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Titan spreads out Nissan unveils new versions of its popular pickup. PAGE 2

#### **TEST DRIVE**

# **Civics** Lesson 2016 Honda Civic 1.5T Touring

DAN LYONS | text and photos Special to the Times Union

onda basically built their U.S. reputation on the back of its compact Civic. So when the ninth generation (2011-2015) rolled out to tepid reviews, it was newsworthy.

The knuckle-rapping in the automotive press helped lead Honda to take an unusual step: pushing up the timetable for meaningful changes. Rather than following with the typical mid-cycle refresh, wide-ranging improvements appeared in the cars that arrived in

2016 Honda Civic 1.5T Touring MSRP: \$18,640 (LX); \$26,500 (Touring) As Tested: \$27,335

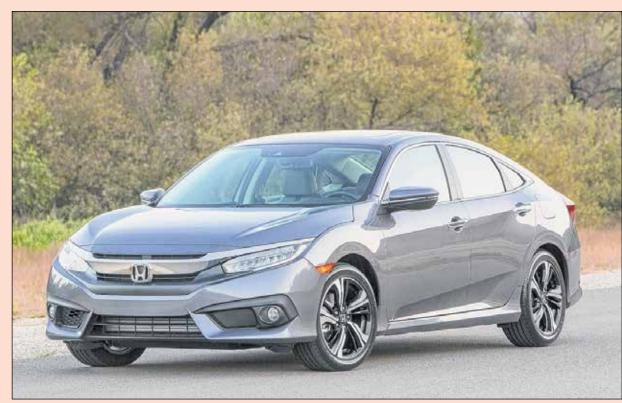
showrooms a scant two years later. Those 2013 editions were indeed better, but by then they were playing catchup, in a segment with little margin for error.

The 10th generation Civic appears for 2016, and after an extensive test drive, it looks to me like Honda has put its touchstone compact back on track. LX, LX-P, EX-T, EX-L and Touring trim levels are offered on the two-door models, while the-four doors are available in LX, EX, EX-T, EX-L and Touring trim.

My test sedan was outfitted in top Touring trim, and with nothing added beyond the \$835 destination and handling charge, it had a delivered price tag of \$27,335.

Size-wise, the latest Civic is lower (.8 inch) and wider (1.8 inches) than the previous edition. It's also longer (2.9 inches), with a longer wheelbase (1.2 inches).





THE 10TH GENERATION HONDA CIVIC feels sportier than the previous generation, and cargo space is generous for the segment. The addition of a turbo-charged engine option offers an impressive blend of performance and economy.

has put its touchstone

compact back on track.

Stretching a car lengthwise usually bodes well for passenger comfort, and that's the case here. Using my six-foot yardstick (OK, maybe that's a twin yardstick), said size people will fit in both rows, which is better than many in this segment.

The interior is cleanly styled. You sit noticeably lower in this Civic than the last one, which feels sportier, though the giveback is a little less ability to see over whatever's

in front of you.

some smartphone functions via the car's touchscreen. But the touchscreen plays to mixed reviews. Several of the function buttons are distractingly small targets to hit while driving. Volume controls are adjusted by

swiping along the top left corner of the screen, and typically take twice For the 2016 Civic, Honda as long to adjust as conventional controls would. The secondary controls (on the steering wheel) are preferable to the primary controls (on the dash) — which is never the sign of a good design.

A rearview camera is standard on all models. Lane Watch — Honda's take on blind spot monitoring — is included on EX level and up. Switching on the righthand turn signal (or pressing a button on the end of *Continued on page 2* 

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The two-tier dashboard of ninth generation cars is gone. Top center on the new dash is a 7-inch touchscreen, on all but base models. The interface brings updated infotainment technology. For example, Android Auto and Apple CarPlay compatibility allow access to

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