new grade structure for Toyota in the UK, Active, Icon, Sport and Excel.

Standard features on all versions include seven airbags, air conditioning, follow-me-home headlights, Hill-start Assist Control, Vehicle Stability Control and LED daytime running lights.

Optional Toyota Touch & Go multimedia system with full map navigation and access to online content and applications

New Intelligent Park Assist system calibrated for easier and significantly quicker operation is standard on Excel grade.

Behind the wheel the driving experience is at a higher level than the outgoing model with enhanced steering, a much better handling experience and higher comfort levels. Prices range from £14,495 - £21,745; with improved residual values and the five year warranty this is a good buy from Toyota.

