

The New Isuzu D-MAX Sets New Standards

by Ian Lynas



Can a pick-up be sexy? Yes when it is the new D-MAX from Isuzu. I am not for one minute suggesting that we in Northern Ireland are not trendy, of course we are, but when we go looking for a pick-up we have more solid reasons, such as work and lifestyle. The D-MAX is the best selling vehicle of its type in Northern Ireland and the arrival of the new model can only cement that position.

Clearly sales are dominant in the farming sector, but the new Isuzu would be ideal for the small business user or indeed a family with outdoor pursuits.

The good news is with such factors as

emissions which are lower and improved fuel economy.

The range line up is retained; Utility, Eiger, Yukon, Utah and Blade with a range of single, extended and double cab variants available.

There is true value throughout the range with the entry level Utility, priced from £15,749 (CVOTR) and it comes equipped with LED daytime running lights, Hill Start Assist, Hill Descent Control, Bluetooth connectivity, power windows and air conditioning.

The Eiger double cab (from £20,499 CVOTR) adds a reversing camera, 16-inch alloy wheels, body coloured bumpers, audio system with CD player and 6 speakers while Yukon (from £20,499 CVOTR) adds 18-inch alloy wheels, silver side steps, new 7-inch multi-function touch screen, LED rear lights, Cruise Control, rear load liner and a leather steering wheel and Utah (from £24,149 CVOTR) takes comfort to a higher level with keyless entry with push button start, Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, satellite navigation, DAB digital radio, roof bars, leather upholstery with heated front seats, rear parking sensors, automatic air conditioning.

My favourite in the line-up, the range-topping Blade (from £26,999 CVOTR) adds tinted windows, 9-inch multi-function touch screen, remote locking lower tailgate, Blade puddle lamps, front



and rear parking sensors, and a colour-coded Aeroklas canopy or sports bar with roller cover.



Exterior wise it is very much a case of minor restyling with the biggest change under the bonnet, a brand new 1.9 litre turbo diesel engine has been fitted, which produces 164PS and 360Nm of torque.

The engine builds upon D-Max's workhorse character and retains the 3.5 tonne towing capacity and 1 tonne payload whilst providing a quieter, more refined and economical driving experience. Another key benefit is that the new engine meets Euro 6 standards without the need for addition of AdBlue.

As per previous models, Shift-On-The-Fly 4x4 is a key feature of the new models. The rotary dial allows the driver to select four-wheel drive on the move as well as low range gears.

For added peace of mind the new D-MAX comes with a five-year / 125,000-mile warranty, and is the first pick-up in the UK to be offered with such a comprehensive peace-of-mind package.



Running costs are kept down by 12,000-mile or 24-month service intervals, five years' recovery and European cover, a three-year paint warranty, and a six-year anti-corrosion warranty.

I had the opportunity to take the wheel of the new Isuzu and on road it has low noise levels, surprising comfort levels and over an off road course I was able to explore the excellent qualities of handling when the going gets tough.

In all the best vehicle of its kind currently available and with the interior creature comforts of a well appointed saloon car.

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