

# Motoring Legendary

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■ THE magnificent Mini rides again on British roads.

THE original Mini, designed by Sir Alec Issigonis, was launched on August 26, 1959 priced at £496.19s.

Affordability was a great facet of the classic Mini, and the new Mini retains that philosophy with Mini One having an on-the-road price of £10,300 and Mini Cooper available on-the-road at £11,600.

Anyone familiar with the traditional Mini could be forgiven for being apprehensive about driving the all-new BMW version. After all, could anything else ever live up to the reputation and recognition of such a distinguished and dependable brand?

We put the new Mini Cooper to the test and found that it's everything its predecessor was – and more.

It's a fun car. The driving dynamics are inspiring and the interior is simply stunning. Its roadholding characteristics are excellent and it certainly lives up to Mini's claim of having 'razor-sharp reactions – a real kart-like experience'.

A top speed of 125mph from 115bhp gives an 0-62 time of just 9.2 seconds, while the handling remains poised and the car feels glued to the road.

Electronic driving stability systems help to keep the Mini under control and pointing in the right direction under extreme driving conditions or in an emergency.

These include ABS (anti-lock braking system), EBD (electronic brake-force distribution), and CBC (cornering brake control) as standard.

*The new Mini goes on sale tomorrow (Saturday). In the second of his two-part feature, Richard Hill takes a test drive.*

BMW's widely-praised Dynamic Stability Control System (DSCIII) is an option.

Four airbags come as standard with an additional head airbag system also available.

Mini owners have always enjoyed personalising their cars inside and out, and every Mini owner has a view on what represents the ideal specification.

The new Mini will continue the theme, offering over 40 options, three option packages, three different alloy wheels and eight colours available to order at launch.

The wide opening doors make getting in and out much easier. A height-adjustable driver's seat and steering column are provided as standard, as is central locking with remote control and an electric tail-gate lock.

Optional extras include a Steptronic automatic transmission, a multifunctional steering wheel and a rain sensor.

The Mini range will also benefit from a three-year



or 60,000-mile warranty and comes with a three-year Emergency Service cover through Mondial Assistance, consisting bespoke Mini service engi-

neers, replacement car loan, full European cover and Accident Management.

The new Mini is exactly as its manufacturers