SMALL CARS

About the category

- The manufacturer's price is under $18,000.
- Generally purchased by consumers entering the car market for the first time.
- Associated costs, fuel, insurance, running and repair are considered critical.

SCORES	
Well above average	10
Above average	8
Average	6
Below average	4
Well below average	2

IMPORTANCE WEIGHTING	
Critical (C)	1.00
High (H)	0.80
Medium (M)	0.40
Low (L)	0.20

Small cars

SMALL CARS ARE riding a wave created by volatile petrol prices and a new green movement that promotes minimalism. Some people are questioning why they drive a larger car when they may only need a small one.

The increased popularity of small cars has increased the size and quality of the class.

Cars like the Honda Jazz, Volkswagen Polo and the Peugeot's 207 show people still want a premium experience even in a micro machine.

Budget conscious buyers are still looked after with models such as the Hyundai Getz, Kia Rio and the facelifted Holden Barina, while models like the Toyota Yaris and Ford Fiesta and the cute Nissan Micra are available to those with a little more to spend.

All of the small cars have good fuel economy, but some are exceptional. The European players offer super-lean diesels, while Smart has a tiny 1.0-litre petrol engine known for its miserliness.

AUSTRALIA'S BEST CARS

COMPARATIVE TABLE

	W **Mazda** Mazda2 Neo (p)	F **Honda** Jazz GLi (p)	F **Hyundai** Getz SX (p)	**Mitsubishi** Colt ES (p)	**Toyota** Yaris YRS (p)	**Volkswagen** Polo Edition (p)	**Suzuki** Swift (p)	**Hyundai** Accent S (p)	**Ford** Fiesta LX (p)	**Nissan** Micra (p)	**Kia** Rio LX (p)	**Proton** Savvy (p)	**Holden** Barina (p)	**Nissan** Tiida ST (p)	**Proton** Persona (p)	Weighting
VALUE FOR MONEY																
Pricing	4	6	6	8	3	3	6	7	4	8	8	10	9	1	3	C
Cost of depreciation ($)	4	6	3	9	4	2	6	5	3	9	9	9	10	2	1	M
Running & repair costs	5	2	8	5	7	4	2	8	9	5	6	8	8	2	6	C
Fuel consumption	8	10	8	9	8	6	7	3	5	3	3	9	3	1	3	C
Warranty	4	4	8	9	4	5	4	8	4	4	8	4	4	4	4	M
Standard features	6	7	8	5	8	4	8	5	2	5	5	3	6	2	8	M
DESIGN & FUNCTION																
Safety	8	6	6	6	7	6	7	4	5	8	5	3	3	7	5	C
Security	10	5	10	5	3	10	5	9	6	6	4	2	2	9	1	H
Environment	7	8	7	7	10	8	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	8	C
Comfort	8	8	4	5	5	7	6	5	7	6	5	5	3	8	5	M
Space	6	8	5	6	5	5	6	7	7	5	6	4	6	10	9	L
Practicality	6	8	7	4	8	8	7	8	6	5	9	3	7	6	6	M
Ergonomics	8	9	5	6	7	8	7	6	7	6	5	5	5	7	5	M
Build and finish quality	8	8	5	6	7	8	7	5	6	6	6	4	4	6	4	H
ON THE ROAD																
Performance	9	7	6	7	7	4	7	7	8	5	7	3	5	9	5	M
Ride	8	7	6	6	5	8	7	6	6	6	6	6	5	7	5	M
Handling	9	8	5	5	6	8	8	5	10	5	5	5	4	6	6	M
Braking	8	8	6	6	7	7	6	6	6	6	6	6	4	7	4	H
Smoothness & quietness	8	7	5	5	6	5	6	5	6	6	6	3	2	4	4	L
OVERALL RATING	705	679	654	642	635	619	612	609	598	596	595	572	519	516	463	
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