

# Portland Observer Auto Review

News and reviews on new motor vehicles

## 2010 Mercedes-Benz GLK350W 4Matic

BY KATHLEEN CARR

The 2010 Mercedes-Benz GLK-Class is the first premium compact SUV from this German manufacturer. This 4-door wagon shares its platform with the Mercedes-Benz C-Class premium compact car. A single GLK350 trim level is available with rear-wheel drive or the company's 4Matic all-wheel drive.

The 2010 Mercedes GLK350 is powered by a 3.5-liter V6 good for 268 hp and 258 pound-feet of torque. A seven-speed automatic transmission with comfort, sport and manual settings is standard. It's most notable driving characteristic is the rock-solid feel of its chassis and unibody construction over every bump and road imperfection. The GLK comes standard with stability control, antilock disc brakes with brake assist, front-seat side

airbags and side curtain airbags. A rearview camera, parking sensors and TeleAid emergency telematics are optional.

The interior overall look was lacking in appearance. It has an entry level appeal not the luxury style of Mercedes-Benz. The standard equipment includes 19-inch wheels, cruise control, automatic headlamps, eight-way power front seats, MB Tex premium vinyl upholstery, dual-zone automatic climate control, a power tilt and telescoping steering column, Bluetooth and an eight-speaker stereo with a CD player and an auxiliary audio jack. The Premium 1 package adds a panoramic sunroof, a power tailgate, rain-sensing wipers, auto-dimming mirrors, driver seat memory settings, a 115-volt household outlet and satel-

lite radio. The Multimedia package adds a hard-drive navigation system, the COMAND interface, a rear-view camera, and a surround-sound system with 11 speakers, in-dash six-CD changer (available as stand-alone) and 6 GB of digital music storage. Other options include front and rear parking sensors, xenon headlights, leather upholstery, heated front seats, running boards, an iPod interface and a rear-seat entertainment system with dual front-headrest-mounted displays.

The GLK350W leaves me with mixed feelings. It has the precise and handling of a Mercedes-Benz, but from the side view of this view lacks the premium style. It does not stand out as a Mercedes the look of it was just lacking throughout the vehicle.



Vehicle Specifications: 3.5L V6 24-Valve gasoline engine; Seven speed driver adaptive automatic transmission; 15 city mpg, 20 highway mpg; MSRP \$45,685.

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