

ROAD TEST

ALL-NEW SUZUKI IGNIS

By Jim Mc Cauley

2017 sees the arrival of the all-new Ignis from Suzuki which offers crossover styling in a practical, compact vehicle. While the model is available in three specification levels, test choice was the mid-range SZ-T Ignis, powered by the company's lively 1.2 litre petrol engine. While the standard model comes will specified with a full complement of six airbags, air conditioning, automatic headlights, DAB radio and Bluetooth connectivity, the SZ-T takes the equipment provision to a much higher level considering the modest premium.



On the exterior, the SZ-T adds wheelarch extensions with protective side mouldings, roof rails and 16-inch alloy wheels, while interior upgrades include satellite navigation, rear view camera and sliding rear seats.

In appearance, the new Ignis has immediate appeal successfully carrying the key features of a bigger SUV into a smaller vehicle without losing any of the assertiveness of the larger vehicle. In this respect, the additional exterior features of the SZ-T make a significant contribution and give the car added visual impact.

Underneath, is the company's all-new platform, first seen in the recently launched Baleno saloon while the sole engine choice at present is the 1.2 litre Dualjet unit. This 4-cylinder engine produces 90PS and takes the car from rest to 62mph in 11.8 seconds with a potential top speed of 106mph.

Driving through its 5-speed manual gearbox, the engine is a very willing performer, maintaining enthusiastic pace even with a full complement of four adults on board. Steering is light and precise which makes it very attractive in town, while the engine relaxes on the open road with negligible noise intrusion.

With the slightly raised seating position, visibility is excellent with the camera adding to the safety of reversing in restricted spaces. While the higher seats can be appreciated by older drivers, they are also of benefit to those with young children as it offers easier fitting of child seats.

Despite the vehicle's compact dimensions, excellent design consideration provides a roomy cabin which in the case of the test car featured a two-tone dash and door panels, while the external body colour on the internal door handles and centre console adds a sporting touch to the otherwise practical interior. There is clear instrumentation for the driver including an on-board computer screen as well as a central colour touch screen for infotainment controls and satellite navigation. This is mounted as a separate tablet-like unit and sits high in the dash for easy viewing and control access.

For rear seat passengers, there is easy access, and depending on luggage requirements the seats can be individually slid fore and aft through 165mm, while the backrests have a two-position recline function. The boot has a useful capacity of 267 litres, extendible to 514 litres with the rear seats folded.



With regards to running costs, the Dualjet engine is so-called because it uses twin fuel injectors for improved fuel economy which is given as 61.4mpg on the combined cycle. With a CO2 emissions of just 104gms/km, the Ignis is in Band B for annual car tax, which is zero in the first year of ownership and just £20 per year after that.

As with the launch of many new models, there is an introductory incentive and in the case of the Ignis in SZ-T and higher SZ5 trim, it is free insurance for the first year for drivers over 21 years of age. This is purely a launch offer and runs only until the end of February. While the range opens at £9,995, the version tested in mid range SZ-T specification is listed at £11,499. The model is also available on a personal contract plan (PCP) for just £159 per month. For accurate financial planning, and peace of mind, the company also offer a 3-year servicing package for £369.

All Suzuki vehicles are covered by the company's comprehensive 3-year / 60,000 mile warranty, one year AA UK and European roadside assistance and 12 years perforation cover.