



MITSUBISHI L200 4LIFE

Image and attention to detail in providing a superb range of tailored accessories are key to this fun car's success, but although it's quite quick it doesn't excite in as much as the more refined Ford or the truly gutsy Nissan. There's a touch of cheap and cheerful in the plastics used for the dash, but otherwise the interior is smart, with the expected high-level of equipment including air conditioning and dual airbags. The cabin accommodates five in comfort, and being longer than other pick-ups it also has a long loadbay, so the Mitsubishi's practicality is high. Poor low-speed torque delivery hampers the L200 in



SPECIFICATIONS

Price:	£18,174
Engine cc/bhp:	2477/113
Transmission:	5-speed manual, selectable 4WD, dual range

RATINGS (0-10)

Comfort:	7
Refinement:	6
Off-road:	5
Value:	7
Style:	8
TOTAL:	33

WE LIKED:
Good accessories and young image
WE DISLIKED:
Dull off-road performance

delicate off-road situations, as does the fairly stiff suspension, which limits its axle articulation. However, the Mitsubishi handles well on the highway, where the crisp cornering behaviour outweighs a general lack of ride and mechanical refinement.

TOYOTA HILUX 2.4 D-4D VX DOUBLE CAB

It's hard not to like the Hilux because its heritage is strong in the world of tough pick-up-style off-road recreation, but its latest form is too city slicker – oversoft styling and a lack of poke from an engine which, though an efficient and refined common-rail, provides only adequate performance. Splashes of chrome on bumpers, grille and rear view mirrors do little to enhance the off-road image, and the lack of axle articulation and unimpressive ground clearance makes it much more at home on tarmac. This comes as no surprise though a proper rear axle diff lock is included. Equipment is good



SPECIFICATIONS

Price:	£21,267
Engine cc/bhp:	2446/89
Transmission:	5-speed manual, selectable 4WD, dual range

RATINGS (0-10)

Comfort:	6
Refinement:	4
Off-road:	5
Value:	7
Style:	6
TOTAL:	28

WE LIKED:
Good roadholding
WE DISLIKED:
No off-road character

all double cab versions feature air conditioning, central locking and CD player, the VX sports smart alloys as well, but it's not cheap. The colourfully-upholstered cabin is a roomy five-seater, meaning the loadbay is shorter than most – versatility is limited.