

CLIO RENAULTSPORT 220 TROPHY EDC

By Jim Mc Cauley



The ultimate Renault Clio carries the company's RenaultSport badge, signifying its performance potential at the top of the model range. Power source is the 220bhp 1.6 litre turbo engine which takes the car from rest to 62mph in 6.6seconds with a given top speed of 146mph. Loaded with performance extras, the model also features launch control, electronic differential and the ability to select any of three driving modes.

On road, and the optional Akrapovic exhaust on the test car clearly announces its performance ability and blips its way through downchanges to keep reminding you that you are in a performance car. Power delivery is managed by

a 6-speed twin clutch automatic gearbox which maintains competent control, allowing for instantaneous throttle response. For those who prefer more engagement than the long gear-change paddles, properly mounted on the steering column, provide the necessary temptation, while multiple downchanges can be obtained by continuous holding of the left hand paddle.

Although the firm suspension set-up is a necessary requirement, it performs its task without undue intrusion into the cabin and the car emerges as usable daily transport rather than for occasional use. With pin-sharp steering and competent brakes, the car also provides track potential with a 'Race' drive mode one of the optional choices in addition to the 'Normal' and 'Sport' road settings. These vary the weight of the steering, gear change speeds and accelerator mapping, while the Electronic Stability Control is disabled in 'Race' mode. Supporting electronic packages include the differential, as well as stability and traction control, and hill start assist.



For the driver, the front cabin offers body hugging sports seats, finished on the test car in black leather with contrasting red stitching, while rear space, although snug, is set out for three occupants.



Styling-wise, the new model features three-lamp foglight units for greater light spread with an F1 style front aerodynamic blade, and the rear is fitted with a body coloured spoiler, rear diffuser and twin rectangular exhaust trims.

Despite its performance attributes, the Clio Renaultsport carries a luxury package of equipment including full LED front and rear lighting, all-round electric windows, automatic climate control and 7-inch infotainment screen with TomTom LIVE navigation, Bluetooth connectivity and hands-free phone operation.

The model tested has an official combined fuel consumption of 47.9mpg and has a CO2 emissions of 135gms/km. For business users the Clio Renaultsport has a BIK rating of 24% and is in Group 28E for insurance purposes.

As tested, the vehicle is listed at £22,425 with extras including the Akrapovic exhaust at £980, metallic paint at £1,300, heated front seats

at £250 and Renault Sport Monitor at £295 bringing the total to £25,170.s



(Driven February 2017)