

# 1575-1724kg class winner

Stepping up to the middleweight class brings a wide choice of talented towcars, including 4x4s, estates and people carriers



The boot offers ample space, and the cabin is solidly screwed together. The Tiguan excels as a towcar



## Volkswagen Tiguan

2.0 TDI 140 4Motion Bluemotion Technology SE

List price	£25,985
Target Price	£23,867
Kerbweight	1655kg
85% match	1407kg
Towing limit	2200kg
Towball limit	100kg

THE TIGUAN HAS been revised since we last tested it, and these subtle changes are enough to push it to the top of a competitive class. It's not a car to knock you off your feet, but it gradually wins you over with its all-round appeal.

We wouldn't award the VW class honours if it weren't a great towcar. Straight-line stability proved excellent all the way up to 70mph.

In the lane-change test, the Al-Ko ATC system showed the caravan slipping and sliding behind the Tiguan, but the car stayed under control. There were no nervous moments when the tourer appeared ready to take charge.

Using either the electronic parking brake or the excellent hill-hold function, the Tiguan and van stopped still on the 1-in-6 slope. Thanks to four-wheel drive and strong pull from the 2.0-litre engine, the Tiguan towed easily to the top of the hill.

Strong marks from the practicality team, good fuel economy and healthy resale values make a compelling case for the Tiguan on all fronts.

**We say...**

Towing	★★★★○
Solo	★★★★○
Practicality	★★★★○
Buying & owning	★★★★○
Verdict	★★★★○

A great all-round 4x4 with stable towing and modest running costs.



### Did you know...

**8.4** seconds was the fastest 30-60mph time, and was recorded by the Mercedes-Benz C-Class

### Top used car 1575-1724kg

**Ford Mondeo 2.0 TDCi 163 Titanium**  
**12 months old** £13,900 (approx)  
**24 months old** £12,185 (approx)

The Ford Mondeo has won plenty of awards over the years. Today's car is coming towards the end of its life, so we think it now makes more sense as a used buy. Go for the 2.0 TDCi 163 Titanium and you can expect to pay around £14k for a year-old car. That's the price for the manual, but don't rule out the Powershift auto, which saves you the trouble of changing gears with only a small penalty at the pumps. In a recent Warranty Direct survey, the Mondeo had the lowest claim rate among high-mileage models, so you can buy with confidence. We wouldn't recommend the Mondeo if it didn't tow superbly, with strong performance and reassuring high-speed stability.



7 more cars in this category reviewed on the next pages

1575-1724kg the best of the rest

### Mazda CX-5

2.2D Sport AWD	
List price	£27,195
Target Price	£27,195
Kerbweight	1605kg
85% match	1364kg
Towing limit	2000kg
Towball limit	88kg

OUR MAZDA CX-5 was one of the first in the country, and Mazda rushed to get us the car in time. We're very glad they did.

It's a pleasure to tow with. High-speed stability is a match for any car in this class. In the lane-change test the caravan moved around a lot, but it didn't pull the Mazda off line.

What really separates the CX-5 from its rivals is the engine. With 309lb.ft of torque, it pulls car and caravan from 30-60mph in just



**"The CX-5's high-speed stability is a match for any car in this class"**

12.5 seconds. However, the handbrake needed a very firm pull on the 1-in-6 test hill. Leave the van behind and the CX-5 is agile and good fun, though the ride is on the firm side.

For a mid-sized 4x4, it boasts a cabin that is roomy, and the boot coped with all our luggage. However, Mazda told us none of the available puncture repair provisions are suitable for use

when towing. Further marks were lost by the absence of a trailer stability program.

**We say...**

Towing	★★★★☆
Solo	★★★★☆
Practicality	★★★☆☆
Buying & owning	★★★★☆
Verdict	★★★★☆

The CX-5 is quick and stable, but not as well-rounded as the Tiguan.



The CX-5's good looks continue inside the spacious cabin

### Ford Mondeo Estate

2.0 TDCi 163 Titanium	
List price	£24,545
Target Price	£22,688
Kerbweight	1575kg
85% match	1339kg
Towing limit	2000kg
Towball limit	90kg

LAST YEAR'S CLASS winner slips down to third. It's not that we don't rate the Mondeo – far from it. But with replacement looming, its resale values are unlikely to be healthy, so it isn't a very good investment.

All that aside, the Mondeo still tows brilliantly, with strong performance, reassuring brakes and impressive stability. One or two test drivers felt that the steering was too sensitive for its own good, making it possible to



Everything is where you expect it to be inside the Mondeo's cabin

steer more than intended, but otherwise the Ford is happy at all speeds.

However, this car's handbrake struggled to hold the outfit still on the test hill, which wasn't an issue with the one we'd tested last year. Our practicality team noted that the electrics were a long way under the bumper.

**We say...**

Towing	★★★★☆
Solo	★★★★☆
Practicality	★★★☆☆
Buying & owning	★★★★☆
Verdict	★★★★☆

A fine towcar, but will be replaced. Resale values are a weakness.



### Hyundai i40 Tourer

1.7 CRDi (136PS) Blue Drive Premium	
List price	£24,945
Target Price	£23,397
Kerbweight	1648kg
85% match	1401kg
Towing limit	1800kg
Towball limit	80kg



THERE'S A LOT to like about the i40 Tourer. It may not be as enjoyable to drive solo as a Mondeo, but it is well equipped and tows well.

At speeds up to 60mph, the i40 felt very stable, although some steering correction was needed above this, especially in a crosswind. Through the lane-change test the Hyundai resisted the sliding van quite well.

