

Review of the Dacia Bigster



by Fraser Lucas



LOOKS

No, I haven't got amnesia and reviewed the new Duster again. This is simply the Duster's big brother, the whimsically named Bigster, and you can easily see the resemblance. Those same chunky features and arrow-shaped lights are all there, albeit with larger dimensions and a much longer tail. While it's not trying hard at standing out from its sibling, the Bigster does share the same earnest, rugged appeal the Duster possesses.

HANDLING AND PERFORMANCE

You can't expect an MX-5's worth of handling prowess from a big SUV, yet the Bigster produces all the right moves that it's capable of. It never feels too roly-poly with all that height and bulk being lugged about, while the drive is easy-going. Engines on sale are a 1.2 petrol with 140 or 130 BHP (the latter being paired with four-wheel drive), and a 1.8 hybrid with 155 BHP. Just about all of them will pull you

along without complaints, though the 4X4 option will properly unlock its off-road potential.

PRACTICALITY

Yes, inside, it does indeed live up to that funny name. Those who've experienced Volvo estates will feel right at home with how much room there is everywhere. Seating is flexible, headroom can't be faulted, and you could probably camp in the boot with the size it is. There is a load of outdoorsy accessories available, but the best feature is the YouClip system, where you can fit various features like cupholders and trays on various pegs in the car.

COST

Prices start at £25,215 for the 140 1.2, while the four-wheel drive option will cost from £27,465. The 1.8 hybrid will cost £28,190. Just like any other Dacia, the Bigster wins on value, but it's not packing light on equipment. This is easily Dacia's most plush model.



Verdict

Good news! The Dacia Bigster is an excellent all-rounder that's tough, unsurprisingly low in cost and has the space of a French palace. Driving joy may not be found much here, but as a flexible family car that's meant to be fully dependable, few can square up to it, especially at this kind of price range.