

# In your Face

**Ian Lamming** Ian Lamming goes all gangsta in the latest street fighter from Honda

**D**O NOT pick a fight with this car, it will win because it is a brute.

The provocative spoiler, airdam and side-skirts are designed to enrage, offend and annoy but rise above it.

This is no shrinking violet and it does not care. It makes no apologies, it has questionable manners and it flouts authority.

There is nothing politically correct, nothing socially sensitive, nothing empathetic about the Honda Civic Type R. It's an expletive in metal, a rude gesture, a flatulent noise.

How can this be; it's a Civic, for goodness sake, the transport of mature citizens who love their easy nature, exquisite build quality, cossetting design.

It's the Type R that does it your honour. That means the 2.0 litre VTEC motor comes with a

turbo which helps it boost power to a staggering 310PS – oh my goodness, that's a lot.

So the hard figures of this mountainous powerband read 0-62mph in 5.7 seconds; top speed of 167mph; miles per gallon of – well I managed 40.1, how does that happen?

All that power could rip the chunky steering wheel from your hands were it not for the limited slip differential which controls the beast with a muzzle and a stick.

The peerless suspension does an amazing job at refining the power delivery. It is firm but surprisingly comfortable and grip levels are astounding.

Inside is familiar Civic with some very sporty additions, such as alloy gear knob, wraparound sports seats, booster G-force dials and satanic

red graphics. I must admit it is a great place to be.

Type R is an attention grabber; the bright red livery, the aircraft-sized shapely rear wing, the high gloss 19in black alloys. Then there's the front spoiler which is wide and low and skims the tarmac and the rear diffuser, complete with four of the biggest space-time-continuum altering tailpipes ever.

Type R made people smile, especially those I knew, who were quick to point out that I should be wearing a baseball cap, slightly askew, and greet them with a yo, which made me smile too.

It's an ironic reaction for a car so aggressive, so full-on, so in your face boom. But that's the pleasant paradox that comes with the Civic Type R.

## Fact File

- Honda Civic Type R
- Engine: 2.0 petrol turbo
- Power: 310PS
- 0-62mph: 5.7 secs
- Top speed: 167mph
- Combined MPG: 38.7
- Transmission: six speed manual
- CO2 g/km: 170

