

Ford Mustang

A presence that's hard to ignore



The Ford Mustang is presented with a 5.0-litre V8 block, or a fuel-efficient 2.3-litre EcoBoost engine. The 5.0-litre fastback with six-speed manual transmission does the zero to 62mph sprint in 4.8sec – quicker than any Ford coupé in Europe since the limited Ford GT supercar came out over ten years ago. The Ford Mustang 2.3-litre EcoBoost fastback manual does the 0-62mph time in 5.8sec.

You can enhance the Mustang's performance to suit your frame of mind

using selectable drive modes. And, away from the public highway, you can use Track Apps to keep an eye on driving performance. These can be controlled via the steering wheel and seen in the instrument panel. They include accelerometer, acceleration timer and brake performance, which assess braking time and distance from a set speed.

But what's out of the ordinary is the Launch Control system, offered on the 5.0-litre manual model. It keeps the engine at a pre-set value between

3,000rpm and 4,500rpm with the accelerator pressed into the carpet. When the clutch is released, torque delivery to the rear wheels is harnessed for greatest traction and unflinching standing starts. The V8 Mustang is wicked off the line. Its muscle welds the back of your head to your headrest, and it's all complemented with a tremendous musical engine note.

Equally exhilarating, is the electronic Line Lock system, also available for the 5.0-litre V8. It applies only the front



brakes, permitting you to 'heat up' the rear tyres. In other words, if you want to burn rubber quickly – this gadgetry is for you. We tried it on test and we felt a bit loutish leaving black marks on our beautiful British bitumen. That said; it was an incredible experience!

But the Ford isn't just rapid in a straight line; the ride and handling are a revelation. A decent chassis and advanced technology help optimise driving dynamics to deliver the kind

of sporty event you'd expect to have behind the wheel of a Mustang.

The Mustang is available in fastback and convertible bodystyles with six-speed manual and automatic transmissions, and features classic design elements including three-dimensional tri-bar taillamps, a trapezoidal grille and a shark-bite front fascia.

We've already starting to save up. We need one – and it has to be the Fastback 5.0 litre V8.

FAST FACTS

Fastback 5.0 litre V8 GT Manual

Max speed: 155 mph

0-62 mph: 4.8 secs

Combined mpg: 20.9

Engine: 4951cc 8-cylinder 32 valve petrol

Max. power (PS): 416

CO2: 299 g/km

Price: £38,095