

The Nissan Note a Practical Choice

by Ian Lynas

THE supermini MPV Note from Nissan offers lots of space and a new luxury N-TEC+ version has been introduced and this is the version I got to try.

The Sunderland plant where the car is built was base and I was able to put it to the test. I was certainly able to try its handling qualities as in that part of the North East of England there are more roundabouts than in Craigavon.



Three trim levels are offered, the car tested sits at the top of the line with a Visia entry level model and the Acenta which has added spec for 2012.

More than 100,000 British buyers have already taken 'Note' of Nissan's UK-built supermini-MPV and I no doubt that with buyers it's further upgrades will continue to prove popular.

Although I drove only the N-TEC+ I must mention the Acenta; with its new diamond cut two tone 16 inch alloy wheels, body coloured door mirror covers and front fog light surrounds.

A new seat fabric with blue stitching is used to provide a more premium feel to the interior, while climate control, automatic headlights and rain-sensitive wipers all now come as standard.

The best-selling N-TEC has been upgraded and in addition to the Acenta specification, it incorporates rear parking sensors to help keep the bodywork scuff-free. As with the N-TEC, darkened rear privacy glass and the touch screen 'Connect' satellite navigation system also feature.

The 'Connect' system additionally provides a full digital music connectivity package with built in CD/radio, iPod gateway, Aux-in, USB connection and Bluetooth phone connection.



Despite all this equipment, buyers can own a Note for less than you might expect. Prices start at £11,200 for the Visia, with the new Acenta at £13,000 and the new N-TEC+ costing £14,525.



Power choice for the Note, two petrol engines and one diesel. The petrol units are 1.4 and 1.6 litres respectively while the diesel will be well known to Renault owners, the 1.5dCi and when Pure Drive badged it has a CO2 rating of just 110g/km.

The good news continues, official fuel figures state that it is possible to achieve 67.3mpg.

Returning to the N-TEC+ and looking at performance, rest to 62mph in 12.8 seconds and on to a top speed of 104mph. Okay not exactly sports like, but the Note is a car for the family or for those who have lifestyle pursuits.

The N-TEC+ is extremely well appointed and you get a lot of creature comforts. It also has a comprehensive security and safety package. The example I tried had two extras, metallic paint finish (£450) and carpet mats (£39).

A complete and practical vehicle from Nissan and certainly the added equipment for 2012 will be much appreciated.