

# We Drive the F-Type (Pt 3 of 4 - August 2013)

*By Neville Barlow*

Judy and I were unexpectedly offered a drive in a demonstrator V6S F-Type Jaguar recently. We jumped at the chance at a half hour drive around Auckland, on the motorway and out to Whitford.

Why is this car so important? Because it is a return to when Jaguar made its reputation in the 1950's and 1960's. It is hoped that this sports car will draw people's attention back to Jaguar where they will see the range of vehicles now produced and perhaps buy a Jaguar saloon rather than one from the opposition.

When we sat in the F Type we were immediately at home, being familiar with the modern Jaguar layout.

The cockpit is comfortable and is spacious for both driver and passenger. While you do sit down into the car, there is a big range of seating positions to cover all drivers. The passenger central grab handle is ideally placed for a relaxed holding point for the passenger.



The joystick gear lever is calibrated D N R and P. It is simple to use, and you have flappy paddles and the sport mode type Tiptronic as well. We simply put it into D and pattered out into the Auckland traffic. Nothing special so far but the ECO button is on and the stop start operates at the first lights. So far brilliant.

The first surprise, a heavier foot on the accelerator and the engine really roars to let you know we are about to rocket off.



Steering is sharp, a slight deviation of the steering wheel brings about quite large movement on the road. On the motorway the ride is firm, just as you would expect from a sports car. In this car you will be seen, truckies tooting and waving giving the thumbs up!

A good jab on the accelerator and we nip into a gap across the lanes and out into the country. Like most good cars it needs to be going somewhat north of the speed limit to settle and become really smooth. The astonishing thing is the acceleration from 100kph and beyond, it just keeps blasting away! Accompanying this are the brakes which are phenomenal. We drove only with the hood up and found we could talk without straining

Visibility is excellent especially to the rear. The air vents, which open when you start moving are a feature of the dashboard and the touch screen in Jaguar fashion is excellent. We found the seats possibly the most comfortable we have encountered, that being a factor for us senior folk.

Judy drove back to the dealership and was much more impressed as a driver than a passenger. Her reaction – “it’s a fabulous car”.

The only true negatives we could see are the small luggage space and depending on your stand point the purchase price, especially when loaded with must have extras.

*Neville*