Which? Shorts: 5 Great Value cars you should buy

[00:00:00] **James Rowe:** How do you know if you found a good deal on a brand new car? Well to help you for the first time ever. These are the witch endorsed great value cars.

[00:00:12] **James Rowe:** Hello, it's James Ro here with Witch Short, and this week we're focusing on motoring. Now, our research shows that the standard of cars has become very good in recent years, which is naturally a good thing. But because we don't take price into account when we rate vehicles. This can mean that some great cars get lost underneath a swat of expensive excellence.

[00:00:36] **James Rowe:** That's why we've gone the extra mile to bring you a balanced and varied list of great value cars. In the August issue of which magazine, Michael Passingham highlighted a handful of those cars that received the first ever great value endorsement for road vehicles. Here's Michael's piece. Adapted for the podcast this week, read by Michael himself.

[00:01:06] **Michael Passingham:** Lately we've been alarmed by the steep increase in the asking price of new cars. Some mid-range cars now cost more than 40,000 pounds and often without many fancy extras for that high price. Supply chain issues, the cost of materials and the rise of EVs, which are typically more expensive, have all contributed to the increases.

[00:01:22] **Michael Passingham:** There are 21 cars in our first ever list of great value cars. The cheapest is a Saya ibi a. It has an average starting price of less than 18,000 pounds at its base price. This peppy little hatchback gets some great features of standard including rear parking sensor. Android Auto and Apple CarPlay, LED.

[00:01:38] **Michael Passingham:** Headlights and Aircon. These are mod cons that not all cars come with and for us, this is what most buyers should be looking for, at minimum when buying a new car. And yet some higher end models go without some of these features unless you upgrade. In 2017, the IB scored a full five stars in Euro end cap safety test.

[00:01:54] **Michael Passingham:** By no means an easy feat for a small car. The Kia Seed Sports Wagon also gets our great value endorsement having first gone on sale in 2018. You can pick up one of these new for somewhere around 22 to 26 grand. It's spacious, has a large boot, and it's enjoyable to drive. Some of the engine options aren't the best for fuel economy on long drives, so you'll have to bear this in mind.

[00:02:14] **Michael Passingham:** Plus, according to which car survey, this car is proving dependable in the long term, garnering a four star reliability rating. If you're looking for something a little bigger like an SUV, perhaps look no further than the Nissan cash kit. The latest cash kit is a great update of this hugely popular mid-sized SDV.

[00:02:30] **Michael Passingham:** It's stylish, practical, with great passenger space. And an appealing cabin. While some of the best extras are only found in the most expensive trim levels, the lower end models are decently kitted out, and 2024 onwards models include the basics such as aircon, but other handy features including rear parking cameras, the standard along with Android Auto, apple CarPlay, and a large central display.

[00:02:52] **Michael Passingham:** The standard cash kind netted great value status in addition to the full hybrid model. The latter is perfect if you offer the benefits of petrol power outta town and electric efficiency at lower speeds. The standard cash guy starts at around 27,000 pounds while the ePower hybrid starts at 30 grand. We use our unique pricing data collected via secret shopping and price list analysis to calculate an average lowest price bought new over the last six months.

[00:03:16] **Michael Passingham:** For each car we test, this is for the lowest trim level and takes into account dealer discounts or manufacturer contributions. Buyers are likely to see. We compare the prices against the average for all cars we tested in the same class. For example, small cars or small SUVs. If a car's average price is significantly lower than the average for its class, it's considered for great value status.

[00:03:36] **Michael Passingham:** A car must also perform well in our tests scoring at least 65%. Overall, our tests take things like fuel economy, interior space, ride quality, and boot space into account. Cars must also score three stars or more in your end cap crash tests if it's been tested and have a three star or more model reliability rating in our survey.

[00:03:55] **Michael Passingham:** We update our list of great value cars every six months. So if a car's average price rises above its class average in those six months, it will lose its great value status. The next time we update the list, another car to be awarded the great value endorsement is the Mazda three. At just 23,500 pounds is definitely worth your consideration.

[00:04:13] **Michael Passingham:** It feels high quality inside and out and looks unlike anything else in its class. It handles with gusto and is a safe choice. That's good for families too. Instead of hiding essential tech inside high-end upgrade packages, the most useful ones are installed as standard. Think things like parking sensors or reversing camera, adaptive cruise control, blind spot monitoring and rear cross traffic collision alerts.

[00:04:33] **Michael Passingham:** It means even the cheapest spec will probably be good enough for most people. A lot of manufacturers could learn from this approach. And finally, this go to commit. It's a practical and good value choice that's huge inside for a small SUV, while also being reasonably comfortable, easy and safe to drive To read the full list of 21 cars to be given our great value endorsement, which members can click the link in our show notes.

[00:04:54] **Michael Passingham:** If you're not a member, podcast listeners, just like you can join right now for 50% off the usual price. Just head to w co uk slash podcast offer to get involved.