

Mitsubishi Colt 1.1 Mirage 3d

BEHIND THE WHEEL



You sit quite high up in the Colt, so there's a pretty good view of the road. Only thick windscreen pillars obstruct visibility - they can get in the way when turning out of T junctions. Design of the dashboard is superb, with great ergonomics and use of fresh, attractive materials; and an almost IKEA-look and feel to the ventilation and stereo switches. At night all the clouded plastics are backlit in soothing green. Steering column adjusts for height only; driver's seat adjusts for height on all but the Classic model.



COMFORT



The seats are a little hard and can be unsupportive for longer journeys, but there's plenty of leg, head and shoulder room. Two sit in the back in comfort, with a good amount of legroom and three kids won't complain, either. Interior ambience is light and pleasant, although there's too much road and engine noise - a real pain on longer trips.

Length:	3810 mm
Width:	1695 mm
Height:	1520 mm
Weight:	930 Kg
Noise:	73 dB

HANDLING



Colt offers a fun drive if you fancy it, but is just as happy to plod in traffic. It corners well, even on smaller tyres, and has good grip. Because of its tall shape, there is evident body roll, and the suspension can be rough at times. The steering is light and offers little in the way of feedback. Brakes are sharp and manual gearchanges are snappy.

Wheelbase:	2500 mm
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SAFETY



Has a four-star Euro NCAP crash test rating. ABS and electronic brake-force distribution, and dual front airbags are standard. Side airbags are offered on the Elegance, but aren't an option on other models. Security is taken care of with deadlocks and remote central locking.



PRACTICALITY



Loads of space inside - especially with the five-door. The rear seats split 60:40, can be tumbled, reclined or removed completely. The front passenger seat can be folded flat, too. Combined with the height, this makes Colt more practical than its compact dimensions would suggest. The 'Multibox' is a series of small boxes in the centre console for odds and ends. Good-sized glovebox with an ingenious coin holder. Only concern is luggage space - it's rather small by modern supermini standards. However, the rear seats can slide back to give rear passengers more legroom.

Braked towing weight:	750 kg
Unbraked towing weight:	500 Kg

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PERFORMANCE



The three petrol units: a three-cylinder 1.1-litre with 75bhp, a four-cylinder 1.3 with 95 bhp and a 1.5 with 109 bhp. There are two three-cylinder 1.5-litre diesel options with 70 or 95bhp. The 1.1 is willing around town, but weak on the open-road. The 1.3 and 1.5 are better, though the 1.5 is the better choice for regular motorway work. The two diesels give good performance. A five-speed manual gearbox is standard; an 'Allshift' six-speed sequential and clutchless 'box is an option.

BHP:	74
Engine capacity:	1124 cc
Cylinders:	3
Fuel delivery:	Multi point fuel injection
Gears:	5 Speed
Top speed:	103 mph
Torque:	74 lb/ft
Torque:	100 Nm
Transmission:	Manual
Valves:	12
Zero to sixty:	12.5 seconds

RELIABILITY



No reason to doubt that this Mitsubishi will be anything other than 100% reliable but it has only just been launched, so it is too early to come to a verdict. However the signs are good: the interior is solidly built and it uses some quality materials.

Car check body:	Too new to tell.
Car check engine:	Too new to tell.
Car check other:	Too new to tell.

RUNNING COSTS



We expect the Colt to hold on to its value well - in the short term at least. Service intervals are well spaced and parts and servicing shouldn't be too expensive. Good fuel economy and low insurance groups.

Insurance group:	4
Click here for an insurance quote	
Miles per gallon:	51
Fuel capacity:	47 litres
Euro emissions standard:	4
CO2 emissions:	130 g/km

Vehicle excise duty for cars registered on or after 1st March 2001, is now based on the fuel type and carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions levels of individual vehicles.

VED Tax Band:	C
VED for 12 months:	£100
VED for 6 months:	£50

Company car tax for the year 2005/2006; for tax purposes the list price of a car includes delivery charges but not road tax and new car registration fee.

Annual tax at 22%:	£300
Annual tax at 40%:	£546

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