

Live life to the



Max

Ian Lamming cuts a dash around town in the new Isuzu D-Max Blade

Fact File

Model: Isuzu D-Max
Blade

Engine: 2.5 litre
diesel

Drivetrain: six-speed
manual

Power: 163PS

Max braked towing
weight: 3,500kg

Top speed: 112mph
0-62mph: -

Miles per gallon
38.2 (combined):
CO2 (g/km): 192

PARKING can be murder, not helped if your motor is a whopping great pick-up.

Yarm is bad at the best of times but it is a virtual impossibility when the shops are busy, which is pretty much all the time.

I've got to have a medical and I can feel my blood pressure soaring as the queue into town inches forward. Then I remember the good thing about pick-ups – you can bung them anywhere and no-one dares query or question your intentions.

I love that about the genre and I particularly enjoy the bruising nature of Isuzu's standard-setting D-Max, in Blade form this time.

A quick signal right and the traffic parts to allow me down the back road to Aislabie. Then pick the first verge I come to, muscle my way on – knowing I have all wheel drive to get off should the beast sink up to the axles – and a brisk, healthy walk to the pharmacists actually drops my BP and pulse rate to impressive levels. Thanks Isuzu.

Had a man in a Porsche look down his nose at me the other day as we embarked upon a Mexican stand-off near the old hall. In deference to his marque I capitulated and reversed to a wider point. I was in a people carrier at the time; it would not have been like that if I had been in the Isuzu, I'm sure.

D-Max breeds contempt but of others not by others. It has such presence, with its modern lines and sheen of build quality. Who would have thought a pick-up could be so good looking. It breeds confidence in the driver because it is so supremely capable on and off the road.

The 2.5 litre twin turbo offers incredible reserves of power and refinement without damaging economy. Blade comes with a six-speed manual and of course low ratio all wheel drive too.

The ride is impressive; none of the bouncing along and tail-happy nature often associated with the breed. It glides up our weathered track with aplomb and is perfectly civilised in town or on the motorway.

The cabin is a delight too, all leather coated and well laid out with great specification, including heated seats and satnav, oodles of space and extreme levels of comfort.

D-Max is big but it's not unwieldy and it's surprising how easy it is to park in the street or the multi-storey. The Blade has a large load bay with concertina cover and tailgate that feels solid while never threatening to snap your wrist like some.

I have loved every D-Max I have driven and the Blade is no exception. It cuts through life's dirt, whether that's literal or metaphorical, and takes the stress out of modern day motoring.