

## → First Drive



# Packed full of fun

**One of my first cars was a Fiesta and I have been eagerly awaiting the launch of the new model so I was more than happy to test drive this car for Sleaford Ford.**

I was intrigued as to what Ford would do with the Fiesta since the new Ka+ had bridged a gap in the smaller car market and there was definitely room for the Fiesta to up its game.

First impressions are good.

This small car sits well, it is slightly taller than the older Fiestas and the 16" alloys give the impression of a sturdy car.

I love the new Ford styling on the front of the cars and the chunky grill is well balanced and aesthetically pleasing.

I like the way the front fog lights nestle under and to the side of the grill and the overall shape this gives the front end.

I drove a five door model but if it's a sporty look you want, the three door examples will fit the bill.

Driving LED lights are activated as soon as the car is unlocked and they look great.

I drove a 1.0 Ecoboost model and I was impressed at how quick off the mark it is at traffic lights and junctions.

I am no traffic light grand prix type of driver, but I do like to get away.

The smaller petrol engine is responsive. Apparently the maximum speed of this particular model is 113mph with a 0-62 of 10.5 seconds.

I was most impressed with the 6th gear which I wasn't expecting to have the option of.

I found that when coupled with the cruise control, the fuel economy for me was a big plus point.

The 8" multi function screen is remarkable easy to navigate and use.

Immediately the navigation screen has located where you are and is ready to direct you.

I was impressed with how when I set to navigate simply to 'Sleaford Ford' with no other information or postcode, the directions were available within seconds, this is thanks to Ford SYNC 3 Navigation.

This model comes with some truly intuitive features which make driving it a

### Fiesta Titanium 1.0 Ecoboost (100ps)

Charlie Bennett, Lincolnshire Media's external media advisor, headed down to Sleaford Ford to put the new Fiesta through its paces

real pleasure.

From things like automatic dimming rearview and auto lights which to be honest, most car drivers have come to expect now, this Fiesta had features that have far surpassed my expectations.

Traffic sign recognition for example is designed to read road signs and display the speed limit on the dashboard.

The auto high beam detects oncoming vehicles and adjusts accordingly.

Included on this car was front and rear parking sensors and a rear view camera.

When in reverse the camera is activated automatically and to be honest at first I found it slightly distracting and didn't think I would use it, but the more I used

it the more useful I found it and now driving my own car, I miss it a bit.

Special mention here now to Advance Auto Park.

One word for this – wow!

I am good at parallel parking, it's not something I've ever really struggled with and I've been in cars before with automatic parking before but it always made me nervous, I don't like the sensation of not feeling in control of the vehicle and I don't particularly like the sensation of being in reverse at any speed.

I had read up in advance before I contemplated using this function and I braved it on a very quiet road.

You drive as normal but activate Auto

Park and the sensors find a space that is big enough for the car to fit in which can be as little as the car length plus 20 per cent.

A message comes on screen to let you know when a space has been found and you are asked to stop the car and select reverse.

I was in full control of the clutch and brake which I loved and the rear view camera showed exactly where I was going, the features together filled me with confidence.

This is a great innovation by Ford and I would definitely use this all this time.

There is a DAB radio with six speakers on this model and the sound is brilliant with little distortion.

However, on the Titanium X there is a B&O PLAY Premium audio system with 360 sound with 10 speakers and a sub-woofer and a digital sound processor.

If sound quality is a priority for you, this is definitely worth a test drive.

I must say this engine is particularly quiet and so this adds to the sound experience.

When using the Bluetooth connectivity

to make phone calls the line was clear.

I am told that I usually sound like I am 'going through a tunnel' or that there is a slight echo but none of that was an issue in the Fiesta.

From the driver's seat the multi function screen, the traffic sign recognition, cruise control, automatic lights and wipers etc all make for an easy drive.

The controls on the steering wheel are well placed and well thought out.

A plus point from my point of view as a mum was the amount of storage readily available.

The centre console with armrest was both comfortable but practical, there is also a 12v power point hidden away in there.

When travelling with kids, there would be no problem getting a pushchair and a grocery shop in the boot.

I managed to get a 6ft man in there and apparently he was comfortable.

He also did a space test in the back seat and had ample leg room and about a 3" gap between his head and the roof of the car so could travel without complaining for a lengthy journey.

When I was handed the keys, my immediate reaction was 'there's no key!' as in there is nothing to put in the ignition.

Although not a true keyless model in as much as you need the key to lock and unlock, as long as you have the key on your person the push button start/stop will work.

I've spoken to people who have driven using power starter buttons for months and love it.

For me, it took a lot of getting used to. I kept automatically going to the ignition barrel and I found myself frequently checking I had the key.

I think the longer you use something like this the more you like it.

A bit like the rearview camera I was hoping I would warm to it and although it wasn't a hindrance in anyway, I haven't fallen in love with that feature. Yet.

Would I consider buying one? Yes.

Would I recommend it to family/friends? Definitely.

