

CARGAZING



Rugged styling updates give the 2024 Honda Passport a more adventurous look, hinting at its off-road potential and spacious, utilitarian interior.

CX-70: The Driver's Crossover

Mazda Injects Sports Car DNA Into a Stylish, Premium Vehicle

By Derek Price
CARGAZING.COM

The all-new 2025 Mazda CX-70 arrives as a compelling entrant in the crowded midsize crossover segment, blending the brand's signature driving dynamics with upscale amenities and efficient plug-in hybrid technology.

After a week behind the wheel of the CX-70 PHEV Premium Plus, it's clear that Mazda has crafted a vehicle that stands out from the pack.

At first glance, the CX-70 impresses with its sleek, athletic stance. Mazda's Kodo design language translates beautifully to this larger canvas, with a long hood, sculpted flanks and a low-slung roofline that gives the CX-70 a distinctly sporty appearance.

The aggressive front fascia and available 21-inch wheels further emphasize its dynamic character.

But it's from behind the wheel that the CX-70 truly shines. True to Mazda's "Zoom-Zoom" ethos, this midsize crossover handles with a precision and agility that's rare in its class.

The steering is direct and communicative, while the chassis exhibits impressive composure through corners.

It's not hyperbole to say this is the Miata of midsize crossovers. The CX-70 shrinks around you on a winding road, defying its substantial dimensions.

The plug-in hybrid powertrain in my tester proved both potent and efficient. Combining a 2.5-liter gasoline engine with a 68-kW electric motor, the system produces a robust 323 horsepower and 360 lb-ft of torque. This translates to brisk acceleration and confident passing power.



The 2024 Toyota GR Corolla's subtle yet aggressive styling belies its potent performance capabilities, making it the ultimate sleeper hot hatch.

More impressively, the CX-70 PHEV achieves an EPA-estimated 56 MPGe, allowing for significant fuel savings in daily driving.

Inside, the CX-70's cabin is a testament to Mazda's upmarket aspirations. Premium materials abound, from soft-touch surfaces to available Nappa leather upholstery.

The design is modern and driver-centric, with a widescreen infotainment display seamlessly integrated into the dash. Mazda's decision to offer both a rotary controller and touchscreen functionality for the infotainment system is commendable, allowing

drivers to choose their preferred input method.

Practicality hasn't been sacrificed in the pursuit of style. The CX-70 offers generous passenger space in both rows, and the cargo area is well-thought-out with additional compartments and a clever sub-trunk for hiding valuables.

The remote-folding rear seats are a particularly useful touch for those with active lifestyles.

Technology integration is impressive, with features such as wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, a crisp head-up display,

and the introduction of Alexa voice control. Mazda's suite of driver assistance features, including the new Unresponsive Driver Support system, provides peace of mind without being overly intrusive.

At \$59,275 as tested, the CX-70 PHEV Premium Plus represents a significant investment. While this places it in competition with some luxury-branded offerings, the Mazda more than holds its own in terms of quality, performance and features.

That said, buyers seeking a more budget-friendly option can find lower-trim CX-70s starting around \$40,000.

Some may question Mazda's decision to introduce the CX-70 alongside the very similar CX-90, with the primary difference being the lack of a third row in the CX-70. This product strategy could lead to confusion for some shoppers.

Additionally, while the handling is exemplary, the firm suspension tuning may be too sporty for those prioritizing a cushy ride.

Despite these minor quibbles, the 2025 Mazda CX-70 is a compelling package that should be on the shortlist for any midsize crossover shopper who values driving engagement.

It successfully combines the practicality of an SUV with the soul of a sports car, all wrapped in a premium package that punches above its weight class.

For those who refuse to sacrifice driving pleasure when moving to a family-friendly vehicle, the CX-70 proves that practicality and performance need not be mutually exclusive. It's a worthy addition to Mazda's evolving lineup and a strong contender in the competitive midsize crossover segment.

A CLOSER LOOK



AT A GLANCE

FACTS, FIGURES AND RATINGS

What was tested?

2025 Mazda CX-70 PHEV Premium Plus (\$57,450). Options: Premium paint (\$450). Price as tested (including \$1,375 destination charge): \$59,275

By the numbers

Wheelbase: 122.8 in.
Length: 201.6 in.
Width: 84.9 in.
Height: 68.7 in.
Power: 2.5-liter engine plus 68-kW electric motor (323 hp, 360 ft.-lbs. combined)
Transmission: Eight-speed automatic
Fuel economy: 56 MPGe

RATINGS

Style: 9
Performance: 7
Price: 7
Handling: 9
Ride: 8
Comfort: 8
Quality: 9
Overall: 9

Why buy it?

