

# Black is



# Back

Ian Lamming gets colourful about the new Subaru Black

## Fact File

Subaru XV Black  
Engine: 2.0 boxer  
petrol

Power: 150PS

0-62mph: 10.7 secs

Top speed: 116mph

Combined miles per  
gallon: 42.8

Transmission:  
automatic

Insurance: 21

CO2 g/km: 153

**E**VERY day I see ordinary cars, vehicles of no substance, autos devoid of appeal and I wonder what possessed the owners to spend their hard earned cash on such mundane machinery.

Conversely, I see few Subarus, even fewer XVs, which leaves me scratching my head as to why the buying general public ignore the talents of such tremendous vehicles.

The latest XV, the Black, is just that including livery, alloys and windows. The silver bash plates front and aft stand proud and hint of this raised car's off-road prowess. It's an eye-catcher and more than one person approached to seek my counsel.

The interior is dark too and functional rather than flash but it is very comfortable and works extremely well. The dials and controls are simple and easy to use adding to the endearing nature of the car.

This XV is petrol, which might not be the obvious choice when there is an excellent diesel in the camp. But the 2.0 litre petrol boxer is a willing companion, despite being normally aspirated. It is incredibly smooth and peppery, boasts a surprising amount of torque and will approach the 40mpg

mark given a light foot and a bit of care.

But the big plus with the Subaru is how it feels on the road – it's like it goes around corners on rails.

The superb all wheel drive leaves the driver oozing confidence like no other. The levels of grip are astounding, the ride firm but smooth.

Add sharp steering and there can be few cars on our roads that handle as well as the XV and when the surface deteriorates with the weather the Subaru shrugs off the conditions as an irrelevance.

The XV is smaller than a conventional SUV but bigger, higher and more practical than a car. It fills a niche nicely because it is so easy to drive yet enjoyable and accomplished as well.

Just why you don't see many on the roads beats me, particularly in our neck of the rural woods – it could have been designed for the North-East and Yorkshire – but then it is a mad world we inhabit.