

Evolution down to a T

Ian Lamming drives the newly evolved Audi TT

Fact File

Audi TT TFSI

Engine: 2.0 litre

Power: 230PS

0-62mph: 6.0 secs

Top speed: 155mph

Combined miles

per gallon: 47.9

Transmission:

six-speed manual

CO2 g/km: 137

DESIGNERS at Audi love to kid their buying public – just look at the latest TT.

At a glance you would swear the latest model was a subtle evolution, a veritable warming through of a classic hot property.

The same profile prevails and the pronounced wheel-arches are retained. Granted the lights are a bit sleeker, the grille deeper and more menacing. But the overall look stays true to the original design.

At the back there is a spoiler but it doesn't emerge until you have hit 70mph or unless you have raised it manually by pressing a button in the cabin.

Looks-wise TT is more of the same, but when you have a winning formula it would take a brave designer to move away from the iconic.

Don't be fooled. From the outside the new TT looks very similar to the model it replaces, yes, but it's the interior that sees a generational leap...really. Think R8 not TT.

It is gorgeous and the dials in particular are stunning. Information is projected onto a screen and at the press of a button either the speedo and rev counter takes precedence or the satnav. It's brilliant. I've never seen anything like it.

Just to the left, on the centre console, the TT blends traditional round vents with the ultra modern buttons.

In the centre of each of the three vents lies a switch; one does the fan, the second the climate control, the third the re-circulated air. Then, near the door vent, is the switch for the heated seats. It's all so neat and beautifully designed.

The steering wheel is fabulous too; all chunky and flat bottomed and containing useful controls for a multitude of functions.

It all feels very special indeed and so does the way the TT drives.

The intercooled turbo-charged 2.0 TFSI engine pumps out 230PS making it a flier, yet cruising at the limit on the motorway it will return an incredible 45mpg. How can that be?

Steering, ride and grip are peerless – and this is just the 2WD version – the six speed manual box short and slick and the driving dynamics are superb. It really is a tremendous sports car.

TT has always been a fine favourite and rightly so.

The latest model has done everything it needs to in order to secure its place at the top of the evolutionary ladder.

