

A Digital Delight

Ian Lamming gets in touch with his cyber-self

ANYONE who knows me will fully understand my obsessions with cars, wi-fi and a hot frothy drink featuring coffee and chocolate.

How kind then of Vauxhall to encapsulate all of my passions in one vehicle, the Mokka.

I'll forgive the spelling, my tippie is written mocha of course, as this excellent SUV now comes with the internet.

As long as you are in an area served by 4G, then you can hook up to the internet thanks to electronic gubbins buried somewhere beneath the skin. Now that is great for office-less workers like my good self and even better for the kids.

The boy, like most eight-year-olds, is bodily attached to his iPad, has the attention span of a gnat and is constantly hunting and scouring the world wide web for innocent things of interest – thank heavens for parental controls.

T'internet gizmo allows this and prevents the constant diatribe of 'are we there yet' that generally drives adults to distraction. Nice one Vauxhall, always knew you were family friendly.

OnStar is Vauxhall's latest development in vehicle technology and includes a high-speed 4G LTE mobile wi-fi hotspot for up to seven devices,

emergency response notification and stolen vehicle recovery technology. Smartphone and tablet users are also able to connect their vehicle remotely with the OnStar app, called MyVauxhall, which allows occupants to contact the system, view vehicle diagnostics, remotely lock and unlock the car, locate the car – even honk the horn and flash the lights as well as download destinations to the in-car navigation system. Unbelievable.

Meanwhile, dad can enjoy the car, which in this form comes with a very useful 1.6 litre diesel.

Two things strike me about the engine; firstly it is very economical, which I approve of immensely; secondly, it is a spirited drive, being nippy, with deep mid-range reserves and a smooth top end.

Handling is good too being soft enough to sooth the family but dynamic enough to interest driver.

It's a great holiday car as well as there is plenty of room for people and their paraphernalia but it is still of manageable proportions for narrow, busy country roads.

Mokka really helps me find my inner Romany. I find myself wondering why I shackle myself to bricks, mortar and mortgage when everything I need in life can be housed in an SUV like the Mokka.

Fact File

- Vauxhall Mokka
- Engine: 1.6 diesel
- Power: 110PS
- 0-60mph: 11.7 secs
- Top speed: 111mph
- Combined MPG: 68.9
- Transmission: six speed manual
- CO2 g/km: 109

