

Test Drive

Written by Tim Taranson

Mean Machine: BMW Mini Cooper Clubman

Having been a Motor sport Photographer for over 20 years I have had the privilege to meet many of its stars including John Cooper whose name was used for the original Mini Cooper.



When the new BMW Mini Cooper S came out I was so impressed I bought one. That car is now four years old and I am ready for a change so when Stratstone offered me a new Mini Cooper Clubman to try for two days how could I refuse.

The retro look of the Clubman won't be to everyone's taste but I love its individuality. Inside, it has kept a similar look. On this model the main difference was the Mini navigation system set in the centre of the centrally positioned speedometer, at first a bit off-putting to me but after a short time you do get used to it.

It now starts with a push button, sounds quieter than the old model but the noise is great once you push it over 4000 rpm. The turbo is smooth and progressive and the car feels much faster.

The ride too is a lot smoother which will please most people if not all and even with its longer



wheel base it still retains its sharp handling - you never have a moment of doubt even when you push hard into a corner.

On the practical side the extra space the Clubman offers is a real plus as is the quirky half door to allow better access to the rear seats, although this would be better on the passenger side of the car. Its not a big estate car but if you want a car with individual looks, great handling and a bit of boot space then pound for pound you will have to go a long way to beat the Mini Cooper S Clubman. Will I buy one

Model tested: £24,994

Prices start from: £14,240

Performance: Max speed 139 mph
0 - 62mph 7.6 seconds

Fuel Consumption:

Urban	35.3 mpg
Extra urban	53.3 mpg
Combined	44.8 mpg

For more information contact:

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