

# Keeping it in the Family

*MotorMadness*

**Ian Lamming** gets reflective about the Honda Jazz

**O**DD! Reflected in the paintwork of the vehicle in front, staring back at me like a stranger, is the front end of the test car.

The weird thing is that it's not what I am expecting to see. I'm in a Jazz but am looking at a CRV, except it can't be because it is too low.

New Jazz has taken on a common look, one that is emblazoned across the visages of CRV, HRV and, by the looks of things, the next Civic.

Truth is, it's a fine enough face for a brand that has been satisfying the needs of motorists in this country for decades.

On the Jazz it works particularly well as it gives the burgeoning hatchback a more substantial and grown up feel. In a world of automotive bullies that's not a bad thing lest the aggressors try and force you off the road, which can happen with small cars.

Add a splash of bright yellow paint and the Jazz brightens a dull day with its cheerful and spirited nature.

It may not be the fastest out of the trap but once it is wound up it will happily romp along at the legal

limit while sipping at the fuel. It is quiet and refined and therefore relaxed on longer journeys as well as being a great town tool; don't you just love beepy reverse sensors.

Ride and handling are Honda all over in that they are sophisticated and surefooted. They really do have this area cracked.

Inside, there is plenty of room making Jazz remarkably practical. Seats are comfortable and well placed and the ergonomics are perfect.

Equipment levels are high on the EX as it comes with cruise control and satnav, air-conditioning and trip computer. Touch screen antics are becoming the norm nowadays and the Jazz's work well. Build quality is of the highest order and the clocks and controls nicely arranged.

Jazz used to be a city run-around, a microcar, but has grown into a fully-fledged practical family car.

There is very little it won't do and it comes with the reassurance of Honda's technology and build.

Sharing a striking family resemblance can only extend its already considerable appeal and it isn't the only shock I get when I look in the mirror.

## Fact File

- Honda Jazz
- Engine: 1.3 petrol
- Power: 102PS
- 0-62mph: 11.5 secs
- Top speed: 118mph
- Combined MPG: 55.4
- Transmission: six speed manual
- CO2 g/km: 120

