

Who's afraid of



the new S-Cross?

Ian Lamming drives the Suzuki S Cross and is left beaming

BE afraid, very afraid, I know I am. Have you seen the gob on the latest Suzuki S-Cross? Talk about aggressive. If you look carefully you can probably see the remnants of the last small child it ate or perhaps a wimple from the bus queue of nuns it devoured. This thing has teeth and is snarling at the world.

Not sure why, really, as a more amiable vehicle you would struggle to find. Old S-Cross was a fine and splendid chap and new is definitely more distinctive without losing all the traits that made the previous model so popular.

Looking tough is probably a good thing as the association is that it will be hard on terrain.

This model features the Allgrip on-demand 4x4 system which is so good you don't actually notice it switching between two and four-wheel drive, it just keeps going straight and steady.

It's impressive but not as impressive as the motor. SZ-T comes with a 1.0 three cylinder Boosterjet engine that is truly phenomenal. Not only does it have superb levels of power for such a titchy motor, it delivers that wallop in a characterful and off-beat way.

It makes it efficient but more importantly it makes the Suzuki charming. It sounds and feels great, pulls like stink and returns 50+ miles per gallon.

Jumping from another SUV straight into the Suzuki instantly highlights just how sharp the S-Cross is. Its steering is taut, reactions swift and brakes powerful. The ride is firm and with bags of grip the S-Cross instantly feels sure-footed and confident and, hence, so does the driver.

You can't help but like the interior too, which is well made, brilliantly appointed and very comfortable. Spec is high and includes the obligatory touch screen and connectivity contraptions. It is spacious with a great ambience and practical to boot.

New S-Cross is not just good, it is brilliant thanks to the super motor and great build.

Don't be scared off by the aggressive grille, it won't bite and I'm sure it's meant to be a welcoming smile.

Fact File

- Suzuki S-Cross
- Engine: 1.0 three-cylinder petrol
- Power: 112PS
- 0-62mph: 12secs
- Top speed: 106mph
- Combined MPG: 53.3
- Transmission: Six-speed manual
- CO2 g/km: 119