

VOLVO LAUNCHES THE WORLD'S FIRST LARGE PREMIUM EXECUTIVE CARS UNDER 120 G/KM - THE NEW 119 G/KM DRIVE VERSIONS OF THE VOLVO S80 AND V70



Emitting as low as 119 g/km of CO2
Up to 62.8 miles per gallon
Both cars fall into Vehicle Excise Duty Band C costing motorists only £35 per year
Volvo Car UK has revealed 119g/km DRIVE versions of its S80 executive saloon and V70 premium estate, the fourth and fifth body style it's launched delivering CO2 emissions below 120 g/km.
Delivering 109bhp and 240Nm of torque, the modified 1.6 litre turbocharged diesel engine provides improved fuel economy by 5.1mpg to 62.8mpg on the Combined Cycle, increasing both cars' range to nearly 1100 miles.
Both cars fall into Vehicle Excise Duty Band C - costing motorists just £35 per year - and Volvo estimates the new 119g/km engine reduces annual carbon emissions by 150kg over the S80 and V70 DRIVE's previous low of 129g/km.
Volvo believes the two new cars offer the best environmental performance in their respective classes. Both cars provide lower Benefit-in-Kind tax bills for company motorists and fuel savings - 60 litres per annum - equivalent to receiving a free tank of fuel each year.

Like all DRIVE models, drivers do not have to compromise on high levels of comfort and specification with both models being available to order in SE, SE Premium, SE Lux and SE Lux Premium trim levels.

Volvo has employed two main techniques to reduce CO2 emissions further on both cars.

Intelligent battery recharging ensures that the car's control system only allows the alternator to charge the battery when the engine is operating at low load, for instance when driving downhill. In addition the belt that drives the alternator and air conditioning compressor benefits from reduced friction helping lower fuel consumption and emissions.

"There has been a swift pace of development since the launch of our first 119-gramme models in Paris in autumn 2008. Now that we have brought two of the larger models in below the magical 120 g/km limit, few of our competitors can now match us when it comes to offering customers an extensive range of low emission cars," says Volvo Cars President and CEO Stephen Odell.

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OFFICIAL FUEL ECONOMY FIGURES FOR THE XK 2010 RANGE: MPG (L/100KM): URBAN 14.9-16.5 MPG (18.9-17.1), EXTRA URBAN 33.0-35.3 MPG (8.6-8.0), COMBINED 23-25.2 MPG (12.3-11.2), CO2 EMISSIONS 292-264 G/KM.

MODEL SHOWN: XK 5.0 LITRE V8 COUPÉ FROM £61,955 OTR. *TYPICAL 5.9% APR JAGUAR PRIVILEGE AVAILABLE ON NEW XK MODELS REGISTERED BETWEEN 1ST JANUARY AND 31ST MARCH 2010. FURTHER CHARGES MAY BE MADE SUBJECT TO THE CONDITION OF THE VEHICLE, IF THE VEHICLE IS RETURNED AT THE END OF THE FINANCE AGREEMENT. PROMOTIONS ARE NOT AVAILABLE FOR USED CARS. FINANCE SUBJECT TO STATUS. GUARANTEES/INDEMNITIES MAY BE REQUIRED. JAGUAR CARS FINANCE, PO BOX 108, LEEDS LS27 0WU. †ON THE ROAD PRICE IS MANUFACTURER'S RECOMMENDED RETAIL PRICE.

Fiat Punto Evo Range THE NATURAL SELECTION?

By Steve Walker

Fiat's naming strategy where its Punto supermini is concerned can be less than transparent. We'd just got used to calling the car the Grande Punto under the Italian marque's insistence. Now, following a reasonably thorough facelift, we're expected to drop that and refer to it as the Punto Evo. The Grande Punto continues as a budget alternative to the Evo, so it's not as Grande as it once was.

The contents of the Punto Evo's engine bay could be its strongest suit. The powerplants are compact but the range-topping units make up for any lack of capacity with some cutting edge technology. The 1.2-litre and 1.4-litre 8-valve petrol engines are reasonably solid and contribute to the Punto Evo's attractive upfront pricing.

The 1.4-litre MultiAir engine is a highlight of the Punto Evo range. It's available in 105bhp guise or with 135bhp thanks to the addition of a turbocharger. The clever bit is the MultiAir's electrohydraulic valve management system that will sound like gobbledegook to most but works to optimise the amounts of air entering the combustion system by controlling the engine intake valves independently of the throttle. The result is improvements in things that motorists tend to like - performance, economy and refinement.

On the diesel side, there's more innovation

in the shape of the second generation of Fiat's ever-popular 1.3-litre Multijet diesel. Available in 75bhp and 95bhp guises, this compact common-rail diesel engine is a perfect fit in a small car like the Punto Evo. A finely controlled combustion process produces high levels of economy and plenty of torque. The 95bhp engine, which features a variable geometry turbocharger, can cover the 0-62mph sprint in 11.7s. If you want more pace than that, there's the 1.6-litre Multijet diesel with 120bhp and a 9.7-second 0-62mph time.

The clean, classy looks of the Grande Punto were a definite strongpoint: whether Fiat has managed to retain this with the Punto Evo is something you'll need to decide for yourself. Certainly, the latest look packs in a shade more aggression, with the indicators relocated outside the main headlight clusters and the grille dropped lower down the nose, but the effect is fussier than before.

Inside, this car makes a far more obvious step forward. The quality of the plastics and fabrics used is very impressive and the two tone colour schemes on the plusher models work well. The dashboard is sculpted around its consoles and air vents with chrome and gloss black inserts adding to the upmarket ambience.



FACTS AT A GLANCE

CAR: Fiat Punto Evo
PRICES: £10,995-£15,995 - on the road
INSURANCE GROUPS: 2-12 [est]
CO2 EMISSIONS: 110-134g/km

PERFORMANCE:
[1.4 MultiAir 105] 0-60mph 10.8s / Max Speed 116mph

FUEL CONSUMPTION:
[1.4 MultiAir 105] (combined) 50mpg

STANDARD SAFETY FEATURES:
Twin front, side and curtain airbags,
driver's knee airbag / ABS with EBD

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FACTS AT A GLANCE: INSURANCE GROUPS: 2-12 (est) CO2 EMISSIONS: 110-134g/km PERFORMANCE: (1.4 MultiAir 105) 0-60mph 10.8s / Max Speed 116mph FUEL CONSUMPTION: (1.4 MultiAir 105) (combined) 50mpg
STANDARD SAFETY FEATURES: Twin front, side and curtain airbags, driver's knee airbag / ABS with EBD WILL IT FIT IN YOUR GARAGE?: Length/Width/Height 4060/1687/1490mm