

MOTORING MATTERS

KIA CEE'D FAMILY GROWS

I was delighted to be invited to join Kia as they launched their latest addition to the cee'd family, the cee'd SW. The new cee'd vehicle is now available in Kia showrooms across the UK. Built at the company's state-of-the-art factory at Zilina in Slovakia, where the acclaimed five-door hatchback cee'd is also built, the new model comes with the same industry-best seven-year or 100,000-mile bumper-to-bumper warranty – an unrivalled expression of faith in the cars coming out of Zilina.

Kia say that the SUV and MPV market has meant a decrease in sales of estate cars in recent years. But the new cee'd SW, which is also the first estate car from Kia, is an important addition to the cee'd family as many motorists are now thinking again about estate cars as environmental issues grow ever more intense. Kia believes that estate cars have the potential to replace MPVs and SUVs as a specific lifestyle choice.

The new addition has a body which is 235mm longer compared with the hatchback – all of it added behind the rear axle line. The SW is also 10mm taller than the hatchback, excluding roof rails. The tailgate has been particularly well designed; it is shaped and mounted with the top hinges mounted further forwards compared to the hatchback cee'd, which means loading and unloading the vehicle is much easier. The tailgate extends into the roofline, giving it a stylish look as well as reducing the up and outswing by 72mm. This will definitely make opening the boot easier in smaller spaces, such as your garage or tight parking spaces. Luggage capacity is 534 litres, with 55 litres in trays beneath the boot floor. Rear seats offer a 60:40 split. With the seats folded flat the luggage capacity rises to 1664 litres.

One of the things which Kia has done with this model is to have the indicator stalk on the "right" side, which is really the left side, bringing the vehicle into line with its European customer requests. This will apply to all models across the Kia range in due course. At the launch date, the cee'd



SW is available in three 1.6 litre engine specifications. One is a petrol engine, two are diesel. Designed, engineered and manufactured in Europe, the diesel engines are offered as either 89bhp and 113bhp. Along with the 120bhp 1.6-litre petrol engine from Korea, the engines are Euro-4 compliant. These engines are paired with five-speed manual gearboxes as standard, but a four-speed automatic is available with the petrol engine, and is also planned to be an option with the high-powered diesel engine in both SW and hatchback versions of the cee'd for the first time in November 2007.

Test driving the cee'd SW showed the benefits of the independent front and rear suspension. This model was launched in the Split area of Croatia, where it was put to the test on a wide variety of road classes and surfaces. The new motorway was easy to drive on and the mountain roads put the vehicle to the test for ride and handling. Just one word of caution should you decide to investigate the beauty of Split - tourists are already discovering the police are hot on speeding! During our time in Croatia the weather was

sunny and warm, but the cee'd SW is available with the latest electronic traction, stability and braking aids to protect and assist owners in the most arduous weather and driving conditions. I found the seats were firm and comfortable, with adjustable lumbar support and adjustable active headrests on both front seats. The steering wheel is a sporty, thick-rimmed three-spoke steering wheel; a three-dial instrument cluster is positioned in the centre giving easy on the eye information to the driver. Dials and switches are placed in a logical easy to use way and have a red-orange glow at night. USB and auxiliary ports are fitted, allowing an MP3 player, iPod or USB stick to be connected.

GS and LS trim levels come with all the features found on the equivalent cee'd hatchback, with prices starting from just £12,995.

The cee'd is set to grow even more with the new Pro'cee'd three door model set for unveiling at the Frankfurt Motor Show.

Taxi Air Conditioning

All makes Serviced and Repaired

Mobile Service - We Come to You

Tel: 020 8715 0079

Covering London & The Home Counties