

## RENAULT TREKKA 1.9 DCI

The little Renault mud-plugger scored poorly, but it is up against some serious opposition, and it is a useful package in a useful niche of its own. The airy interior, cheerily fitted with colourful plastics and bright upholstery, provides comfy and spacious accommodation for a small family, while the overhead lockers provide useful storage for beach or picnic paraphernalia, or to keep more valuable items out of the general jumble of luggage in the boot. The 1.9-litre turbodiesel, a modern common-rail design, has not been tuned for power, but it's reasonably refined and economical,



### SPECIFICATIONS

Price:	£11,995
Engine cc/bhp:	1900/80
Transmission:	5-speed manual, auto-engaging 4WD

### RATINGS (0-10)

Comfort:	6
Refinement:	4
Off-road:	3
Value:	6
Style:	4
TOTAL:	23

**WE LIKED:** Overhead storage  
**WE DISLIKED:** Soft clutch

promising near-40mpg consumption. The generally excellent practicality of this runabout doesn't extend too far off the tarmac because although the auto-engaging system is effective poor ground clearance and mediocre low-rev torque seriously limit the Trekkia's slippery-surface progress.

## SKODA OCTAVIA 1.8 TURBO ELEGANCE

This Skoda is no laughing matter unless, that is, you try to take it off road, because this well-equipped and well-priced Czech is no mud-plugger. The Haldex-clutched auto-engaging four-wheel-drive system gives it excellent traction on dirt tracks, but the sportily-low-slung Skoda does not have the ground clearance to tackle anything but tracks. It is far more at home on tarmac, where the four-wheel drive plays an important part in taming understeer, allowing the enthusiast driver to enjoy heightened cornering grip and traction from the turbocharged 1.8-



### SPECIFICATIONS

Price:	£16,200
Engine cc/bhp:	1781/150
Transmission:	5-speed manual, auto-engaging 4WD

### RATINGS (0-10)

Comfort:	7
Refinement:	6
Off-road:	1
Value:	6
Style:	5
TOTAL:	25

**WE LIKED:** Racy performance  
**WE DISLIKED:** bland interior

litre 20-valve VW engine, but even then this 150-horse variant is not the version to settle for. The Laurent and Klement hatch at just £16,000 or vRS estate at £15,800, have a much more worthy 180 horses on tap, a level of power that really does put the four-wheel drive to work.