The little car that

Delivers

Ian Lamming drives the Fiat Doblo

THERE are cars that excite, others that impress, some that disappoint – now there's one that makes me sing.

They may be metal and plastic but they can evoke emotions such as love, hatred, respect. But the Fiat Doblo is the first to have me singing out loud – see if you recognize it?

"Dum dum dum, dum dum dum, dum dum dum da de dum de do dum…early in the morning, just as day is dawning." Got it yet?

Yes, for those who have had to endure children's TV it is indeed the theme tune to Postman Pat and what a cheerful vehicle this little van with seats is, even without the black and white cat.

Just as CBeebies makes you smile, so does this seven seater MPV. This particular test car wasn't red but you couldn't help feeling like it should have been and that, as the driver, you should be wearing postman blue.

While there were no sacks of post to swallow, this most useful of vehicles did consume people and baggage in spectacular fashion.

There are three rows of seats but when the last row isn't needed it gives way to voluminous amounts of space.

Test Doblo came with the optional extra high roof creating an MPV you could quite easily live in.

But the van-like accommodation doesn't translate to driving dynamics – the Doblo is great fun to drive. It is comfortable but sharp and car-like in its road manners. The spirited diesel engine has so much poke that it will actually wheel spin and prompt a bit of torque steer, which I love in a car as it makes you feel alive.

The lanes around my home resemble those on Postman Pat and Doblo happily whizzes along them offering views above the drystone walls of our green and pleasant land.

I love this car; I shouldn't but I do. It is quirky and fun, immensely capable and charismatic with a cheery disposition. It never fails to put a song in your heart.

Fact File

Fiat Doblo 1.6
Multijet Lounge
Engine: 1.6 diesel
Power: 105PS
0-62mph: 13.4
Top speed: 102
Combined miles
per gallon: 54.3
Transmission: six-speed manual
CO_2 g/km: 138

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