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# eats Honda Hybrid in race to be green -- / claims falter on the road

nber 19, Graphic News: Fiat's new high-tech little diesel ite deliver what it says on the packet, but it does come up conomy allied with terrific performance in the latest

elivered by the Fiat Punto's new 1.3 litre Multijet diesel ag for diesel power and shows that an expensive and n from Honda, with its hybrid-powered Civic, can't handle nda can be proud of the groundbreaking technology in ortunately, it fails to get close to the economy claims for its electric motor.

sel powered Punto will deliver a "combined", or average, of 62.8 miles per gallon (3.8 litres per 100 kilometres). managed 52.6mpg (4.5l/100kms) -- that's a failure of t. Honda's bigger, heavier and more expensive Civic a 1.3 litre petrol engine boosted by an electric motor, 1l/100 kms) but only made 41.5mpg (5.7l/100kms) -- per cent less than the claim. Performance is sluggish too.

conomy claims are typical of the industry.

shows that average economy claims by the carmakers ated by 25 percent or more. This is because the uropean Union regulations to measure economy by on test beds rather than on actual roads. It means that the sistency across the board and allow for clear comparison, is that they often have little relevance to the real world.

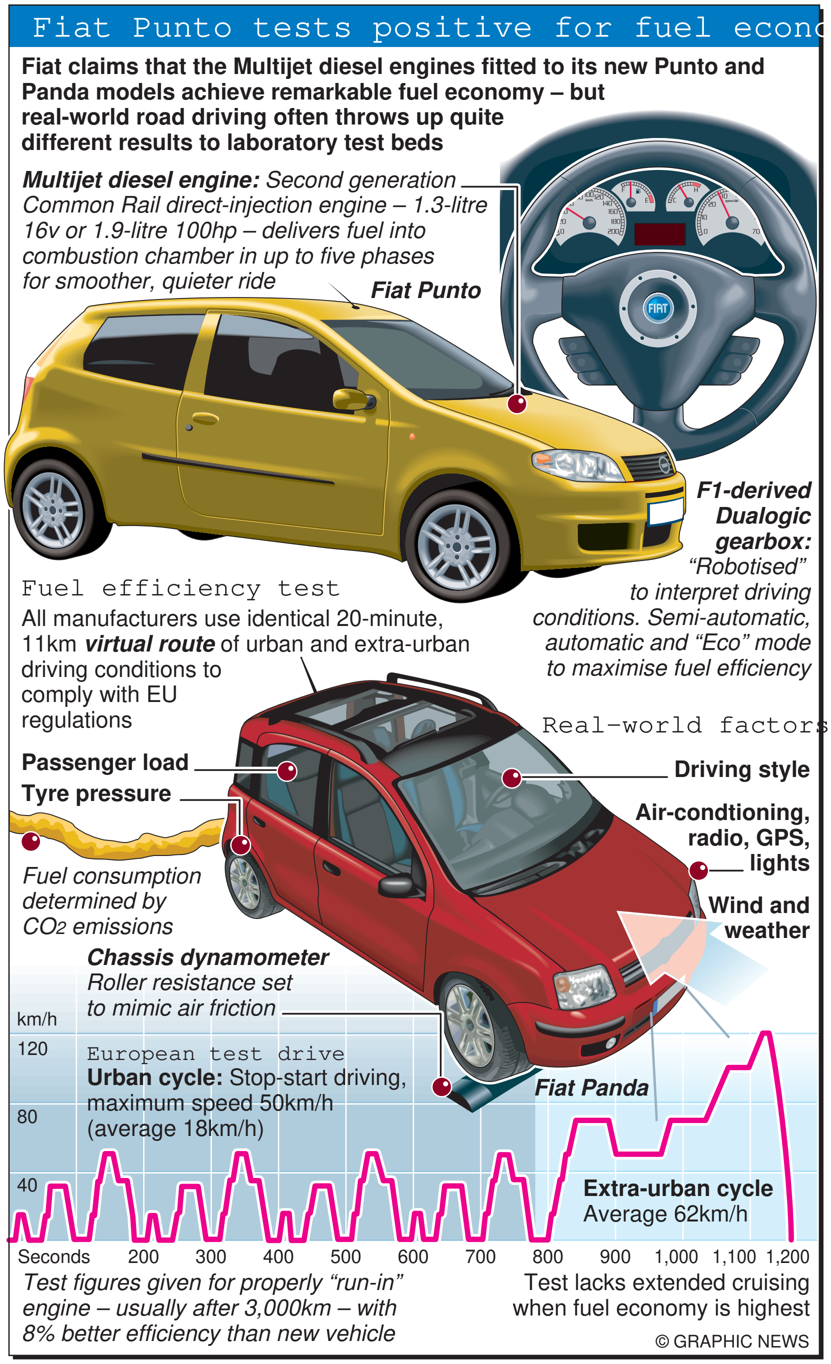
Punto has received a mild, mid-life body facelift, with le and lights. It is also the first Fiat to get the new 1.3 litre ich will also power Car of the Year 2004 -- the Fiat engine is lighter and more compact than conventional it provides the Punto with decent acceleration and more- ghway cruising performance. The figures for acceleration night not look impressive, but this car has useful punch with a 30-50mph (48-80kp/h) time of 7.2 seconds.

neration twin-cam, 16-valve, common rail, turbo diesel bangs when starting up just like conventional diesels, n quickly as it warms up. The gutsy engine is a little noisy, too intrusive.

rs from the perennial Fiat small car problem of too little clutch, brake and accelerator area for your feet. The ms difficult to locate, and there is little room for your left and handling are first class; this is a lively little car.

ny figures may be exaggerated, but over 50 miles per ns) is really very impressive. Modern diesels are combination of cutting edge economy and impressive rids may be the power plants of the future, but they don't

fuel economy and performance for a little car. The driver mped. Why exaggerate the fuel economy possibilities?



## Fiat Punto tests positive for fuel econo

**Fiat claims that the Multijet diesel engines fitted to its new Punto and Panda models achieve remarkable fuel economy – but real-world road driving often throws up quite different results to laboratory test beds**

***Multijet diesel engine:*** *Second generation Common Rail direct-injection engine – 1.3-litre 16v or 1.9-litre 100hp – delivers fuel into combustion chamber in up to five phases for smoother, quieter ride*

***Fiat Punto***

***F1-derived Dualogic gearbox:*** *"Robotised" to interpret driving conditions. Semi-automatic, automatic and "Eco" mode to maximise fuel efficiency*

### Fuel efficiency test

All manufacturers use identical 20-minute, 11km ***virtual route*** of urban and extra-urban driving conditions to comply with EU regulations

**Passenger load**

**Tyre pressure**

*Fuel consumption determined by $CO_2$ emissions*

***Chassis dynamometer*** *Roller resistance set to mimic air friction*

### Real-world factors

**Driving style**

**Air-condtioning, radio, GPS, lights**

**Wind and weather**

***Fiat Panda***

### European test drive

**Urban cycle:** Stop-start driving, maximum speed 50km/h (average 18km/h)

**Extra-urban cycle** Average 62km/h

*Test figures given for properly "run-in" engine – usually after 3,000km – with 8% better efficiency than new vehicle*

Test lacks extended cruising when fuel economy is highest

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Cut-and-p

**11km = 7-m**

50km/h = 3

18km/h = 1

62km/h = 3

*3,000km =*

120km/h = 75

80km/h = 50m

40km/h = 25m

**EDS -- DATA CORRECT AS AT 12:00GMT, DECEMBER 23, 2003**

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**STANDARD MEASURES (SAU)**