

Looking for Inspiration?

Ian Lamming tests the Nissan Pulsar

REMEMBER the Almera? Just? It was a medium-sized hatchback built by Nissan.

It was ok, typical of the class and genre, then Nissan invented lifestyle; what did we do before lifestyle? It is hard to remember.

Almera suddenly became Qashqai, a whole different kettle of fish. It had off-road pretensions but really was more of a pumped up hatchback.

It must have been a good idea because the world followed suit and SUVs took off spectacularly.

Now Nissan has three – the Juke, Qashqai and X-Trail – show offs. But just as you think that's that then, Nissan reinvents the Almera for the 21st century with the Pulsar.

It's a medium sized hatch with a Nissan corporate look and a great interior.

It's a great idea as SUVs aren't for everybody; just look how many Golfs VW still sell.

There's nothing especially stellar about Pulsar but it is solid, reliable and

dependable. It does what it says in the brochure and is smart and contemporary to look at.

The interior is well designed, attractive and functional.

Pulsar is a comfortable ride with a decent boot. Rear space is fine and the seats comfortable on long journeys.

In town it is a breeze to drive and park thanks to rear view camera and beeping warning sounds.

Pulsar has all the new fangled interconnectivity thingies too to keep the younger generations happy.

Power by the 1.2 Dig motor, performance is strong and economy good. It is also refined and rides like a much bigger car. What's not to like?

So if you are in the market for a new car but don't fancy an SUV then as you are looking to the skies for inspiration, the Pulsar might fall into view.

Fact File

Nissan Pulsar
Engine: 1.2 petrol
Power: 115PS
0-62mph: 10.7
Top speed:
118mph
Combined miles
per gallon: 56.5
Transmission: six-
speed manual
Insurance: 10E
CO2 g/km: 117

