



When the rough gets smooth

by Ian Lamming

SUBARU

- Subaru Forester
- Engine: 2.0 boxer diesel
- Power: 147BHP
- 0-62mph: 10.2 secs
- Top speed: 118mph
- Combined miles per gallon: 49.6
- Transmission: six speed manual
- Insurance: 24
- CO2 g/km: 156

IT'S as if the world has suddenly become angry, or something.

Maybe it's the prospect of global annihilation or global warming or that the world's car designers are just in a bit of a grump.

The result of all this tension is that the latest crop of cars has gone all sharp and pointy moving away from the fluid lines which reflected a calmer more peaceful approach to life.

Subaru's SUV the Forester has followed suit and gone all angular but the new look actually suits it as this type of car is supposed to look like it wants to start a fight and win.

New Forester has

new purpose and its aesthetics reflect its rugged nature. Subaru has built its reputation on being tough, go anywhere and grip anything and this SUV is no exception.

The very first model was a pumped up estate car but is has grown over the years to be a fully-fledged SUV – and is all the better for it.

Its large proportions give driver and occupants much welcomed space and the cabin is blessed with an airiness than makes being aboard the good ship Forester a delightful experience.

The boot is whopping too – you should have seen how many logs the Forester swallowed for our

kitchen burner.

Driver gets typically understated clocks, dials and switches, a kind of minimalism that is appreciated by owners of such vehicles. It is all there – satnav, hi-fi, climate control – but it is free from fads and errs on the side of function.

There's nothing austere about the cab and it is more than comfortable; those used to the Subaru way will recognize the look.

They will also appreciate the typical Subaru dynamic which continues to focus on two key areas; engine and transmission.

The two litre turbo diesel is turbine smooth and powerful.

It will lug, it will

spin and it is more than capable of 50+ miles per gallon which is simply superb in this day and age of exorbitant fuel prices.

The power flows seamlessly through the six speed gearbox and into Subaru's peerless all wheel drive system. It is a fabulous arrangement and few cars feel so utterly planted to terra firma as this one.

Being a full blown

SUV also gives Forester the much-needed raised ride height allowing you to skim the floodwaters that seem to blight our roads or venture off-piste into the rough.

New Forester may have gone all tough and angular but the transition into the Subaru range will be as smooth as ever.

