

The devil's in the detail

Ian Lamming becomes a hell-raiser in the new Peugeot 308 estate

Fact File:

Peugeot 308 SW
 FELINE e-THP 130
 Engine: 1.2 litre turbo petrol
 Power: 130BHP
 0-62mph: 10 secs
 Top speed: 127mph
 Combined miles per gallon: 60.1
 Transmission: six speed manual
 CO2 g/km: 115

THE devil lurks in all of us and some cars bring it to the surface more than others.

Peugeot's new 308 estate, the SW, is a surprising hell-raiser. Press the driving mode button and you are literally eye-to-eye with Beelzebub himself. The delightful dash is transformed into some sort of demonic apparition, especially at night. The crimson-lit clocks are even the right evil shape – scary.

The already peppy 1.2 turbo charged engine becomes even more wicked as does the 308's general demeanor. It is more hot-hatch than it is estate car.

New 308 is a bit of a looker and the SW, arguably, is even more attractive.

Peugeot have succeeded in giving it perfect proportions and attractive lines. The estate load bay also makes it incredibly practical.

Inside, things remain appealing with a designer feel and an impressive air of quality. It is smart and comfortable, practical and cool.

Like the hatchback the centre console is dominated by a

touch screen so sophisticated it resembles a tablet; it is tactile, intuitive and easy to use.

The wonderful tiny steering is carried over too offering instant levels of control and feel.

Wide track and a low centre of gravity make the 308 SW a delight on the road, as do a light throttle, clutch and super-slick gearbox.

The SW really is willing and able yet it will return incredible levels of economy with high 50s achievable in the miles per gallon stakes.

The 308 is a surprising package in every way and has the ability to be an angel or a demon depending on your mood.

