



HELLO, HYUNDAI i20

THE CAR FOR ALL PURPOSES

Say, you've just settled in Europe. Say, you know nothing about cars. And nothing about what car to buy / rent / pick up as company car – the best thing you could do is get a VW Golf. It's like working in a government job in India. The Golf is not exciting, but it's well-built, compact, dynamically sorted, feels premium and retains very strong resale value. And I have always felt the i20 is the VW Golf of India. Using it since the last month has just reinforced that belief.

The i20 has nearly all the features that you'd get in a VW Passat – reversing camera, USB port, Bluetooth, steering-mounted controls, auto-dimming rear-view mirror, automatic headlights, automatic wipers, all-day illuminated instrument cluster, electrically folding side ORVMs all-around and an engine start/stop button.

These are the simple com-

forts that premium sedan makers like Honda, VW, Skoda skimp on in their pretty premium cars. Even Mercedes doesn't offer some of this stuff in the Es. The best thing is that these features don't come at the cost of the chassis. Now, the i20 isn't a driver's car, but it won't wallow about. And it won't go belly up at the sight of the first corner.

Besides, being a hatch, I can park it anywhere, and get anything between 13kpl and 16kpl in the city. Two complaints, though. Hyundai could very well get rid of that engine start/stop button. It's too slow to start, and if you're at a long red light and think of switching off the engine, everything shuts down – radio, Bluetooth music, fan, all of it. And when the light goes green, the car needs at least a couple of seconds to start up. And in the rains, the windscreen base tends to fog up from outside. These two irritants apart, I'm loving the car.

1

ARRIVED
August 2012

SPEC
Asta 1.4 CRDi

PRICE
₹ 8.99akh
(ON-ROD MUMBAI)

MILEAGE
2,000km

TEST KPL
14

WHY IT'S HERE
To see if the i20 is all the car you ever need

WRITTEN BY
Sriram Narayanan

Follow this car on Twitter @TopGearMagazine

1. Very slow to respond. Can we just have the key please?
2. You can connect all sorts of 21st-century stuff here.
3. Stranded in the middle of nowhere? This helps..

HYUNDAI i20 TEST NOTES

GOOD STUFF	BAD STUFF
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Packed with features you won't get in cars worth half a crore ● Info display has lots of useful info, plus two trip meters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Engine start/stop button too slow to start the engine ● Rains tend to fog up windscreen base from outside ● Keyless ignition gets lost inside the cabin