

Thatcham ^{1st} Sight

Mercedes CLA saloon



Summary

The CLA is a 4-door coupe derived from the A-Class, sharing the same modular MFA platform set, though the vehicle is approximately 40mm longer than the C-Class.

MANUFACTURERS:

ALFA ROMEO
AUDI
BENTLEY
BMW
CADILLAC
CHEVROLET
CHRYSLER/JEEP
CITROEN
DACIA
FIAT
FORD
GEELY
GREAT WALL
HONDA
HYUNDAI
INFINITI
ISUZU
JAGUAR
KIA
LAND ROVER
LEXUS
LOTUS
MAZDA
MERCEDES BENZ
SAIC MG
MINI
MITSUBISHI
NISSAN
PEUGEOT
PORSCHE
PROTON
RENAULT
ROLLS ROYCE
SEAT
SMART
SKODA
SSANGYONG
SUBARU
SUZUKI
TATA
TOYOTA
VAUXHALL
VW
VOLVO
OTHERS
OTHER CAT.:
REPAIR
SAFETY
GENERAL



As the CLA is derived from the A-class, so the structure similarly features nearly 70% HSS and UHSS with hardened material for the side impact zones. Riveting is employed as a joining method in several areas.

The CLA has a drag coefficient of just 0.23 as result of significant aerodynamic engineering, such as the low panel shoulder of the front wings and doors, front and rear bumper diffusers and under body panelling. The C180 BlueEfficiency makes further improvements on this coefficient (including active grille shutters and different headlamp sealing) but is not confirmed for export to the UK as yet.

There is a panoramic roof available with a polycarbonate fixed front section and a glazed moving rear section.

As well as the 7 SRS airbags, the CLA features an active deploying bonnet (raising 65mm) for additional pedestrian safety.

The radar based 'Collision Prevention Assist' is standard on all models. This system gives visual and audible warnings if it detects a risk of collision, and will activate Brake Assist to prepare the brakes for the precise braking force required when the driver responds and activates the brake pedal. This system now operates from lower speeds of only 4mph for greater urban performance.

As an option this system can be upgraded with Distronic Plus, becoming Collision Prevention Assist Plus, whereby it will autonomously brake when an impact risk is detected, operating at speeds of up to 124mph to avoid or reduce impact damage. Another optional package is the Lane-Tracking Package that includes Blind Spot Assist (clearly to detect vehicles in the blind spot, visually alerting the driver) and Lane Keeping Assist that utilises a screen-mounted camera to detect the vehicle drifting out of its lane and alerts the driver to take action. (NOTE: This is a passive system and does not actively correct steering).





Unique to the CLA is the de-coupling of the rear axle, with the components all effectively dampened by rubber and aluminium bearing bushings. This is solely to enhance comfort. There are two suspension packages.

The comfort package is standard on the Sport. The sport suspension package is more dynamic with ride height lowered by 15mm and 10mm at the front and rear respectively. All models feature Direct Steer, a system that does not draw any power unless actually steering, and provides countering and corrective steering for different road and grip conditions.

Trim levels : Sport & AMG Sport

All models feature climate control, cruise control and ECO start/stop for economy. All have 7 SRS airbags: drivers, passenger, side, curtain and driver's knee airbag.

Sport: 18" 5-twin spoke alloy wheels (finished in Grey, though metal finish as an option), chrome waist mouldings and body coloured mirror caps.

AMG Sport: 18" AMG 5-twin spoke alloy wheels, Xenon headlamps with headlamp washers, black door mirror caps, and black waist mouldings.





Paint Colours :

	Jupiter Red 589 COB		Cirrus White 650 COB
	Northern Lights Violet 592 Metallic		Cosmos Black 191 Metallic
	Mountain Grey 787 Metallic		Polar Silver 761 Metallic
	Universe Blue 894 Metallic		
	<i>designo</i> Patagonia Red 993		<i>designo</i> Magno Polar Silver 991

Engine line up :

180 1595cc 4 cylinder petrol 122bhp with 200Nm of peak torque Euro 6 complaint
6 speed manual transmission

220CDi 2143cc 4 cylinder diesel 170bhp with 350Nm of peak torque Euro 6 complaint
7 speed automatic transmission

(There is also a 1.6 4-cylinder petrol engine, jointly developed with Renault, for the BlueEfficiency model which is not yet confirmed for the UK market).



Thatcham ACTIONS...

Thatcham will commence a research project on this vehicle.