

2010 Kia Forte Koup EX

It looks like the Kia automotive manufacturers may be on a winning streak, first the Kia Soul now the Kia Forte Koup which is my test vehicle this week. Being a big fan of two door coupes that is the first thing that sticks out, I was pleased to see Kia looking to the past to forge to the future. I know getting into a back seat of a coupe can be a pain but the styling is everything. Just look at the Kia Forte 4-door sedan sitting next to the Koup. I know most folks today prefer the four door which is more practical but the Koup is outstanding.

The second thing you notice when you slip behind the well appointed steering wheel that has controls for audio and cruise control at your finger tips, nice touch for a car that will cost you less than \$20,000. The seats are sporty and very comfortable with manual controls for the seat you can put yourself right where you need to be for any trip on the road. The instrumentation is done with a sports feel to it, very informative without a lot of confusion, nice center console with two storage compartments, satellite radio CD player and plug in for all the new techno gear that is out there for the kids. The back seat was surprisingly comfortable, yea it took this old coot awhile to get back there but it wasn't as bad as I thought it would be.

Performance, that is the third thing you notice when you step on the gas pedal thanks to a peppy little 2.0-liter 4-cylinder 16-valve dual overhead camshafts, constant variable valve timing engine backed by a four speed automatic transmission that not only gives you plenty of power but 25 miles per gallon in the city and 34 miles per gallon on the open road with a potential of getting into the 40's if you have a soft right foot! Oh by the way they do offer a 6-speed manual transmission which as you all know would be my choice.

This is a great first car for the kids, safe, stylish, good fuel mileage and a warranty that can't be beat, 10 year 100,000 mile powertrain warranty and a 5 year 60,000 mile bumper to bumper warranty and if you opt for the Kia Extended warranty you can have a car that is completely covered bumper to bumper for 100,000 miles all for under \$20,000, how can you beat that deal?

This car is built for fun with sport suspension and great outside styling with black accented grill, body colored door handles, rear diffuser (That is so she cuts through the air for maximum fuel mileage and stability at high speeds), you get chrome dual exhaust and instead of the 2.5 mile per hour bumpers Kia has bumped that impact number up[to 5 miles per hour and speaking of safety as of this printing the NHTSA has not posted the frontal and side impact numbers but it is for sale so it has met the basic standards of safety.

Safety is a main concern of Kia and this car comes standard with the following safety items, anti lock brakes at all four corners, brake assist, electronic brake force distribution, electronic stability control, and traction control. Inside safety comes with front airbags, front seat mounted side airbags, full length side curtain airbags, front active headrests, tire pressure monitoring system.

One more thing, being a koup the back seat folds down at a 60/40 split to add to the storage needed from the truck or inside the Koup.

Looking for a car for the kids, a commuter or just a 2nd car for the family, put the Kia on your list and take one out for a spin and see if it fits you needs!