

## HYUNDAI i20 1.1 CRDi

By Jim Mc Cauley

The i20 is the third model in Hyundai's 'i' car line-up sandwiched between the i10 and i30. In its supermini sector it contests the most lucrative corner of the market where Hyundai aims to have it as their top seller.

Styling-wise, the model features the major character elements of the larger i30 but in a more restrained fashion with a dominant lower grille at the front and wraparound tail-lights at the rear. Available only as a 5-door hatchback, access and accommodation is good for all five occupants.

Built on an all-new platform and featuring a range of new petrol and diesel power units, test choice was the smaller 1.1 litre CRDi diesel. This compact unit produces 74 bhp with 180Nm of torque available from 1750 to 2500 rpm. Driving through a standard 6-speed manual gearbox, 0-62 mph takes 15.7 seconds with top speed just falling short of 100mph. The 3-cylinder engine delivers well, but overall noise suppression could be improved, both in terms of what the engine itself sounds like and the intrusion into the cabin.

On quality A roads, the i20 rides well, its suspension coping admirably with smooth undulations. But move to the challenges of traditional scenic Donegal roads and the suspension give receives a snappy arrest clearly transmitted into the cabin. However, with four-up, the little engine is an admirable performer showing utter contempt for gradients as challenging as the feared Mamore Gap on the 'Innishowen 100'.

The noticeable changeover in steering direction with an initial vagueness between locks mars the otherwise precise response but steering weighting sits comfortable with that of the other controls and the car asserts its competence as a worthy sector challenger.

And it has other attributes, in particular the level of equipment for its price. On this range-topping 1.1 litre diesel model in 'Active' trim, the standard safety equipment includes front, side and curtain airbags, and Electronic Stability Program with Vehicle Stability Management, while air conditioning, Bluetooth connectivity with voice recognition, leather steering wheel with audio controls, front fog lights, electric mirrors and windows and 15-inch alloys are all standard.





On top of this the Hyundai range comes with one of the best warranty packages available – 5 year unlimited mileage guarantee, 5 years' roadside assistance and 5 years' annual vehicle health checks. The model as tested is priced at £12,795 on the road, and has a 5-star EuroNCAP award. Official fuel economy is given as 74.3 mpg on the combined cycle and with a CO2 emissions of 99 gms/km, the i20 1.1 CRDi is in Band A for zero road tax.