

Obsessive

Compulsive

Fact File

- Lexus NX300h
Luxury
- Engine: 2.5 litre
petrol/electric
motors
- Power:
153/141BHP
- 0-62mph: 9.2
secs
- Combined miles
per gallon: 54.3
- Transmission:
Electric CVT, all
wheel drive and
E-Four
- CO2 g/km: 121



Desirable

Ian Lamming enjoys the new Lexus NX300h

THINK about it; could you actually build a working car? Me neither.

Millions of bits and pieces from tiny transistors and screws to big lumps of metal and plastic, all working harmoniously, day after day, time after time, mile after mile.

They start, they go, they stop every time we ask them come sun or rain, night or day and in return we take their very being for granted.

Even the cheapest and most affordable are pretty darn impressive so when you move to the top end of the market, such as the Lexus NX, you really should take time to notice and enjoy the difference.

With Lexus they don't come much better and that's because they aren't just made by engineers they are crafted, honed, perfected by masters, each with a minimum of 25 years experience, who are themselves scrutinized, tested and trained to the highest degree.

Yes, they wear white gloves and coats; they even have a Lexus quiet room in which they test each vehicle for the tiniest flaw.

Everything has the feel of precision, from the audio controls to the stitched leatherwork, while

paint so deep you could drown in it is painstakingly wet-sanded by hand to ensure the perfect finish.

Trust me, not many manufacturers do this to this obsessive extent and the difference it makes is astounding.

NX oozes quality from every orifice. It should have been on sale in a jewellers not a car showroom and the feel good factor of driving it rockets off the scale.

NX is an SUV but not just any old SUV it is probably the best looking and most contemporary on the road. Its myriad muscular angles catch and hold the light like a well-cut diamond so it appears to shimmer on the road. It really is a fantastic looking vehicle.

This ultra modern aesthetic extends inside with the dash and centre console matching the radical shape of the deep and aggressive front grille – it's lovely.

It is also cutting edge and hi-fidelity in its construction and dynamics. It has the feel of an upmarket sound system and the swathes of stitched leather give it an unsurpassed beauty.

NX300h is a hybrid so alongside the 2.5 litre

petrol are two electric motors offering impressive performance with great economy and unquestionably green credentials.

Driver and passengers benefit from peerless levels of refinement, exceptional ride and control.

The cabin is an opulent and peaceful place in which to ride. You simply never tire of being there.

Two electric motors power the transmission, one up front with the combustion engine, the other turning the rear wheels, boosting performance and levels of grip. It's a compact SUV that feels incredibly sporty, helped further by the small leather steering wheel. The combination is fabulous.

NX has pretty much everything any driver could desire; fabulous looks, staggering build quality, brilliant driving dynamics and a surprisingly affordable price tag. If ever there was a car that deserved our attention and appreciation it's the NX300h.