

HONDA NSX A legacy from Senna

This month's feature is, I will admit, a bit of self indulgence but as Honda have begun testing an all new NSX I took the opportunity to drive one of the last models.



The NSX is a true sports car and was intended to go head to head with the Ferrari and Porsche of the day. While the late Ayrton Senna was busy driving in the F1 championship he also found the time to work with the design team to try to produce a new force in the world of sports cars the result of which is the Honda NSX.

The car I had for a couple of days was a 2002 face lift model fitted with the 3.2 litre engine which produces 276 BHP. Outside, the main changes to the original are to the front head lights - gone are the old fashioned pop ups replaced by new integrated halogens. The car still looks stunning in spite of its age, the only complaint is the old fashioned steel aerial which protrudes from the rear wing and spoils its lines whenever the stereo is on.

This is a true sports car with a 0-60 time of 5.7 seconds and a top speed of 168 mph. As you climb aboard in to the super soft leather seats you realise just how low this car sits. Inside, the cabin is spacious and well laid out if a little dated. When you fire up the engine it sounds terrific - it is mid mounted and sits right behind you.

One of the great things about the NSX is that for this level of sports car it is easy to drive and just



as comfortable negotiating the traffic in the town centre as it is a eating up a twisting country lane. I opted for the country lanes and with my foot pressed hard down you realise just how quick this car is. The acceleration and road holding are truly awesome, it would take a very brave driver to push this car any where near its limits.

On the practical side the NSX has a sizeable boot, is very reliable and is comparatively inexpensive to run. This is a great car and I still find it hard to believe it sold in such small numbers but maybe this is because some people are more interested in the badge a car wears than its ability!



Honda NSX 3.2 litre

0-60	5.7 secs
Top speed	168 mph
BHP	267
Price when new	£58,000