Don't dismiss the i40 because of its engine's limited capacity: its 30-60mph time of 15.5 seconds is very respectable.

However, the tall first gear forces the engine to work hard to pull over the 1-in-6 slope. In the Hyundai's favour, though, is its electronic parking brake, which reliably prevents the car from rolling backwards.

There was space for all our luggage in the boot and a useful rear-view camera.



The dash is heavily styled but the major controls are easy to find

**We say...**

Towing	★★★★☆
Solo	★★★★☆
Practicality	★★★☆☆
Buying & owning	★★★★☆
Verdict	★★★★☆

Not the sharpest car to drive, but the Hyundai i40 Tourer tows well.



BEST MPV

### Vauxhall Zafira Tourer

2.0 CDTi 16v (165PS) Start/Stop SE	
List price	£25,920
Target Price	£23,290
Kerbweight	1685kg
85% match	1432kg
Towing limit	1450kg
Towball limit	75kg

VAUXHALL'S ZAFIRA TOURER was one of the surprise packages of this year's tests. It had a positive but not overwhelming reception as a solo drive, but it really comes into its own when towing.

The suspension may be over-firm in regular driving, but the pay-off is very good high-speed stability, as shown by impressive

data from the Al-Ko ATC system. At the legal limit and beyond, the Zafira is a relaxing car to tow with. Producing plenty of power and torque, the 2.0-litre engine pulled car and van from 30-60mph in 14.1 seconds. Braking showed the shortest stopping distance in this class. The cabin is practical, if not as clever as a Ford Galaxy's.

**We say...**

Towing	★★★★☆
Solo	★★★☆☆
Practicality	★★★☆☆
Buying & owning	★★★★☆
Verdict	★★★★☆

The Zafira offers stability, strong performance and space for seven.

### Renault Grand Scenic

dCi 130 Stop & Start Dynamique	
Tom Tom	
List price	£22,725
Target Price	£19,375
Kerbweight	1647kg
85% match	Not legal
Towing limit	1300kg
Towball limit	75kg



THE 1300KG LEGAL towing limit is less than an 85% match for the Renault. Its official combined fuel consumption is 64.2mpg, and all the luggage fitted in with five of the seven seats in place. But it was dragged around by the caravan in the lane-change test, and needed steering correction at high speed.

**We say...**

Towing	★★★☆☆
Solo	★★★☆☆
Practicality	★★★☆☆
Buying & owning	★★★★☆
Verdict	★★★☆☆

The towing limit and poor lane-change put this MPV in last place.

### Nissan Qashqai

1.6 dCi n-tec+	
List price	£23,145
Target Price	£21,393
Kerbweight	1641kg
85% match	1395kg
Towing limit	1400kg
Towball limit	75kg

THE QASHQAI'S NEW 1.6-litre diesel promises impressive economy – 62.8mpg according to the official combined figure. It's strong enough for towing duties, too, as the respectable 17-second 30-60mph time shows.

Many rivals made a better fist of the lane-change test. At high speeds, the Nissan was pulled off course by the van. In a straight

### Toyota Avensis 2.0 D-4D TR

List price	£21,790
Target Price	£19,651
Kerbweight	1655kg
85% match	1407kg
Towing limit	1600kg
Towball limit	75kg



THE AVENSIS IS happy at 60mph or more, but in crosswinds it needs steering correction. In the lane-change it was pulled around by the van. It cleared the test hill with plenty of revs, and the electronic parking brake kept the outfit from rolling backwards. The boot took every item of luggage. Resale values are reasonable.

**We say...**

Towing	★★★☆☆
Solo	★★★☆☆
Practicality	★★★☆☆
Buying & owning	★★★★☆
Verdict	★★★☆☆

A sensible saloon to buy and own, but there are better towcars.

line it needed little steering correction, even at 70mph. A firm pull was needed to make sure car and caravan stayed put on the test hill. The Qashqai pulled cleanly to the top of the 1-in-6 slope.

Unfortunately, the Nissan's practicality score isn't as strong. There's not enough space for a full load of luggage and there's no trailer stability program.

**We say...**

Towing	★★★☆☆
Solo	★★★☆☆
Practicality	★★★☆☆
Buying & owning	★★★★☆
Verdict	★★★☆☆

A family hatch that tows well but is held back by its practicality score.



Did you know... the Camping and Caravanning Club has **540,000** adult members

### Test Figures

<b>Volkswagen Tiguan</b> 2.0 TDI 140 4Motion Bluemotion Technology SE	30-60mph <b>18.4 seconds</b>
<b>Mazda CX-5</b> 2.2D Sport AWD	30-60mph <b>12.5 seconds</b>
<b>Ford Mondeo Estate</b> 2.0 TDCi 163 Titanium	30-60mph <b>17.4 seconds</b>
<b>Hyundai i40 Tourer</b> 1.7 CRDi (136PS) Blue Drive Premium	30-60mph <b>15.5 seconds</b>
<b>Vauxhall Zafira Tourer</b> 2.0 CDTi 16v (165PS) Start/Stop SE	30-60mph <b>14.1 seconds</b>
<b>Nissan Qashqai</b> 1.6 dCi n-tec+	30-60mph <b>17 seconds</b>
<b>Toyota Avensis</b> 2.0 D-4D TR	30-60mph <b>18.2 seconds</b>
<b>Renault Grand Scenic</b> dCi 130 Stop & Start Dynamique Tom Tom	30-60mph <b>17.9 seconds</b>

**Test conditions**  
wet damp dry