

Volkswagen BlueMotion
Price: £11,995
Engine: 1.6 TDI
0-60mpg: 58
AE econ: 58.1
Claimed: 58.1
Why? 0-60mpg, broad cabin and imp...

5. NISSAN QASHQAI



WOW! What a Driver Power turnaround... With the help of a substantial facelift last year, the Qashqai has launched itself from mid-table mediocrity to a sought-after top five position. One look at the scorecard, and it's clear the Nissan has cleaned up its act.

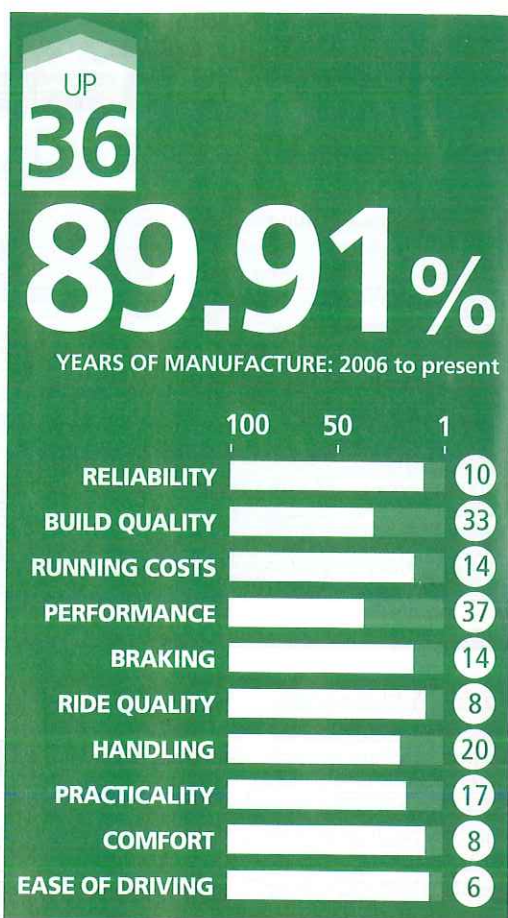
By focusing on the basics, the firm has improved reliability and build quality, and the British-built car is now good enough

to challenge the class best in these categories. Thrifty running costs, great dynamics and near-unbeatable comfort also make the Qashqai a winner.

The concept of a model that merges the benefits of an SUV with MPV practicality and hatchback agility is becoming less radical – and so the Qashqai is getting ever more popular. Well done, Nissan!

Previous

- 2004 (NR)
- 2005 (NR)
- 2006 (NR)
- 2007 (NR)
- 2008 (NR)
- 2009 (56)
- 2010 (41)



4. SKODA OCTAVIA (new)



LADIES and gentleman, we are in the presence of a Driver Power legend! The Skoda Octavia has been on the podium since its arrival at the pinnacle of the Top 100 in 2006. It falls to fourth in 2011, but that's still an excellent result.

We speculated last year about whether 2009's facelift would give the family car the boost it needed to once again challenge

for the number one spot, and if you turn the page, you'll see it hasn't been able to keep up with two of its new stablemates...

Look at the ratings from owners, though, and there is clearly not a lot wrong with this champion. Four category top 10s are proof of the Octavia's engineering integrity. And let's not forget that it undercuts the vast majority of its rivals on price!

Previous

- 2004 (NR)
- 2005 (NR)
- 2006 (2)
- 2007 (1)
- 2008 (1)
- 2009 (3)
- 2010 (3)



1. SKODA SUPERB



Previous

2004

NR

2005

NR

2006

NR

2007

NR

2008

NR

2009

NR

2010

NR

DRIVER POWER
2011
TOP 100
CHAMPION

NOT RATED
2010

92.06%

YEARS OF MANUFACTURE: 2008 to present



TOTAL domination – that’s what Skoda has achieved in Driver Power 2011. Three out of the top four models come from the brand’s range, which is stronger than it has ever been before.

At the top of the pile sits the Superb – part executive saloon, part full-sized family car and part all-round superstar. Thanks to a clever saloon/hatchback bodystyle, it’s incredibly practical – and arguably makes even more sense in classy estate form. Only badge prejudice

prevents the load-carrying model tempting buyers away from premium German rivals.

Take a look at its Driver Power scorecard, and you will see that the Superb lives up its name. While the car doesn’t grab the top spot in any one area, it achieves top 10 finishes in seven of our categories – proof of the all-round brilliance of the package. Owners are slightly critical only of the handling, which is down to the Skoda’s sheer size – and 22nd place in this category really isn’t bad.



“Why I love my Superb”

AS soon as he got behind the wheel on a test drive, David Tanner, of Fareham, Hants, was impressed by the Superb. “A diesel auto was available immediately, so I snapped it up,” he said.

And as with so many owners, David is happy with his choice. “The steering, brakes and handling are brilliant,” he continued. “Plus, the boot is so big and there’s so much rear legroom, it feels like being in a limousine!

