

# Volvo S40 1.6D Start/Stop

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*What do you look for in a new car? These days, low running costs are usually there at the top of the list, closely followed by performance, the kudos and that touch of class a new car carries with it. Add the name Volvo and the fact that the S40 has won What Car Green Awards 2009 Best Small Family Car and the Overall Green Car of the Year 2009, and you have a winner!*

**T**he Volvo S40 oozes safety and security. Volvo claim 0-62mph in 11.4 seconds and I suspect with plenty of oomph to spare! Maximum speed is a claimed 118 mph, which I have no reason to doubt! Maximum power gives 108 bhp at 4000 rpm and max torque is 177 lb ft at 1750 rpm.

Visually there's a lowered suspension, around 10mm; a partially blanked off radiator grille; and a set of alloys with turbulence limiting cooling slots. Aerodynamics are further catered for by the smoothly designed body and the excellent finish. There is an all-round classy look to it. Inside the seating is comfortable, head and leg room, wherever you sit, are more than acceptable and usual appointments easily to hand. Getting into the driving seat was a welcoming and supremely comfortable experience.

Technically I think this is a very sophisticated vehicle. Combined fuel consumption is a claimed 72.4 mpg. CO<sub>2</sub>

emissions are said to be just 104 g/km and it qualifies for Band B road fund duty. It also qualifies for a reasonably low, 13% tax benefit for company car users, a fact not to be sniffed at! The start/stop facility allows the driver to monitor the fuel economy and will help towards up to another 5% in savings. This is all in addition to a recalibrated engine management system, an 'intelligent' alternator that charges when you coast or brake, low energy power steering and low rolling resistance tyres. Thin-viscosity transmission oil further aids the low consumption figures.

This car grows on you. It makes its promises and it keeps them. If I was in the market for a new Volvo, (and my current personal car is a V70), I'd give it more than a second thought!

The prices start from £15,495 for the S40 1.6 Petrol, with the S40 1.6 Drive Stop/Start starting at £18,445.

*Simon Taylor*

