

Motoring News

June launch for Jazz

Honda's hatchback promises to shake up the B-segment

The Indian small car market is witnessing an unprecedented boom. Volkswagen, Ford and Nissan are busy planning their small cars for India while Honda's first small car, the Jazz, is all set to roll out in the first week of June 2009. The Jazz was introduced internationally in 2001 and is now in its second generation which was displayed in 2007. It was showcased at the last Auto Expo in New Delhi and we have spotted the Jazz being tested around Delhi. The Jazz is built on Honda's global small car platform, which also underpins the City. It is loaded with safety features like ABS, EBD, Emergency Brake Assist (EBA) and G-CON

(Honda's occupant survival cell technology). Expect these technologies to be present in the top end variant including dual airbags. Normally Honda tends to launch cars here with engines carried over from the Thai market. The Jazz is sold with the 1.5-litre i-VTEC engine there, the very engine that does duty in the Indian City. However, the engine coming to India is actually the 1.2-litre i-VTEC similar to the one in the UK market Jazz but optimised for India. The engine will be assembled in India and insiders say the performance is so impressive that South East Asian markets are clamouring for it. The Jazz is under four metres in length thus

qualifying for excise exemption. But with 85PS of power and 114Nm of torque expect the Jazz to stoke the fires of enthusiasts. The Jazz will be launched with a 5-speed manual transmission box but a 5-speed automatic (not a CVT like the previous generation City) is not far. The Jazz will be as spacious as the City minus the boot which again will be the best in class for any Indian small car. Also expect excellent ride and handling, on the lines of the City as well as very mature road manners. With Honda's insistence on quality, performance and light weight engineering there will be some catching up to do for the rest of the class. Honda will build the Jazz at





The 1.2-litre i-VTEC produces 90PS but is likely to be detuned for India

the Greater Noida plant near Delhi. Work at the new plant in Rajasthan has slowed down in light of the slowdown but once volumes pick up production could move there. In any case this new plant will be ready in time for Honda's next small car which will be a size smaller than the Jazz and will take on the likes of the Swift and upcoming Maruti Ritz. Prices of the Jazz will start at Rs 5.5 lakh going up to Rs 7.5 lakh which will mean rough times for the Fabia and i20.



Like every Honda, the Jazz will have well equipped interiors and look funky while providing functionality.

