

History of the Scion xB by Betsy Bearden

When you think of the Scion, the iconic boxy xB model is probably the first image that comes to mind. Although its lines have been softened over the years, it still maintains its really cool, original look. The Scion xB is a four-door compact hatchback introduced to the U.S. in 2004. It was originally designed as a sub-compact model up until 2007. Beginning in 2008, it was upgraded to a compact 5-door hatchback.

As with all the Scion models, marketing is aimed at the 78 million Generation Y Americans born between 1980 and 1994; however, the average age of the xB buyer is 46. Just goes to show you, quality is valued at any age.

From the outside, this compact hatchback might deter taller or larger individuals from giving it a second look, but the interior of the xB is quite impressive. There is plenty of headroom and legroom to accommodate five people. In fact, some big city taxi companies have traded in their Crown Victoria's for the xB.

Cargo space is yet another attribute of the xB due to the 60/40-split rear seats: when folded flat you have the storage capacity of 70 cubic feet. This is more space than what competing class midsize SUV's offer. There is enough room inside the xB to haul around your friends, camping or beach gear, and your favorite pooch, and with the 2.4 Liter, 158 horsepower engine with 162 lb-ft of torque, you won't have any problem reaching your destination.

The Pioneer sound system will keep everyone entertained while gallivanting around town. It offers an iPod interface, Bluetooth, an RCA output should you want to integrate additional audio equipment and a customizable head unit display. You won't need to stop and gas up very often due to the mileage you get from the xB with its 28 mpg on the highway and 22 mpg in-city driving.

The 2012 Scion xB Base model is loaded with standard amenities, and there is the xB Release Series 9.0 that comes in "Hot Lava" with only 1,500 units available. Each Scion is equipped with the Star Safety System and the Scion xB received the highest rating of "Good" in an overall score from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety frontal offset tests in all measured categories.

References:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scion_xB

<http://www.edmunds.com/scion/xb/2012/#fullreview>