

Join the Q



Ian Lamming jumps the Q to drive the latest model from Audi

NOTHING drives me to the keyboard like a ladies' party in the hall, but I'm grateful because I really need to get the Q2 written and it beats watching Ant and Dec.

This new Audi joins the Q, the German manufacture's SUV range. It all started with the Q5 and 7, then shrank a tad to the Q3, so Q2 was always on the cards and there's a 1 in the wings as well.

It's official, the world loves SUVs and they are now the biggest category of the car market knocking the ubiquitous hatchback into a cocked hat.

Not everyone wants a mammoth motor but they still appreciate the benefits of extra space, ride height in particular and greater practicality.

With the Q2 this does not come with any hint of unwieldiness, it's as easy to drive as an A3.

It feels surprisingly taut on the road and I love the sports steering wheel which is skinny on the inside but chunky where it matters, at 10 to two.

All Audis love their drivers and spoil them with precise and sporty dynamics; the Q2 is no different. Ride is perfectly controlled and the steering sharp. This Q2 is only two wheel drive, so don't be too ambitious off the road. Six speed gearbox, light clutch and progressive brakes are all great to use.

Under the bonnet lies a clever 1.4 litre four cylinder petrol engine. It's clever because it manages to hurl 150PS at the road thanks to a turbo-charger and the really smart bit, for economy's sake, is the fact that it drops to two cylinders when the power isn't required. When you need a boost, back they come with a vengeance; Q2 is a swift mover.

Inside is typically Audi, though interior lies more towards the funky end of German design.

There are some great materials, particularly the metal-look finish and ergonomics are sound.

In a break from the current trend the colour monitor isn't touchscreen and requires the use of a mouse-cum-knob mounted on the central transmission tunnel. Not sure why but Audi must have their reasons.

Q2 attracted a lot of interest in the school car park at drop off and does look the most modern and eye-catching of the collection. Test car was red with a silver C-pillar and the front grille and squared off rear light clusters are very now.

The gunk party is still in full flow, as are Ant and Dec, and the words are just about complete. It's at times like these that if the Q2 was still in the drive I'd be happy to be jumping in it for a drive.

Fact File

- Audi Q2 1.4 TFSI
- Engine: 1.4 litre
- Power: 150PS
- 0-62mph: 8.5secs
- Top speed: 132mph
- Combined MPG: 48.7
- Transmission: six-speed manual
- CO2 g/km: 130