

10-5-2009
2010 Lincoln MTX

Finally the manufacturers are listening to the consumer, the environment and yes the government. A fine example is the Lincoln's all new MKT. It's not a big SUV and it is not a small station wagon, it falls in between with state of the art technology for 6 to 7 occupants.

Sitting behind the wheel of the MKT the General Manager Todd Witt of Witt Lincoln Mercury insisted I watch the DVD supplied by Lincoln. It was a quick study on how to operate your MTX. It started with the THX (Yes just like in the movies) sound system. If you're into music you have to listen to this DVD, with 14 speakers and a sub woofer it will blow you away. Then it moves to starting the MTX, and then explains EcoBoost. I'm going to stop right there, this is where Lincoln is listening to the government with the introduction of EcoBoost. Simply put, throw the V8 out the window, clean up the air and let's get 16 miles per gallon in the city and 22 miles per gallon on the open road and did I mention you could tow up to 4500 pounds of stuff! Not bad for a V6.

Now if you're not into the EcoBoost engine you can get the base V6 that produces 268 horsepower, 267 pound foot of torque versus the EcoBoost V6 that produces 355 horsepower and 350 pound foot of torque and the fuel mileage difference is minimal. You can get your MTX in Front Wheel Drive or All Wheel Drive, but if you're looking for EcoBoost in a front wheel drive MTX you won't find one, they are not available.

I must admit I was really surprised at the performance of the EcoBoost. I have been hearing great stories, but didn't realize it was as good as Lincoln had stated.

The next thing Witt wanted to do was check out the optional Active Park Assist with me behind the wheel, I hesitated at first, (I had just had a real bad experience with another manufacturers park assist and it was a disaster) but being a trooper I said sure lets see what she will do. So as your driving down the street and your looking for a place to parallel park, you push the "Auto P" button located in the center console just ahead of the shifter and the MTX starts looking for a space you will fit in, when it finds a parking spot it tells you to "stop". This information is located in the dash just ahead of the driver, no searching or loosing your line of sight, then it get a little scary, you let go of the steering wheel, slip the transmission into reverse and the MKT takes over, now you control the speed by applying the brake pedal and the MTX will slip you into your parking spot with ease. I must admit I wanted to grab the wheel and take over, but the MTX did it with no trouble at all, you may need to get used to having the car drive you, but once you give the confidence to the MTX this turns out to be a life saver if you're not much on parallel parking. (Did you know the DMV has dropped parallel parking from its driving test?).

My test vehicle even had a 5-quart refrigerator between the second row seats and the third row seats flip and fold into the floor, plus you get a lot of storage space in the MTX and the second row doors are big and easy to get in and out of the car.

There is so much more I could talk about when it comes to the Lincoln MTX, but the best advice I could give you is head down to Witt Lincoln Mercury and take one out for a spin. Powered by Microsoft SYNC gives you hands-free control of your mobile phone, MP3 player, GPS navigation, traffic reports and directions. SYNC is offered exclusively through Ford, Lincoln and Mercury vehicles. Check out the voice activated navigation system, and see if SYNC works for you. Just imagine a computer hard drive on board helping you get through the day, Witt flipped on the movies at a local theater and the SYNC not only showed what was showing but times and even rated the movies, like I told Todd Witt, where is my pillow!!!! Oh yea, price, my tester with Ecoboost and AWD started out at \$49,200 and would go out the door at \$58,370 plus tax and license. The MTX is elegant, beautiful and fun to drive!