

CITROEN C3 PICASSO 115 Hdi

By Jim Mc Cauley

It may lack elegance and flair in its design, but nevertheless there is an appealing attraction to



Citroen's C3 Picasso because of the solid looks and neat detailing. The chunky people carrier is one of four in Citroen's line-up to carry the Picasso badge and the C3 derivative has just received a range of mechanical and cosmetic upgrades.

Test choice is the range topping 1.6 litre diesel, fitted with a 6-speed manual gearbox and finished in 'Exclusive' trim. This HDi 115 HP model returns a 0-62 mph time of 11.2 seconds with the potential to top 114 mph. On-road, and the diesel is impressively refined as is the handling for a relatively large bodied vehicle. All round visibility is excellent with the large area of glass and the wishbone 'A' posts which split the

windscreen frames into two slimmer units aiding visibility, particularly at junctions.

Although some MPVs can be compromising vehicles to drive, the C3 Picasso scores well in all counts with excellent steering feel, good turning lock and reassuring brakes. Despite the instrumentation pod being centrally located, the digital panels are easy to read with the speedometer reading consistently lit in daylight and darkness.

Headlight spread and penetration are excellent for night driving, and at journey's end, interior cabin lighting provides both front and rear coverage.

But the main attraction of the Picasso C3 is its interior space. Although sitting at just over 4 metres long, its square section cabin provides a cavernous interior, aided on this top spec model by a full length glass roof, shielded by two manual sunblinds. Near vertical door openings provide clear access to the cabin while the 60:40 split folding rear seats can be slid fore and aft to balance passenger leg room. Rear seat occupants also benefit from side sun blinds and flip-down picnic tables on the backs of the front seats.

This top spec 'Exclusive' trim features six airbags, part leather upholstery, LED running





lights, Bluetooth connectivity, dual zone air conditioning, roof bars, reversing sensors and automatic operation of lights and wipers.

On the economy and environmental fronts, the vehicle has a quoted combined fuel consumption of 61.4 mpg and a CO2 emissions of 125 gms/km. This puts it in band D for annual road tax of £100 and qualifies it for a BIK rating of 19% for business users.

In 'Exclusive' trim, the C3 Picasso Hdi 115 is priced at £17,865 and is in Band 15E of the ABI's 50 category grouping for insurance purposes. The model has a 4-star EuroNCAP rating and is covered by a 3-year / 60,000 mile warranty