

Top Performer

Ian Lamming is dazzled by the new DS3 Performance

THERE'S a clue in the name – Performance.

That's what this particular DS3 is built for, it's the DS3's raison d'être. This is no soft option, no politically correct eco, green, let's never swear or melt the icecaps mobile. It's the antithesis of fluffy kittens and that's why I like it.

I've always liked the look of the DS3 and its visage has stood the test of time, which, let's face it, when it comes to the automotive world, is pretty darn fickle.

Under the sleek bonnet is a snarling, growling, gnashing 1.6 litre petrol turbo that is solid rocket fuel just waiting to be ignited. Light that blue touch paper and retire baby. When you do it reaches the legal limits in the blink of an eye...and no further of course, your honour, unless you are on the track.

But it's more than just top speeds, it's the way all that power is eminently usable in real road conditions making it a very quick car on the

average. It will thrust past slow movers so quickly that the terminal velocity doesn't need to be high. It is all so beautifully controlled like a four-wheel motorbike.

And because it reaches speed so swiftly and so easily there is no need to over rev the motor or use heavy throttle actions. In fact, most of the time, you find yourself cruising along on just a whiff of accelerator. You can tell by the fuel consumption readout on the trip computer which is always in the upper 40s. How weird and wonderful is that? All that poke and economy too.

Performance also pertains to the rest of the dynamics. So shockers are top notch, steering razor sharp, brakes ultra-powerful. As a handling package it is the perfect foil to the glorious engine.

Sporty looks, sporty performance, you guessed it, sporty interior. High bolsters on the sports seats take the body and soul in a

vice-like grip. Clocks and dash are what you would hope for in something this spirited. All good then.

The DS brand is fast becoming another creditable marque for those looking for a car to drive, really drive. Not everyone is in the market for dynamism this splendid; to many a car is just to get from A to B but the DS3 Performance will definitely appeal to those people who love motoring.

Fact File

- DS3 Performance
- Engine: 1.6 turbo
- Power: 208hp
- 0-62mph 6.5 secs
- Top speed: 143mph
- Combined MPG: 52.3
- Transmission: six speed manual
- CO2 g/km: 125

