

FORD TE50

5.6-Litre automatic



FEATURES	
BEST	WORST
Aggressive new styling	City fuel consumption
Engine performance	Easy to scrape the front spoiler entering driveways
Level of standard equipment	

The year 2001 marked an important milestone for both Ford and Tickford Vehicle Engineering (TVE). It was the tenth anniversary of their ongoing partnership. Since opening its doors in 1991, the performance engineering firm, TVE, has developed numerous styling, handling and performance upgrade packages for a wide range of Ford vehicles. The culmination of the past ten years' effort is perhaps borne out in the latest offerings by TVE, the T3 range of T-Series Falcons and Fairlanes.

The vehicles in the new T-Series line-up are much more aggressive looking than previous models and offer improved performance to match the looks. The TE50 features quite a radical bodykit that takes its styling cues from the aerodynamic package fitted to Ford's V8 Supercars. With its high rear wing, low front spoiler, side skirts and 18 inch wheels, the TE50 is certainly a striking vehicle.

Beneath the bonnet of the T-Series vehicle is perhaps the final iteration of the Windsor V8 engine. The engine has been stroked to a capacity of 5.6 litres and now produces a lofty 250 kW of power and a whopping 500 Nm of torque! In addition to the new crankshaft, engine modifications include ported cylinder heads, larger valves and high performance valve springs, billet machined connecting rods, lightweight short skirt pistons, revised camshaft, high flow intake manifold, an 82 mm throttle body and conical air cleaner with dedicated mass air flow sensor. It takes approximately 12 hours labour to carry out the engine modifications and each completed 'stroked' engine carries a build plate signed by the TVE technician who worked on it.

The T3 range consists of three different models, the TE50, the TS50 and the long wheelbase TL50. The TE50 is the entry level model of the T-Series and the subject of this report. Pricing for the T-Series starts at \$57,350 for a TE50 with a manual transmission, while the optional automatic raises the price by another \$1000. Topping out the range is the TL50 which is available only with an automatic gearbox for \$84,500. Any dealer charges and on road costs are additional to the abovementioned prices.

The T-Series range of vehicles has always had a good level of standard equipment and the new T3 line up is no exception. Some of the standard features fitted to the TE50 models include 18 x 8 inch multispoke alloy wheels, fully independent front and rear sports suspension, leather trim interior, Momo steering wheel and gear knob, AM/FM stereo radio with

single CD player, sports seats, remote central locking, power windows, climate control air conditioning and a limited slip differential.

Significant effort has also been made to ensure the T-Series is a safe vehicle and has improved security. Passenger safety items include dual front airbags, T-Series brake package (grooved front and rear brake discs and black Tickford calipers) and four wheel anti-lock brake system (ABS). An optional Brembo brake package that includes larger diameter brake discs and four piston Brembo calipers is available as an option on all T-Series models for \$5,350. A Smartlock engine immobiliser system, car alarm and Ford's new DataDot security system are all standard fitment items that should provide peace of mind to T-Series owners.

The leather trimmed sports bucket seats are comfortable and provide good support. Interior space is of course the same as the Falcon, a generous amount of head, leg and shoulder room. The typical Falcon control layout is both clear and easy to use, and a Tickford instrument cluster is fitted to the TE50 and features a blue background.

The new 5.6 litre 'stroker' engine is certainly a willing performer. Our tests conducted on closed roads found the TE50 accelerated from rest to 100 km/h in less than seven seconds and covered the standing 400 metres in under 15 seconds. While these figures are impressive, on the road the tremendous torque of the 5.6 litre engine allows overtaking with a minimum of fuss and increased margins of safety. On the highway the TE50 cruises effortlessly at low engine revs and returned a very respectable fuel consumption figure. Conversely, the TE50 was particularly thirsty around town.

While the TE50 rides quite firmly, it is by no means harsh. The overall chassis set-up is sports oriented and delivers sure-footed handling. Our test vehicle was fitted with the optional Brembo brake package. Both emergency stopping power and resistance to fade were excellent.

SUMMARY:

With an aggressive new body kit the latest TE50 from TVE certainly has striking looks. By stroking the Windsor V8 to a capacity of 5.6 litres the T-Series vehicles have become real performance cars that deliver power and torque figures to match their rivals. Matched with sharp handling and a good level of standard equipment, the TE50 is quite an impressive package.

FORD TE50

SPECIFICATIONS

ENGINE:

Type V8, overhead valve, 16 valves
Capacity in litres..... 5.605
Induction Multipoint fuel injection
Fuel recommendation PULP
Claimed max. power 250 kW at 5250 rpm
Claimed max. torque 500 Nm at 4250 rpm
Specific power output..... 44.6 kW/litre

TRANSMISSION:

Type Four speed automatic
Driving wheels Rear
Speed per 1000 rpm in top gear 52.5 km/h

WHEELS: Alloy 8 x 18 inch

TYRES: Dunlop P245/40 ZR18

Spare: Full size alloy

STEERING:

Type Power assisted rack and pinion
Turns lock to lock..... 3.1
Turning circle (measured) 11.3 metres

DIMENSIONS:

Mass 1720 kg
Length 4956 mm
Width (incl. mirrors 2130 mm) 1872 mm
Height 1450 mm
Ground clearance (measured) 128 mm
Seating capacity 5
Fuel tank capacity 68 litres

TOWING: not recommended

NRMA THEFT RATING:

Points on 0-110 scale (high score best) 66

WARRANTY: Three years, 100 000 km

MANUFACTURED IN: Australia

TEST RESULTS

ACCELERATION:

50 - 80 km/h (in Drive)..... 2.3 sec
60 - 100 km/h (in Drive)..... 3.5 sec
0 - 80 km/h 4.9 sec
0 - 100 km/h 6.8 sec
0 - 400 metres 14.8 sec

FUEL CONSUMPTION:

Litres/100 km in city 19.0
Litres/100 km on highway 9.5
Litres/100 km overall 14.3

BRAKING:

Distance to stop from 80 km/h 25.8 metres

NOISE:

Interior at constant 80 km/h 71 dB(A)

● Test vehicle supplied by Ford Motor Company of Australia Limited

Call NRMA Automotive Technical Services on 1300 655 443, should you require additional information on this vehicle, on other makes, or for general advice on automotive matters.