

# KIA RIO FIRST EDITION

By Jim Mc Cauley



Kia has launched its all-new Rio to compete in the challenging B-sector market and maintain its position as the company's global best seller. Styling-wise, the new 2017 model is a safe and successful refinement of the outgoing model, immediately recognised by the slimmer and longer upper grille and deep lower air intake.

Powering the car is a choice of four engines with the test car, and range topping 'First Edition' model, featuring a 1.0 litre petrol engine. This 3-cylinder turbo unit, badged T-GDi develops 118bhp and



takes the car on the benchmark sprint from rest to 60mph in 9.8 seconds with a potential top speed of 118mph. This makes it the top performer in the ten model line-up and gives the car a sporting urgency with its immediate throttle response. The engine is extremely quiet at tick-over and relaxed at higher motorway speeds, but is always willing to respond immediately at the slightest touch of the throttle.

While the 99bhp turbo engine in mid range trim has a 5-speed gearbox, the 'First Edition' model has a 6-speed 'box which changes with Teutonic precision and adds to the confidence of the car.

Built on a new floorpan, the suspension provides a comfortable ride while the variable power steering weights up nicely on the open road and maintains good surface communication. Excellent brakes support the secure handling of the car and the model maintains its position as a worthy contender in the 'B' segment of the market.



Inside, and the cabin has a high quality finish with the red upholstery and door insets in tone with the satin red dash finish. Instrumentation is clearly presented in the now standard twin dial layout with a digital information panel in-between.

The longer wheelbase and revised proportions make for improved interior space contributing to increased leg and shoulder room while the boot capacity has been increased by almost 13 per cent to 325 litres.

A range of new technologies are offered in the new model including Kia Connected Services and Android Auto and Apple CarPlay

smartphone integration, accessible through the centrally mounted colour touch screen. Together these give access to the car's navigation and infotainment systems as well as providing live traffic updates, weather reports and information about fixed speed camera locations and local points of interest. The new Rio is also the first car in class to provide USB ports in both the front and rear of the passenger compartment.

From a safety point of view, the new model range is comprehensively equipped with supporting safety packages including Electronic Stability Control and Autonomous Emergency Braking which detects both vehicles and pedestrians in the vehicle's path and intervenes in the absence of driver response to bring the vehicle to a stop. Other technologies help maintain control when braking on irregular surfaces, and all models also feature Hill-start Assist which prevents the car from rolling back when taking off on a steep incline.

In terms of additional equipment, the 'First Edition' adds 17-inch alloys, smart key entry system with push button starting, stainless steel pedals and LED rear lighting.

With regards economy, this version has an official combined fuel consumption of just over 60mpg, while a CO2 emissions of 107gms/km puts it in Band B for annual road tax of £20. While the new Rio range commences at £11,995, the range topping model tested is



listed at £17,445, and as with all Kia models, is covered by the company's industry leading 7-year / 100,000 mile warranty.

(Driven January 2017)