

Move into top Gear

Ian Lamming motors into top gear in the Seat Leon ST SE 1.2 TSI

IT MAY seem strange to start assessing the car with its gearbox but in this particular case it transforms a good car into a brilliant one.

Seat's Leon comes with the DSG automatic that, quite simply, is the best on the road. Autos can be a bit pedestrian in how they change but not the DSG, which could have dropped off a friendly F1 car before being bolted into the medium sized estate.

It changes up and down the ratios with such alacrity and unbelievable smoothness, it shows up the opposition by being leagues ahead.

It is also perfectly attuned to road conditions, driver demands and the power characteristics of the equally impressive TFSI motor.

What the DSG does is ensure that, no matter what, you always have the maximum amount of power available for your wants and needs. It is brilliant.

The engine only carries a modest number of cubic centimetres but thanks to injection and a blower manages to turn out useful amounts of wallop and excellent economy.

A great powerplant and transmission demands a fine chassis and there are no worries there either.

Leon boasts sharp responses, superb levels of grip and compliant ride. The sum total of all these important parts is that the ST proves to be a peerless drive, a real motoring delight.

Leon also excels as a daily workhorse. The ST moniker transforms sporty hatchback into smart estate with all the practical benefits that come with a larger load bay.

New Leons come with nifty infotainment units with clever graphics that offer bewildering amounts of information.

The interior is dark, both the trim and fabrics, but it all works supremely well, it's comfortable, it's practical, it's all good and if you want colour, take a look out of the window while you revel in its dynamics, particularly the engine and glorious gearbox.

Fact File

SEAT Leon ST SE
1.2 TSI 110 DGS-
auto

Engine: 1.2

Power: 110PS

0-62mph: 10.1 secs

Top speed:

121mph

Combined miles
per gallon: 58.9

Transmission:

DSG-auto

CO2 g/km: 115

