

# Designed for life

Ian Lamming drives the new Skoda Fabia

## Fact File

Skoda Fabia 1.4

TDI SE

Engine: 1.4 turbo  
diesel

Power: 90PS

0-62mph: 11.1 secs

Top speed: 113mph

Combined miles per  
gallon: 83.1

Transmission: five-  
speed manual

CO2 g/km: 88

THESE are few designers who think of the practicalities of life like those at Skoda.

It's the little things that tell me that the men and women who pen the latest models use their experiences of the every day to good effect.

They obviously have children; why else would they produce a little waste bin for the door pockets, in which the boy can deposit his sweet wrappers instead of flinging them on the floor like he does in my car.

They obviously play with their children and have experienced the sheer annoyance of the boy's ball rolling around in the boot, with the rest of his paraphernalia, as the car pitches around ever turn. Hence there is a natty holder in the boot to keep them all in one place.

They obviously shop and know the irritation of spilled shopping as the car pitches around ever turn on the way home from the supermarket. Hence there are useful cargo nets to keep it all in one place.

They are obviously conscious of the relentless demands on the wallet and purse as Fabia comes with an affordable price tag and negligible running costs.

The 1.4TDI is super-clean with just 88g of CO2 leaking from the exhaust every kilometre; that protects the environment and keeps the tax down to a minimum.

It is also super-frugal, the official miles per gallon figure exceeding 80, which translates in real terms to somewhere in the 60s.

Yet the designers have not missed the fact that people do like to drive and have imbued the Fabia with spirited performance and handling – it's a good little car to chuck around and a lot of fun to drive.

It is also comfortable and relaxed on a long run and peppy around town; it's a good all-rounder.

Designers have taken time to sharpen Fabia's looks with a new smart snozzle and neat rump.

From the side or three quarters front it looks much sharper and contemporary.

Inside is a paradox. From some angles it looks budget then you grip the chunky leather steering wheel and swipe through the touch screen infotainment centre on the dash and change your mind completely.

Again this reflects the true nature of today's automotive life.

