

Sports coupe reinterpreted

BY JOE SAGE

The BMW X2, a lower- and sloped-roof sibling of the X1 crossover, strikes us as what a classic 1950s hardtop sports car might be today—compact, minimal, quick, personal—but updated for modern crash protection, upsized to seat five, still with a let’s-just-drive-somewhere air about it. Or perhaps it’s what a small sport sedan fan, those who bought the BMW 2002 40 years ago, might want in an era when fewer are buying sedans.

The X2 competes with mini-utes such as Audi Q2 and Volvo XC40, but mostly evokes fraternal twins Infiniti QX30 (\$29,950) and Mercedes-Benz GLA 250 (\$33,950), which share a platform and drivetrain with two different skins and interfaces.

The BMW X2 starts out pricier than those two, at \$36,400 for an sDrive28i with front-wheel drive. This xDrive28i has two grand well spent on AWD (even faster to 60 mph), though the big four-0 is now staring us down. And you’re sure to blow past the 40 mark, just for heated seats (included in many sub-\$20k cars, but here requiring a \$2600 package you could otherwise live without).

The M SportX Package has desirable features that

SPECIFICATIONS

SEATING.....	five
ENGINE.....	2.0L TwinPower 4-cyl turbo
HP/TORQUE.....	228 hp / 258 lb-ft
TRANSMISSION.....	8-spd auto, sport/manual modes
DRIVETRAIN.....	AWD
0-TO-60 / TOP SPEED.....	6.3 sec / 130 mph
SUSPENSION.....	F: single-joint spring-strut axle in lightweight aluminum-steel construction R: multi-arm axle in lightweight steel w separate spring and damper configuration
STEERING.....	electric power rack & pinion
BRAKES (REGEN).....	F: 1-piston, floating caliper, vented R: 1-piston, floating caliper, vented
WHEELS/TIRES.....	(std) 7.5x18 / 225/50R18 95V AS
LENGTH/WHEELBASE.....	172.2 / 105.1 in
TURNING CIRCLE.....	37.2 ft
GROUND CLEARANCE.....	7.2 in
HEADROOM (F/R).....	(w/o sunroof) 39.8 / 37.1 in
LEGROOM (F/R).....	40.3 / 36.7 in
CARGO VOLUME.....	21.6 / 50.1 cu.ft
WEIGHT.....	3662 lb
FUEL CAPACITY.....	16.1 gal
MPG.....	21/31/25 (city/hwy/comb)

bring you closer to the big five-0 mark. A few more items and you’ve passed it. But forget all that logical price stuff. This is the kind of vehicle you buy anyway, if you just fall in love with it.

Cabin space is quite adequate for a small vehicle once inside, but the B-pillar and rear door make front access tight, and details like cupholders are notably small. The car has sturdy underpinnings and seems a bit of a heavyweight for the smallest in the lineup; thus whereas it does well on the freeway—where its small size is a big advantage—it

BASE PRICE.....	\$38,400
GALVANIC GOLD METALLIC.....	550
SENSATEC OYSTER/BLACK INTERIOR.....	nc
DRIVING ASSISTANCE PKG: Active Driving Assist.....	700
PREMIUM PACKAGE: heated front seats, heads-up display, real time traffic info, remote services, nav touchpad.....	2600
M SPORT X PACKAGE: sport auto transmission, power-fold mirrors, univ garage door opener, keyless entry, pano sunroof, lumbar support, SiriusXM (w 1 year), M sport suspension, 19" M light alloy double spoke wheels, sport seats, alum hexagon trim w pearl, M steering wheel, M SportX exterior package, shadowline exterior trim, anthracite headliner.....	4650
(unspecified).....	400
PARK DISTANCE CONTROL.....	800
APPLE CARPLAY COMPATIBILITY.....	300
WIRELESS CHARGING & WIFI HOT SPOT.....	500
HARMAN/KARDON PREMIUM AUDIO.....	875
M REAL SPOILER.....	150
DESTINATION CHARGE.....	995
TOTAL.....	\$50,920

(Note: the unspecified \$400 item on the Monroney sheet led us to the consumer build site, where that was not clarified, while a few other details also varied from our sample’s info.)

horsepower level made us abandon many competitive acceleration ambitions on the on-ramps.

Good news, however, as an X2 M35i is coming for 2019, with BMW’s most-powerful-ever 2.0L turbo—302 hp with a 4.9-second zero-to-60 time. At that point, this modern sports coupe or sedan—that’s-not-a-sedan should really come into its own.

The X2 is pricier than the classic sports coupe, but safer and more reliable, and it can go off-road—all part of this more contemporary interpretation of things. ■

