

GWM Steed 5 double cab 4x2 -by Adri Bezuidenhout

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Up to the Sixties, products made in Japan were mostly of inferior quality. How things have changed since then! The Japanese – proud, disciplined, hardworking and committed – showed the western world how it should be done. Nowadays you can buy any made-in-Japan product blindfolded, safe in the knowledge that it will be a quality item.

The Chinese are now facing the same challenges as the Japanese did back then, but they are catching up at the speed of light.

It wasn't that long ago that vehicles from China started infiltrating our market in small numbers and at bargain prices. Unfortunately you got what you paid for – sometimes even less. But, things have changed for the better.

What allows me to make such a statement is my recent encounter with the made-in-China GWM Steed 5 double cab 4x2.



Visually, it's a case of form follows function. Let's face it; it must be a designer's nightmare to combine the attributes of a four-door passenger car and the load space of a bakkie into a visually appealing design. Yet, the Steed 5 is by no means unattractive.

The interior is as good as it gets. Devoid of any gimmicks, it is functional, practical and roomy, with more than enough legroom for those in the rear. It also offers air-conditioning and power windows as standard.

The load area of the Steed 5 area is massive, the tailgate is easy to open and there are numerous hooks and rods to tie down cargo.

From a technical point of view, the Steed 5 has much to offer. The 2,4-litre petrol engine boasts fuel injection and it is fitted with a turbocharger. Power and torque figures are 100 kW and 200 Nm respectively. A five-speed gearbox is standard.

Performance is good but the ride is typically double cab; somewhat harsh and bumpy. One must bear in mind, though, that this is a double cab based on a bakkie chassis, not a luxury saloon.

And then there is the price; R184 990. Compared to other offerings in this category, it is the bargain of the decade. My verdict regarding the GWM Steed 5 double cab 4x2? I was impressed. In fact, I was pleasantly surprised. I came to the conclusion that the made-in-China stigma isn't applicable to GWM products.

