

Motoring

By Tim Saunders

Patience and understanding are required when driving the Lexus UX 250.

As an impatient, approaching middle aged man... I struggle with this especially when faced with the following issues:

1. When on a slope it rolls forward after the park function and the handbrake are applied – thank goodness I park it some distance from my house
2. It takes far too long to engage drive and get the vehicle moving
3. The rear seatbelt sensors repeatedly sound an ear-piercing bleep when my children's car seats are unoccupied
4. There's not enough space for three car seats to fit as they should in the rear; one of them sits awkwardly at an angle

Combine these factors with a Friday night when I'm late night shopping these days (not clubbing or going to the pub any longer). And more tired than usual I feel very justified in being really quite fed up. It shouldn't be the case when I'm driving a car valued at nearly £40,000.

Not only do the rear seatbelt sensors deafen me on my trip to the supermarket, giving me an uncomfortable headache – and I don't usually suffer from these – it then does it on the return journey, too. I swipe an angry arm into the rear to try and move the offending car seats to see if this will help but of course it doesn't. What am I meant to do? Remove my three children's car seats every time they aren't in them? Having had time to simmer down, I realise that the sensors think that the car seats are passengers that should be strapped in.

Rather than promoting safety this ear-piercing repetitive beeping results in erratic driving to either get to the destination or to pull over to try to stop the damn problem. There are

Tim Saunders is an advanced motorist and journalist. He has always been passionate about motoring and regularly reviews cars from the leading manufacturers. His first report on a BMW 520i was published in the Dorset Echo when he was 17 (just after passing his driving test) in 1995. He went on to become business and motoring editor at the Bournemouth Echo.



some good aspects though. For instance, while I don't warm to the exterior, parts of which remind me of American cars of the '80s, the interior is luxurious. We all love the high quality of the cream leather upholstery and the comfortable seats. "I like the feel of the armrests," says wife, Caroline. "The centre armrest is ingenious in the way it lifts and unique, I think."

But these positives are then soon forgotten when trying to operate the overly complicated sat nav, which takes a long time for my wife to get used to – I haven't got the patience. The controls for the radio are interesting but again irritate me immensely as does the positioning of some of the other buttons and switches. You'll either love this or loathe it.

We are able to travel in EV (electric vehicle) mode while driving down the road where we live at 9mph but any faster and it clicks over to petrol.

BREWERS GARAGE LTD

Western Ways Yard, Bristol Road, Sherborne, Dorset DT9 4HR

- DIAGNOSTICS
- MOT
- SERVICING
- REPAIRS
- AIR CON SERVICING
- TYRES

Call us on **01935 812720**



Facts at a glance Lexus UX 250 with Premium Plus Pack (Terrane Khaki)

Price: From £39,105

Engine: 2-litre petrol

Top speed: 110mph

0-60mph: 8.5secs

Power: 176bhp

Economy: averaging 46mpg