

A Q&A page where a mechanic answers readers' car questions with expert advice, troubleshooting tips, and maintenance guidance.



Best wagon picks for stylish women

Hello Paul, please advise on a good, lady-friendly station wagon. I am choosing between Toyota Fielder, IST, Ractis, Corolla, Rumion, Auris, and RunX/Alex. Compare them in terms of resale value, durability, off-road ability, and image. Also briefly mention the Mazda Demio. Sarah

Hello Sarah, these days, most smaller cars are quite unisex, as both men and women seek fuel efficiency and

practical performance. Among your choices; Toyota Fielder, IST, Ractis, Rumion, Auris, and RunX or Alex, each has its strengths, while the Mazda Demio is a bit of a wildcard.

Resale value: Toyota consistently holds excellent resale value. Even older models such as the RunX, Alex, and Fielder remain in demand, thanks to their fuel-efficient VVTi engines, reliability, and widespread availability of spare parts. Among your options, the IST is particularly strong in resale, as it's a popular choice among women. The Mazda Demio, however, has lower resale value due to limited spare parts availability in Uganda.

Durability and reliability: All Toyota models are highly reliable, provided they have been well-maintained with recommended fluids, oils,

and routine service checks. The Demio, while inherently durable, can present challenges when replacement parts are needed.

Off-road capability: These are primarily city and peri-urban cars, not built for serious off-road adventures. That said, models with slightly higher ground clearance and optional 4WD/4WD systems, such as the Fielder and Rumion, handle slippery, wet, or light off-road terrain better than the others.

Presentation and image: If image and presence are important, the Auris and Rumion stand out. The Auris, especially the Blade variant, is a sporty, eye-catching hatchback with sharp front and rear styling, air dams, and modern features. Its looks are matched by nippy handling, comfort, and a 5-star Euro NCAP safety rating.

The Rumion, meanwhile, is unique for its lofty, classy design that gives it strong road presence. Its roomy interior offers excellent head and legroom, as well as practical storage options under the floor, in cabinets, trays, and pockets.

Entry and exit are also effortless, making it ideal for everyday comfort. Driving a Rumion feels like piloting a mini Japanese version of a Rolls-Royce Phantom, lofty, roomy, and classy.

