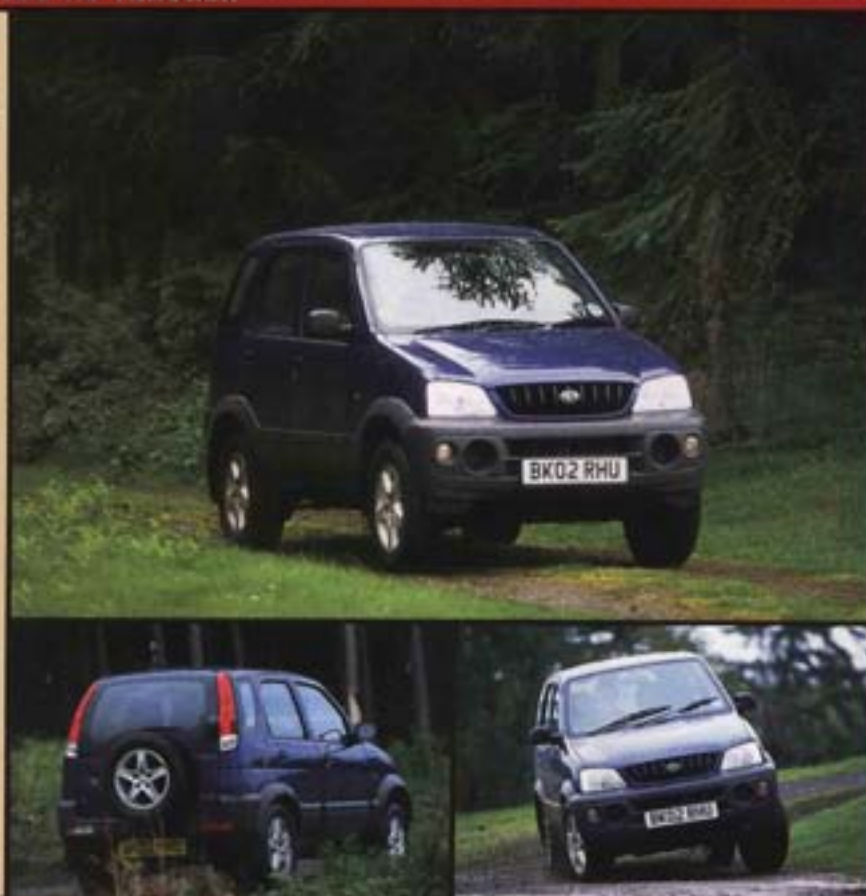


DAIHATSU TERIOS 1.3 TRACKER

Something of a *bête noir*, this tall, narrow city-car estate continues to impress with its unexpectedly good mud-plugging ability, but it just doesn't convince as an off-roader. The styling lacks bush-bashing bruiser character, the interior is little different from any other road-going family car. The little engine has to be worked hard to get useful performance, so hurried progress is noisy and fussy as you work your way up and down the gearbox which, though slick enough in action, also needs to be worked to keep up nippy progress. Ride comfort is good, the live rear axle being suspended on



SPECIFICATIONS

Price:	£9,995
Engine cc/bhp:	1298/85
Transmission:	5-speed manual, permanent 4WD

RATINGS (0-10)

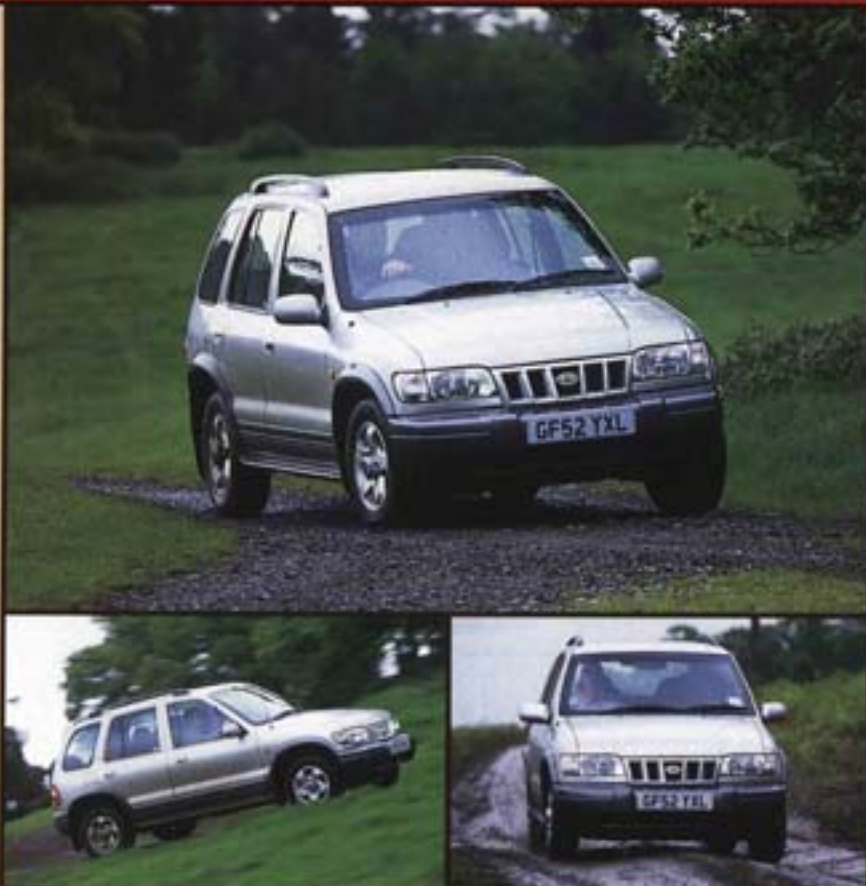
Comfort:	5
Refinement:	6
Off-road:	4
Value:	8
Style:	3
TOTAL:	26

WE LIKED: ride comfort, stable cornering, price
WE DISLIKED: narrow styling, lack of power, poor articulation

variable-rate springs which are compliant over small bumps, but stiffen under duress to allow stable cornering. The Terios doesn't have the power or the axle articulation to cope with difficult terrain, so loses points off road, though this new version is great value being nearly £1000 less than the EL model it replaces.

KIA SPORTAGE XSE

The car that earned our favour last year as a budget-priced off-roader doesn't fare as well against the competition this time, but its basic attributes are as valid as ever – reasonably comfortable five-seater family accommodation, good equipment for the money, a proper 4WD system with low range and a separate chassis giving it the strength and rigidity to cope with rough handling over tough terrain. The styling, however, is a bit bland and the interior not quite as well trimmed as many modern rivals. While the engine is a modern 16-valve design, pokey enough for adequate



SPECIFICATIONS

Price:	£12,995
Engine cc/bhp:	1998/157
Transmission:	5-speed manual, dual range, selectable 4WD

RATINGS (0-10)

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

WE LIKED: interior space, low range gearing, good value
WE DISLIKED: awkward boot access, conservative styling

on-road performance and torquey enough for off-road action, it's rather rough and noisy, reflecting the unrefined nature of the car. The biggest bugbear remains the awkward tailgate access, which requires the spare to be swung away on a frame before the door can be opened.