

# Well worth the Effort

Ian Lamming test drives the Jeep Renegade

**W**HAT a choice. The task is to design the latest model in an iconic range that has forged on and off road since 1941.

The question is do you go radical like the Jeep Cherokee or retro like the Wrangler. It has to look like a Jeep to be a Jeep but the danger is that if you don't do enough you fail to take the brand on.

Renegade successfully melds old and new. So the grille features the familiar seven vertical slots and the headlamps are traditional-round. But the shape is contemporary and there is no doubting this is a new model to be proud of.

It is rounded off in all the right places to give it a modern air and then just as you think the contemporary has won the styling fight you notice the clever rear lights – which ape the shape of Second World War jerry-cans; genius.

Renegade becomes entry level in terms of physical size; it's a manageable SUV that looks just as at home in an urban setting as it does in the country.

Inside, the 'Since 1941' on the steering wheel heralds the authenticity of this pure-bred Jeep.

If you are in any doubt then this is dispelled by the control on the central reservation that tells you this

car will tackle mud, rock, sand and snow with its all wheel drive transmission.

When the conditions are asphalt-only the Renegade is happy to romp along with dynamic and pleasurable responses, superb ride and control and cracking performance from the 2.0 litre diesel.

The motor is strong and refined and good for more than 50mpg. Renegade has long and relaxed legs on tedious motorways, is nippy enough around town but loves the open roads the best with impeccable road manners.

Renegade is not overly large yet feels pleasantly spacious thanks to its panoramic glass roof. The boots also swallows surprisingly large amounts and passengers are offered plenty of space to stretch their limbs.

Most important of all Renegade is happy to be a Jeep, a vehicle that helped win world wars and is a welcome addition to a range that has moved in the right direction.

The task of designing the latest icon might have been a tough one but Renegade proves that it was well worth the effort.

## Fact File

- Jeep Renegade
- Engine: 2.0 diesel
- Power: 140BHP
- 0-62mph: 9.5 secs
- Top speed: 113
- Combined miles per gallon: 55.4
- Transmission: six-speed manual
- CO2 g/km: 134

