

## Hyundai's Accent on compact quality and comfort -by Liana Reiners

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When the Accent began life as Hyundai's first product – then known as the Pony – in 1976, no one could have predicted that it would become one of the Korean manufacturer's top-selling global models. Three derivatives of the seventh generation of the Accent are now available in SA and offer large vehicle qualities and an extensive list of comfort features in a compact, easy-to-handle package.

The new Accent sports a coupé-like profile that bears more than a passing resemblance to the new Sonata and Elantra. The design is highlighted by dynamic and sophisticated graphic elements, including so-called eagle-eye two-tone bezel halogen headlamps, L-shaped fog lamps and a large hexagonal front grille.



This refined and stately image is reflected in the interior, where high-gloss black and metallic colours add a futuristic and high-tech look. Although varying specification levels are available, comfort and enjoyment received priority when the list of standard features was compiled for all three models. A high-quality sound system, a trip computer and electrically operated outside mirrors, among other things, are all part of the package.



The Accent is powered by a 1,6-litre engine that is constructed on a cast aluminium block. This in-line, four-cylinder petrol unit features double overhead camshafts and multiport fuel injection with constant variable valve timing (CVVT). It delivers its peak power output of 91 kW at 6 300 r/min and its torque output tops the graph at 156 Nm, delivered at 4 200 r/min.

A five-speed manual gearbox is standard, but a four-speed automatic transmission is also available. In the four-speed automatic gearbox, power loss has virtually been eliminated through an improved torque converter, with responsive, sporty acceleration as the result. On the manual five-speed transmission, the gear teeth have been ground in a specific manner to lessen noise, vibration and harshness (NVH) and lighter, finer-toothed gears have been employed to respond to high torque and to deliver improved fuel economy. The gearshifts are precise and smooth.

On the safety front, the Accent is equipped with ABS, airbags for the driver and front passenger and four three-point safety belts, with a lap belt for the middle rear seat. Ventilated front disc brakes and solid discs for the rear brakes ensure firm, secure stopping distances, even in an emergency.

Pricing for the new Hyundai Accent is as follows:

Accent 1.6 GL Manual	-	R146 900
Accent 1.6 GLS Manual	-	R156 900
Accent 1.6 GLS Automatic	-	R167 000