“I used to own a VW Passat and Saab 9-5, but neither can match the Skoda for the money.”

COLLECTIVE responsibility is the name of the game in the Driver Power manufacturer chart. Any maker which has invested everything in one model and let the rest of its line-up suffer will be exposed here. To get to the front of the pack in this chart, firms need a range of top-class cars, each offering motoring satisfaction.

We calculate a maker's score by averaging out your ratings for every model in its range. This gives an overview of each company's performance. Even models that didn't

make it into the Top 100 cars are included here to provide the best possible range of results.

As well as counting down from the best to the worst makers, we note each brand's 2010 performance and then spell out its movement up or down the chart.

There are some familiar names at the top of the chart, with Skoda, Lexus and Jaguar still putting in great performances. But while the top three retain their podium positions, it's all change elsewhere. Arguably the biggest

winner is Nissan, which has risen an amazing 14 places. Also celebrating will be Chrysler – now under Fiat ownership – after a nine-place leap.

For every winner, there has to be a loser – and this year it's Land Rover, which suffers a 13-place fall.

Keen-eyed Driver Power fans will notice that we're down to 34 firms this year, instead of the usual 35. This is due to a reduced sample size for Daihatsu – as a result, the marque, which no longer sells cars in the UK, couldn't be included.

Britain's best car brands

We tot up overall scores to name manufacturer winners and losers

As Octavia, Fabia, Superb and Yeti all did so well, Skoda win is no surprise!



1. SKODA

89.01%

THE Czech champions have done it again! Combined ratings for Skoda's unbeatable range have led to an incredible 89.01 per cent average score. This tally covers all the models reported on in the Top 100, old and new, and proves the firm has been making top-quality cars for many years.



4. HYUNDAI

86.34%

CONGRATULATIONS, Hyundai! While the firm lost its unprecedented number one position in the Top 100 this year, it has taken two big steps in the right direction in the manufacturer chart. Its models are highly rated for reliability, performance and practicality.



2. LEXUS

87.07%

ONCE a consistent winner of this chart, Lexus has again had to play second fiddle to Skoda. Retaining second place is still a fantastic achievement for the Japanese manufacturer, which prides itself on quality and reliability. It was also rated first overall in the build category.



5. PORSCHE

85.87%

ANOTHER brand with cause to celebrate is Porsche. Fifth spot is a great result, and a climb of three places on last year. Its cars are rated as having the best brakes and handling of any manufacturer on Britain's roads – but practicality and running costs are among the worst.



3. JAGUAR

86.86%

ANOTHER great result for Jaguar, which has cemented its reputation as one of the finest premium manufacturers around. It's only marginally ahead of the fourth-placed marque, but company bosses will be delighted to learn that their cars have topped the ride quality category.



6. SUBARU

85.52%

A CONSISTENTLY high finisher in the manufacturer ranking, but Subaru has dropped one position in 2011. Still, sixth remains a real achievement – check out the big-name badges it has beaten. It tops the reliability chart, but comes bottom of the pile for running costs.



7. AUDI

85.23%

A BIG cheer for Audi, which has made a significant five-place leap in 2011. While premium rivals Lexus and Jaguar are still ahead, bosses will be pleased to see that Mercedes and BMW are further down the manufacturer chart. Audi models get their highest ratings for build quality.



8. VOLVO

85.22%

ONE of the biggest movers of 2011. Volvo has jumped eight places closer to glory, edging ahead of BMW and Mercedes. Only steep running costs and the numb handling of some of its older models prevented the Swedish company from making even more of an impression.



9. BMW

85.09%

BY the skin of its teeth, BMW has overtaken Mercedes. A mere 0.00002 percentage point difference separated the two! It's the narrowest margin we've ever seen in Driver Power, but it's enough for the blue propeller to swap places with the three-pointed star in the standings.



10. MERCEDES

85.09%

DROPPING below their biggest rival, albeit by a tiny margin, will be a bitter pill for Mercedes bosses to swallow. At least the prestige brand remains in the top 10. Its models are praised for their smooth ride quality and how easy and relaxing they are to drive.



11. NISSAN

85.06%

CHAMPAGNE corks will be popping at Nissan's Sunderland plant – the UK's largest car builder has made the biggest improvement of any manufacturer in Driver Power 2011. It's leapt an amazing 14 places in the chart from a lowly 25th, and is now challenging for the top 10.



12. HONDA

84.97%

A FIVE-place slide is bad enough, but then Honda had to watch one of its arch rivals finish one position ahead! The Japanese firm's range was once a dominant force in our Driver Power surveys, but isn't quite delivering the same all-round brilliance it used to.



13. KIA

84.87%

STILL a long way short of its Hyundai sister brand, but Kia is at least making headway. The Korean company's range earns fourth position for running costs, which is especially impressive when you note its decent eighth position for reliability. Practicality also scores highly.

