

WILL THIS VW BE YOUR BFF?

By *Tim Saunders,*
Motoring Correspondent

I sit inside the VW Tiguan where even the heating is operated through swiping. Save me. You have to be precise with this stuff otherwise it just won't work. This is a problem when driving because you really have to focus on this rather than devoting 100 per cent attention to the road. And that is not good. My wife has to deal with it for me. There is such a thing as driving without due care and attention, you know.

In Hampshire alone, deaths caused by drivers using mobile phones include a school crossing patrol and a cyclist, the latter happened to be one of my wife's students. We could all do well to remember that cars are killing machines. The more basic the vehicle the better it is, I believe.

Inside the nearly £33,000 Tiguan, I curse how technology continues to take us all over while Ken Dodd sings 'Happiness, oh happiness'. It's the first time I've actually listened to this song all the way through; I really should have done that before I spoke to him a few years ago. I smile. How true, that success in life should be measured by happiness instead of money.

There are some good things about this sports utility vehicle. The wheel base is wide enough to evade the irritating speed humps on some of the local roads. The raised height is helpful and it's an attractive car

from the outside helped by the chrome-edged windows although this doesn't quite match up on the passenger side. There's a large panoramic glass sunroof; the roof slides open above the front seats and this roof is similar to the one in the £201,000 Bentley Flying Spur.

The 7-speed DSG automatic can be driven like a manual, thanks to paddle shifts either side of the steering wheel. But for me this isn't comparable to a traditional manual; it's lazy driving that takes away the fun of making those gear changes.

This 1.5-litre VW returns 42mpg over the course of the test. The Tiguan's number plate ends in BFF. Best Friend Forever my daughters reliably inform me. No, unfortunately it is not for me.

When all is said and done, I struggle with being told that we must behave in a certain way and then discover that few are actually doing so. This goes for both Covid and the environment. There are petrol engines that are really efficient and surely these are the ones that should be being used in cars now. If it is not possible to have both performance and efficiency then surely manufacturers must make the right choice.

'I like this car,' pipes up Harriett (10). 'It's comfortable. I like the fact that there are five seats and it looks nice.' That's me told.

Founder and editor of 'Travel & motoring magazine', Tim Saunders is an advanced motorist and journalist. He has always been passionate about motoring and regularly reviews cars from the leading manufacturers.



FACTS AT A GLANCE

Volkswagen Tiguan R-Line

Price: £32,825

0 to 60mph: 9.2secs

Economy: over 42mpg

CO2: 165g/km

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Power: 150bhp

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