The CX-70 offers sports-car-like handling dynamics, premium cabin quality and efficient plug-in hybrid technology, making it an ideal choice for driving enthusiasts who need versatility.

CARGAZING

CX-70: The Driver's Crossover

Mazda Injects Sports Car DNA Into a Stylish, Premium Vehicle

By Derek Price

CARGAZING.COM

The all-new 2025 Mazda CX-70 arrives as a compelling entrant in the crowded midsize crossover segment, blending the brand's signature driving dynamics with upscale amenities and efficient plug-in hybrid technology.

After a week behind the wheel of the CX-70 PHEV Premium Plus, it's clear that Mazda has crafted a vehicle that stands out from the pack.

At first glance, the CX-70 impresses with its sleek, athletic stance. Mazda's Kodo design language translates beautifully to this larger canvas, with a long hood, sculpted flanks and a low-slung roofline that gives the CX-70 a distinctly sporty appearance.

The aggressive front fascia and available 21-inch wheels further emphasize its dynamic character.

But it's from behind the wheel that the CX-70 truly shines. True to Mazda's "Zoom-Zoom" ethos, this midsize crossover handles with a precision and agility that's rare in its class.

The steering is direct and communicative, while the chassis exhibits impressive composure through corners.

It's not hyperbole to say this is the Miata of midsize crossovers. The CX-70 shrinks around you on a winding road, defying its



With its long hood, sculpted body lines and aggressive stance, the 2025 Mazda CX-70 brings a dose of athleticism to the midsize crossover segment.

substantial dimensions.

The plug-in hybrid powertrain in my tester proved both potent and efficient. Combining a 2.5-liter gasoline engine with a 68-kW electric motor, the system produces a robust 323 horsepower and 360 lb-ft of torque. This translates to brisk acceleration and confident passing power.

More impressively, the CX-70 PHEV achieves an EPA-estimated 56 MPGe, allowing for significant fuel savings in daily driving.

Inside, the CX-70's cabin is a testament to Mazda's upmarket aspirations. Premium materials abound, from soft-touch surfaces to

available Nappa leather upholstery.

The design is modern and driver-centric, with a wide-screen infotainment display seamlessly integrated into the dash. Mazda's decision to offer both a rotary controller and touchscreen functionality for the infotainment system is commendable, allowing drivers to choose their preferred input method.

Practicality hasn't been sacrificed in the pursuit of style. The CX-70 offers generous passenger space in both rows, and the cargo area is well-thought-out with additional compartments and a clever sub-trunk for hiding valuables.

The remote-folding rear seats are a particularly useful touch for those with active lifestyles.

Technology integration is impressive, with features such as wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, a crisp head-up display, and the introduction of Alexa voice control. Mazda's suite of driver assistance features, including the new Unresponsive Driver Support system, provides peace of mind without being overly intrusive.

At \$59,275 as tested, the CX-70 PHEV Premium Plus represents a significant investment. While this places it in competition with some

luxury-branded offerings, the Mazda more than holds its own in terms of quality, performance and features.

That said, buyers seeking a more budget-friendly option can find lower-trim CX-70s starting around \$40,000.

Some may question Mazda's decision to introduce the CX-70 alongside the very similar CX-90, with the primary difference being the lack of a third row in the CX-70. This product strategy could lead to confusion for some shoppers.

Additionally, while the handling is exemplary, the firm suspension tuning may be too sporty for those prioritizing a cushy ride.

Despite these minor quibbles, the 2025 Mazda CX-70 is a compelling package that should be on the shortlist for any midsize crossover shopper who values driving engagement.

It successfully combines the practicality of an SUV with the soul of a sports car, all wrapped in a premium package that punches above its weight class.

For those who refuse to sacrifice driving pleasure when moving to a family-friendly vehicle, the CX-70 proves that practicality and performance need not be mutually exclusive. It's a worthy addition to Mazda's evolving lineup and a strong contender in the competitive midsize crossover segment.

AT A GLANCE

What was tested?

2025 Mazda CX-70 PHEV Premium Plus (\$57,450). Options: Premium paint (\$450). Price as tested (including \$1,375 destination charge): \$59,275

By the numbers

Wheelbase: 122.8 in.
Length: 201.6 in.
Width: 84.9 in.
Height: 68.7 in.
Power: 2.5-liter engine plus 68-kW electric motor (323 hp, 360 ft.-lbs. combined)
Transmission: Eight-speed automatic
Fuel economy: 56 MPGe

RATINGS

Style: 9
Performance: 7
Price: 7
Handling: 9
Ride: 8
Comfort: 8
Quality: 9
Overall: 9

Why buy it?

The CX-70 offers sports-car-like handling dynamics, premium cabin quality and efficient plug-in hybrid technology, making it an ideal choice for driving enthusiasts who need versatility.