

New generation JCW Mini



Let's face it; the MINI is cool. It holds an iconic status – and a lot of that is down to fashion and film, with *The Italian Job* being one of the most memorable movies of all time.



Indeed, if you want a speedy MINI, there's one name that stands out: Cooper. These have been with us since the 1960s, but nothing comes close to the latest generation John Cooper Works (JCW) version.

The BMW owned JCW performance-brand has produced the most focused and hard-core versions of the legendary car. And now there's a spanking new model with some serious clout under the bonnet.

The very latest generation MINI John Cooper Works is the most potent production MINI ever known. It has a 2.0-litre four-cylinder turbocharged engine crammed into it, but extensive internal tampering has upped power from 189bhp to 228bhp. That's a 20bhp hike over the outgoing car and, as a recent road test on Lincolns A and B roads proves to yours truly, a more exhilarating ride would be hard to find.

On the outside, the MINI is certainly one of the most attention-grabbing models to come from the Oxford-

oriented brand. A crowd of vents, beefy arches and a sports exhaust that guarantees you won't go muddling up your Minis .

The cabin of the JCW is an event in itself. A mix of Alcantara and leather bucket seats look and feel great and you've just got to try the ambient lighting which illuminates the dash and door trims in a choice of colours, or can be set to meld between the various colours.

A quick flick of the pulsating starter button brings the slumbering beast awake with a snarl and, on the move, the new MINI feels every bit as quick as the figures suggest.

The performance boost is immediately noticeable, with those extra horses providing fantastic low-down pull. But, it's not all about power as the JCW Mini has three settings: sport (which we love) standard (which, as you'd expect, is less dramatic) and green (presumably, for when you're guilt tripping about the ozone layer)

The six-speed dual-clutch Powershift auto in our test car is loads more efficient - emitting 133g/km of CO2 as opposed to the manual's 155g/km. And, if you leave it in auto shifts are smooth as silk, but manual mode gives you full control and it will run to the red line if you get lazy changing cogs. Upshifts are mega-quick and the exhaust will get very vocal. Even if you find yourself out of gear, the ever-present groundswell of torque can cover up any driver boo-boos, with 50-75mph in fifth gear taking just 5.6 seconds.

Performance wise the 0 - 60mph sprint of 6 seconds, and top speed of 153mph, meaning the JCW is the briskest MINI ever.

All considered, yes the MINI JCW is an outstanding drive, but it isn't as loutish as its performance might imply. It's just utterly exciting and, if you ease off, it's more than comfortable enough for every day use.

*Test car courtesy of Soper of Lincoln,
Telephone: 01522 688889.*