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The Honda Fit

THE LATEST COMPARISON RESULT:
IT'S NO COMPARISON.



fit.honda.com

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HONDA FIT SPORT

- +** No-secrets steering, amazing cargo capacity, fun shifter, airy cockpit.
- Wants a sixth gear, buzzy at freeway speeds, could do with some interior texture upgrades.
- =** Since 2006, Honda's been the judge, jury, and prosecutor in this segment.

1. HONDA FIT SPORT

The Fit is a familiar favorite, returning to its third B-segment comparo and again strutting off with trophies and attaboys. In 2006 (“\$15,000 Cheap Skates”), the Honda Fit easily won. We revisited the segment in 2010 (“Ego Shrinkers”), only to elect the Fit again to the segment’s highest office, nudging out the Mazda2 Touring and Ford Fiesta SES. Climbing into the Fit is like strapping on a greenhouse. This is the tallest car in the group, and its minivan-sized windshield (aided by big portholes under the A-pillars) delivers 180 degrees of glorious worldview. When you can see way, way down the road, driving like a madman takes far less concentration.

With its informative steering, quick shifter, and stern roll control, the Fit devoured our slalom at the highest speed, and when it came time to whoa, its brake pedal was the easiest to modulate. That the Honda won fun-to-drive kudos surprised no one. Of course, fun is often the enemy of usefulness, but with its folding rear seat dropped to the load floor, the Fit also managed to swallow the most cargo in this group.

The chief fault, here, is that, like the Yaris, the Fit needs a sixth gear. At freeway speeds, the engine isn’t exactly screaming, but it’s definitely *calling urgently* at 3500 to 4000 revs. It’s a shame because the engine is otherwise an angel—quietest at idle, quietest at full throttle. Of course, our test car was a 2011 model. The 2012 Sport promises additional sound insulation, thicker front quarter-windows, new upholstery, and a few classier cabin surfaces.

Best fit and finish, tied for best ergonomics, tied for the quickest to 30 mph... well, we’ve listed all these character proficiencies before. The Fit is a spicy and tasteful little runabout that knows exactly what it needs to be, then delivers the pesto, presto. ■

FINAL RESULTS

RANK	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Maximum points available					
VEHICLE	Honda Fit Sport (2011)	Chevrolet Sonic LTZ Turbo	Hyundai Accent SE	Toyota Yaris SE	Kia Rio5 SX	Nissan Versa SL
DRIVER COMFORT	10	8	9	8	8	5
ERGONOMICS	10	9	9	8	8	6
REAR-SEAT COMFORT	5	3	3	4	3	5
REAR-SEAT SPACE*	5	5	5	4	4	5
CARGO SPACE*	5	5	4	3	5	2
FEATURES/AMENITIES*	10	5	9	4	6	10
FIT AND FINISH	10	9	8	8	8	6
INTERIOR STYLING	10	8	9	8	7	5
EXTERIOR STYLING	10	8	9	8	8	5
REBATES/EXTRAS*	5	0	0	0	1	0
AS-TESTED PRICE*	20	19	17	19	20	20
SUBTOTAL	100	79	82	74	78	62
POWERTRAIN						
1/4-MILE ACCELERATION*	20	20	20	17	20	15
FLEXIBILITY*	5	4	3	2	3	4
FUEL ECONOMY*	10	9	8	10	10	10
ENGINE NVH	10	7	9	7	7	5
TRANSMISSION	10	9	8	8	8	4
SUBTOTAL	55	49	48	44	48	38
CHASSIS						
PERFORMANCE*	20	19	19	19	19	17
STEERING FEEL	10	8	8	9	5	6
BRAKE FEEL	10	9	8	8	7	6
HANDLING	10	9	8	8	7	4
RIDE	10	8	8	8	8	8
SUBTOTAL	60	53	51	52	46	41
EXPERIENCE						
FUN TO DRIVE	25	22	20	21	18	10
GRAND TOTAL	240	203	201	191	190	151

*These objective scores are calculated from the vehicles’ dimensions, capacities, rebates and extras, and/or test results.