

BOOSTING BRITAINS FAVOURITE SUV

Tunit gives the 2014 Kia Sportage that extra boost



Numerous accolades including best 4x4 award put the Kia Sportage in good standing in the world of compact offroaders. Loads of equipment as standard and 7 years warranty make it excellent value for money. There are no more choices of engines in the 2014 range however and none have enough useable power or a decent fuel economy.

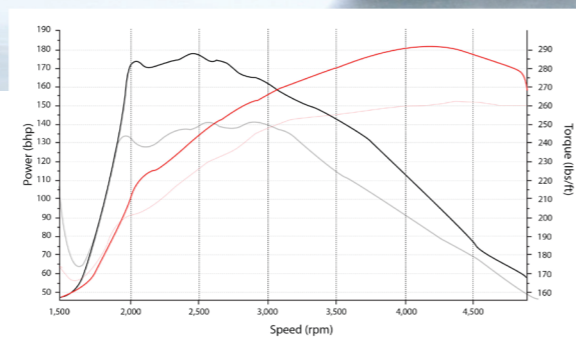
Performance is the Kia's main issue, an issue Michael Brentford from Hertfordshire couldn't ignore. The Sportage came to him almost brand new with 873 miles on the clock. Other SUV's on the market have much more flexible engines such as the Skoda Yeti or the Nissan Qashqai but competitors don't come near the value for money, the stylish looks or the level of standard equipment the Sportage offers. Feeling underwhelmed by the engine, Mr Brentford turned to Tunit to get the performance and fuel economy he needed for long distance drives.

'Plug and play' tuning has been around for almost a decade. It is the easiest and safest method of getting the very best out of your diesel engine. There are many variations

to choose from but, as with most things, you do get what you pay for. Unlike a remap or chip, Tunit is none-invasive to the vehicles ECU and can be simply removed or switched off when desired and doesn't damage or alter existing software or safety parameters set by the manufacturer. Tunit is programmed with software specifically tailored to each engine to improve power, performance and fuel efficiency.

The 2.0 litre CRDI diesel engine is the strongest power plant available in the range and it comes standard with the Dymax intelligent all-wheel-drive system, but Mr Brentford only had usable power between 1200 and 2600 revs meaning city driving is needlessly hard work. More torque is needed across the gears and more power to get back up to speed after slowing for traffic.

Tunit intercepts signals from the ECU and more efficiently manages several injection parameters and fuel pressure. Software also knows the limitations of specific diesel engines and how to get the most power efficiently across the rev range.



Using a 4 wheel drive dynamometer, power tests by Tunit actually revealed that the engine was healthier than it should have been, producing 159bhp, an extra 25bhp in standard configuration than manufacture supplied figures of 134bhp. Torque measurements were as they should be at 236lbs/ft. Tunit Technicians calibrated software in the Tunit Advantage II to work with the Sportage and after fitting, enhancements to the power and the rev range are immediately noticeable. Acceleration is smoother and more direct when climbing back up to speed and more of the rev range becomes accessible. Tunit Advantage II boosted torque to 274lbs/ft and the engine was producing 20% more power at 183bhp.

According to Mr Brentford, 6th gear previously had no pull and was only of



TUNING STATS AFTER TUNIT INSTALLATION & LAPTOP TUNE

ORIGINAL HORSEPOWER: 159 BHP

183 BHP

ORIGINAL TORQUE: 236 IBS/FT

288 IBS/FT

any use at 50mph or above meaning the trip computer showed a huge drop in fuel economy when not on a motorway. Tunit calculates fuel injection and pressure more efficiently meaning that power is available across each gear and higher gears can be used for cruising at lower speeds to save fuel. With Tunit, 6th gear still pulls at 30mph and bottom end diesel lag is significantly reduced. Having a modern, stylish crossover and extra equipment is not something that a fun and useable diesel engine should be sacrificed for. To put these gains in perspective, an SUV with an additional 50bhp to the KIA is an extra £4000, and there would still be the issue of fuel economy and an uneven rev range to deal with.

Used for work and long drives to meet clients, Mr Brentford said that 34.4mpg was his best average fuel economy from the Sportage with day to day work. Two upcoming meetings in London and Edinburgh gave Mr Brentford the perfect opportunity to test fuel economy improvements quoted by Tunit technicians. The round trip of 600 miles had a blend of motorways, cities and A-roads. With a bit

of careful driving and Tunit managing the engine, the onboard trip computer recorded a huge 51.2mpg. Software is continually updated and specifically tailored to each vehicle. If you purchase a new vehicle, Tunit can simply be reprogrammed and fitted to the new engine in the majority of cases.

Tunit Advantage 2 with RedBoard technology carries a 5 year product warranty, 2 years engine and driveline warranty and a lifetime part exchange making it a long term investment for efficient vehicle tuning. Tunit can also be purchased on a pay monthly scheme from as little as £11 a month so you can start saving immediately.

For more information and the specifics of what Tunit can do for your own diesel vehicle visit www.tunit.com, email info@tunit.com or call 01257 274100

