

MOTORING MATTERS by Anthony Goodwin

CITROEN'S SPACEBOX

The C3, Citroen's latest Picasso, is a mini MPV with a cheeky character and striking looks. You can see the family resemblance with little nods to the C4 and Grand C4 Picasso models. From the outside it looks like fun and appears bigger inside than the outside would have you believe. Talking about room, there's plenty to discuss here – you get up to 1,506 litres of flat space behind the front seats, more than any of its rivals. And if you manage to use all of that, there are plenty of other handy compartments throughout the cabin for safely storing personal belongings. The boot also has two positions which enables space for up to 385/500 litres of storage.

We had the 1.6 HDi 90 hp VTR+ on road test. The diesel engine was great, nippy around town and on those motorways and A roads it ate the miles with ease. There are two petrol and two diesel engines to choose from. The Petrol comes in either a 1.4 VTi or 1.6VTi both manage 40.4 mpg on a combined cycle with CO2 being 159 so that's



£150 road fund for a year. Diesel comes as a 1.6HDi either 90hp or 110hp the 90hp gives you 58.9mpg and the 110hp 57.6mpg they produce 125 and 130 CO2 emissions so its £120 per year for road fund.

For me the look of the car is a cross between a SUV and MPV. One of the many features that Citroen have carried over from its larger brother is the panoramic windscreen, this gives a great view. All round visibility is good as the C3 Picasso has large windows in both the front and rear. Citroen have paid attention to detail with the interior too with a new specially designed trim called Minstral Harmony. If you can't find a storage compartment for everything you are likely to need on the road then you are a better person than me, I lost count in the end!

The driving position is high, which I always like. Citroen have made all the instruments driver focused even down to a higher level for the gear shift. Standard equipment across the range includes ABS with EBD and emergency brake assist, remote central deadlocking, 6 speaker mp3/cd radio with mp3 socket and multi function on board computer. For those who wish to be an individual then there are many options to choose from. Firstly choose from 8 colours in metallics, block and pearlescent. Other options



include auto pack which includes auto lights and wipers and a safety pack to include curtain airbags and cruise control.

In conclusion, to me it's another winner from Citroen. With prices starting at £11,495 for the 1.4 VTi in VT spec and the range topping 1.6 HDi in Exclusive spec come in at £15,595. The complete range is available with the £2000 scrappage allowance, Citroen are also offering 0% Apr with 20% deposit on selected models.

ANOTHER BEST-IN-CLASS FOR CITROËN'S 'SPACEBOX'

The C3 Picasso has been named 'Supermini MPV of the Year' at the Auto Express New Car Awards 2009. Embodying the best of Citroën's 'Créative Technologie', the innovative 'Spacebox' impressed the prestigious magazine's judging panel with its funky design, all-round practicality, intelligent layout and class-leading space and roominess. The C3 Picasso has now picked up an impressive four awards, having already been named Top Gear's 'Family Car of the Year', 'Best MPV' at What Diesel's Car of the Year Awards and 'Design of the Year' at the Fleet World Honours.

NISSAN UNVEILS "LEAF"

The Nissan LEAF is a zero-emission car which has been designed specifically for a lithium-ion battery-powered chassis. It is a medium-size hatchback that comfortably seats five adults, with a range of more than 160km (100 miles). Expected to launch in late 2010 in Japan, the United States, and Europe, the car is the embodiment of Nissan's radical, transformative vision for the future and the culmination of decades of investment and research. "Nissan LEAF is a tremendous accomplishment – one in which all Nissan employees can take great pride," said Nissan President and CEO Carlos Ghosn. "We have been working tirelessly to make this day a reality – the unveiling of a real-world car that has zero – not simply reduced – emissions. It's the first step in what is sure to be an exciting journey – for people all over the world, for Nissan and for the industry."



NAV-MAT HELPS FIGHT VEHICLE BREAK-INS

Nav-Mat, which is supported by police forces around the UK, eliminates tell-tale sucker marks on windcreens that tip off thieves targeting satellite navigation systems. The portable "beanbag" Nav-Mat turns the usual windscreen-mounted devices such as satellite navigation systems into dashboard-mounted devices. In fact police officers in Cardiff have been giving the Nav-Mat to motorists there in a bid to stop them attaching sat navs to their windcreens. Chief Inspector Alun Morgan, based at Fairwater Police Station, said: "When people attach a sat nav to their windcreens using suckers and then remove it, tell-tale marks are left behind which tell thieves there may be something worth stealing in the car. So using funding from the Safer Capital Partnership, we have bought 60 sat nav beanbags and have distributed them to hotels and commercial organisations across the city, asking them to give them to regular visitors for free, particularly those who have been victims of previous thefts."



The product has a contoured and weighted, anti-skid underside which stops the device from sliding. As well as reducing the risk of theft left by ring marks, the Nav-Mat also keeps the windscreen clear of obstructions and gives the driver a clearer view of the sat-nav device. It can also be used to secure other devices such as mobile phones. Some sat navs will require another bracket to use the Nav-Mat, which is also available to purchase online.

The Association of Chief Police Officer's Secured by Design initiative has recognised and licensed the Nav-Mat. Calvin Beckford, ACPO 'Secured by Design' development officer said: "We particularly liked the Nav-Mat as it is a simple solution for a major crime problem affecting the UK."

The Nav-Mat can be purchased online from www.navmat.co.uk for £19.99 plus £5.00 postage and packing.