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Motoring New Car Road Test

The new Peugeot 2008 brings style

The Peugeot 2008 looks great, but can it back it up with a great driving experience? **Darren Cassey** finds out

IT wasn't that long ago that the very concept of the 2008 would raise a few eyebrows. Peugeot no longer accepts its place in the mainstream, instead straddling a position somewhere between its traditional rivals and more premium manufacturers.

If you've spent any time around the French manufacturer's cars recently you'll know it's perfectly capable of mixing it with the big names, with stylish cars and high-quality interiors mixed with genuine character. This cool-looking small SUV is up against some brilliant rivals, though,

What's new?

For Peugeot, the key selling point is the 'choose your powertrain' ethos, so there's the usual petrol and diesel options, but also an electric version with an impressive

It's built on the firm's newest vehicle platform called Common Modular Platform, which gives it more space than before, helped by the fact it's 14cm longer.

It also gets the usual funky Peugeot styling, the 3D i-Cockpit, and plenty of driving assistance technology.

What's under the bonnet?

There are three petrol engines offered, speed manual, the top GT version getting looking like copies of each other, the Peu-irritating. an eight-speed automatic, and the middle geot truly stands out with its combination having a choice of both gearboxes. The sole of muscular fenders, sharp edges and in-

PureTech petrol making 129bhp. It's not lights the stand-out feature, while the low comes very well-equipped, and looks fan-the most inspiring unit, but it feels like centre section of bonnet and higher edges tastic with its extra styling touches. Stand-attention. Yes, top-spec models are priced the pick of the bunch because the engine give a butch attitude to go with the chic ard equipment on this trim includes extento to compete with the likes of the Audi Q2, is responsive without impacting on fuel details. Meanwhile, the rear lights follow sive safety kit, the 3D instrument display, but it's much more interesting and bigger,

What's it like to drive?

Fortunately, it's not style over substance,



■The new model gets the usual funky Peugeot styling

to drive wherever you live.

The gearbox is great, too. While manuals are slowly dying out, it's good to see great to use too, but style has definitely for full leather upholstery (though this The gearbox is great, too. While manto providing a good system for those who want to shift themselves.

ample, the quick navigation buttons are an odd touch-sensitive symbol above the

How does it look?

The front end has a striking headlight Our car had the middle-spec 1.2-Litre design, with the 'three-claw' running the claw theme and make the car look experiorated leather steering wheel, DAB ratioo, so feels like good value tra-wide as part of a full-width bar.

What's it like inside?

because out on the road the 2008 is great to
The style continues inside, too. While



■ The engine is responsive without impacting on fuel economy too much

One great aspect for those considering the EV is that the 360-litre boot is the same meaning that despite the fact it's an SUV is these days, Peugeot is committed to optional extras, with the £300 adaptive across all powertrains, meaning the EV it's easy to drive in urban areas – ideal for having something with a bit more charac-cruise control feeling like a good value doesn't lose practicality because the bat- the school run. However, it remains com- ter. As such, there are funky lines, wedg- upgrade, as does the £750 panoramic roof. teries don't eat into the boot space, unlike posed on twisty country lanes so it's good es and curves that means no surface is However, £200 for blind spot monitoring

that some manufacturers are committed affected functionality in the cabin. For exdoes also add a massage function) an odd touch-sensitive symbol above the stereo system, which is surprisingly reatoggle switches, and they provide no feedback, so they feel odd to touch but don't let you know that they've been activated. Meanwhile, the small wheel still blocks Styling is the 2008's real draw. While the view of the digital cockpit for most with the entry-level option getting a six- many cars in this segment are guilty of driving positions, which quickly becomes

What's the spec like?

Priced from £26,580, our GT Line model dio with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, and full LED headlights.

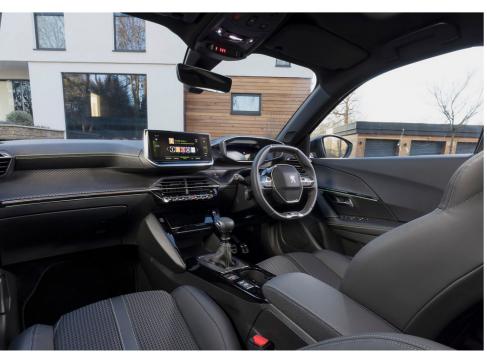
is a little disappointing given the starting

Music fans should opt for the upgraded

If you're looking for a family SUV that's a bit more interesting than most of the near-identical models on the market, you'll no doubt be swayed by the brilliant styling of the 2008 - inside and out.

The fact it backs it up with a great driving experience and decent practicality

If you can get past the interior quirks, there's very little to disappoint



■The styling continues inside with funky lines, wedges and curves

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and character to the SUV segment



■The rear lights follow the claw theme and make the car look extra wide