

Cutting a Dash

Ian Lamming makes a dash for the VW Tiguan

GENERALLY, or should I say hopefully, something leaps out when you drive a new model and in this case it was right in front of my face.

VW Tiguan has the best dash ever because you can choose what it displays. There are all manner of facts and figures that can be scrolled through at the press of a button, anything from miles per gallon to average speed – yeah, well a lot of cars can do that.

But my favourite was the satnav, complete with colour map that can be switched over from the centre console to squeeze between the clocks.

Now that is clever, and useful, as your eyes have less distance to move, in my case, when I was following directions through a mean and murky Hartlepool, or better still, back home again.

Tiguan has definitely stepped up its game in

the most competitive category of vehicles there is, the SUV.

The result is impressive by any standards as it boasts stunning levels of technology and refinement. Without turning a wheel, you could spend the day in the drive just playing with the Bluetooth, the infotainment centre, the mirrored functions from your smartphone.

New looks improve the package massively too; it is lower, wider, longer, with more space inside for bodies and luggage.

It has a more distinctive, cooler appearance and better proportions – boom in your face competition.

Now VW believes 90 per cent of Tiguan orders will be the 2.0 diesel manual with 4 motion; so I'm I the 1.4 litre TSI two wheel drive, just to be awkward.

That's a direct injection turbo-charged petrol, by the way, so if you are concerned in any way

about particulate pollution you needn't be.

You would not imagine that a 1.4 litre motor is going to be muscly enough to manhandle a large bodied beast but surprisingly it is.

Off the mark, it is positively brisk and there is good mid-range for overtaking.

Staggering levels of refinement make it a smooth operator on the motorway too so it gobbles up long journeys with consummate ease.

Reverse camera is a must nowadays and if you are horsey and tow a box there is also the opportunity to fit the trailer with a GoPro camera and feed live pictures of gee gee onto the 7in screen in the car. Good show.

New Tiguan is a shrinking violet no more and has all the features it needs to leap out of the pack.

*Motor
Madness*

Fact File

- VW Tiguan SE Nav
1.4 TSI ACT 150PS
6-speed manual
- Engine: 1.4 diesel
- Power: 150PS
- 0-62mph: 9.2 secs
- Top speed:
125mph
- Combined MPG:
48.7
- Transmission: six-
speed manual
- CO2 g/km: 132

