

Goss' Garage

VEHICLE ROAD TEST AND REVIEW

My tests are very different than most as I don't care how fast a car can go around a corner, if it is two-tenths of a second faster to sixty or how well it does at the track because I don't take my cars to the track. Actually I don't consider performance at all unless it is so bad the vehicle can not be recommended. Only you can determine what meets your performance expectations. My tests deal with practical aspects of long-term vehicle ownership including the difficulty of performing basic services which are becoming very costly on some models.

Although I give some subjective ratings (5 excellent, 1 poor) it is best that you spend seat-time in the vehicle because what I like you might hate. A good way to become really acquainted with a vehicle without buying it is to rent the same car for a weekend and drive it under lots of different conditions. Never buy a car in the rain. Never buy a car without a road test and inspection of the actual car you will drive home. In other words just road testing a demonstrator is not acceptable as no two cars are exactly alike.

I also do not compare vehicles to others of a different class and I do not set a standard above what the car was designed to provide. For instance, I don't compare the ride and handling of an entry-level vehicle to an upscale prestige model. For more help in buying the right car visit our buying help section. Drive Gently --- Pat Goss.

VEHICLE STATISTICS

YEAR 2009 MAKE Dodge MODEL Ram 1500 ENGINE 5.7 Hemi
TRANSMISSION Auto 5 BODY STYLE Pickup MILES AT TEST 2,200
DRIVE WHEELS --- FRONT ___ REAR ___ ALL-WHEEL ___ FOUR-WHEEL X
TEST DATE 03-09 WEATHER Clear MSRP 45,105

NOTES _____

OBSERVED MILES PER GALLON

HIGHWAY _____ CITY _____ COMBINED 16.2

NOTES A Pleasant Surprise!

COMFORT

SEATS --- 5 ___ 4 ___ 3 2 ___ 1 ___

STEERING WHEEL --- 5 ___ 4 ___ 3 2 ___ 1 ___

LEFT ARM REST --- 5 ___ 4 3 ___ 2 ___ 1 ___

CENTER ARM REST --- 5 ___ 4 3 ___ 2 ___ 1 ___

PEDAL POSITION --- 5 ___ 4 ___ 3 2 ___ 1 ___

GAUGE VISIBILITY --- 5 ___ 4 ___ 3 2 ___ 1 ___

COMPLEXITY OF CONTROLS --- 5 ___ 4 3 ___ 2 ___ 1 ___

CONTROL ERGONOMICS --- 5 ___ 4 3 ___ 2 ___ 1 ___

NOTES _____

SAFETY

VISIBILITY FORWARD --- 5 ___ 4 3 ___ 2 ___ 1 ___

VISIBILITY REARWARD --- 5 ___ 4 3 ___ 2 ___ 1 ___

VISIBILITY LEFT --- 5 ___ 4 3 ___ 2 ___ 1 ___

VISIBILITY RIGHT --- 5 ___ 4 3 ___ 2 ___ 1 ___

MIRROR VISIBILITY INSIDE --- 5 ___ 4 3 ___ 2 ___ 1 ___

MIRROR VISIBILITY OUTSIDE RIGHT --- 5 ___ 4 3 ___ 2 ___ 1 ___

MIRROR VISIBILITY OUTSIDE LEFT --- 5 ___ 4 3 ___ 2 ___ 1 ___

ABS --- YES NO ___

TRACTION CONTROL --- YES ___ NO ?

ANTI SLIP REGULATION --- YES ___ NO

LANE AVOIDANCE --- YES ___ NO

DROWSINESS MONITOR --- YES ___ NO

BACKUP CAMERA --- YES NO

BACKUP ALERT --- YES NO

FRONT PARK ALERT --- YES NO

SIGNAL MIRRORS --- YES NO

HOW WELL DOES IT HANDLE --- 5 4 3 2 1

NOTES COMFORTABLE, GREAT PERFORMANCE, GREAT HANDLING

CONVENIENCE

TRUNK ACCESS --- 5 4 3 2 1

TRUNK VOLUME --- 5 4 3 2 1

USABLE CUP HOLDERS --- 5 4 3 2 1 NUMBER

STEERING WHEEL CONTROLS FOR --

-- AUDIO --- YES NO

-- CLIMATE CONTROL --- YES NO

-- TELEPHONE --- YES NO

-- CRUISE CONTROL --- YES NO

BLUETOOTH EQUIPPED --- YES NO

HOME LINK --- YES NO

POWER DRIVER'S SEAT --- YES NO

POWER PASS SEAT --- YES NO

HEATED SEATS --- YES NO

COOLED SEATS --- YES NO

LUMBAR SUPPORT --- YES NO

REAR SEAT ROOM --- 5 4 3 2 1

AUTO DIM REAR VIEW MIRROR INSIDE --- YES ___ NO ___

AUTO DIM OUTSIDE MIRROR --- YES ___ NO ___

FOLDING REAR SEATS --- YES NO ___

NOTES Very Comfortable seats and highly usable
Features and space

THE REALLY IMPORTANT THINGS

OIL CHANGE DIFFICULTY --- 5 4 ___ 3 ___ 2 ___ 1 ___

OIL FILTER DIFFICULTY --- 5 ___ 4 ___ 3 ___ 2 1 ___

SPARK PLUG DIFFICULTY --- 5 ___ 4 ___ 3 2 ___ 1 ___

WATER PUMP DIFFICULTY --- 5 ___ 4 ___ 3 ___ 2 1 ___

DRIVE BELT DIFFICULTY --- 5 4 ___ 3 ___ 2 ___ 1 ___

TIRE / WHEEL DAMAGE RISK --- 5 ___ 4 ___ 3 2 ___ 1 ___

AIR FILTER DIFFICULTY --- 5 4 ___ 3 ___ 2 ___ 1 ___

BATTERY DIFFICULTY --- 5 4 ___ 3 ___ 2 ___ 1 ___

THERMOSTAT DIFFICULTY --- 5 4 ___ 3 ___ 2 ___ 1 ___

HEADLAMP REPLACEMENT DIFFICULTY --- 5 ___ 4 ___ 3 ___ 2 1 ___

OTHER LAMPS DIFFICULTY --- 5 ___ 4 ___ 3 2 ___ 1 ___

UNIQUE WIPER BLADES --- YES ___ NO

TIRE ROTATION POSSIBLE --- YES NO ___

OVERALL REPAIR COMPLEXITY --- 5 ___ 4 3 ___ 2 ___ 1 ___

PROPRIETARY TOOLS FOR ROUTINE SERVICES --- YES ___ NO ___ ???

REQUIRES UNUSUAL ENGINE OIL --- YES ___ NO

REQUIRES SPECIAL COOLANT --- YES NO ___

REQUIRES SPECIAL TRANSMISSION FLUID --- YES NO ___

USES REGULAR FUEL --- YES NO

"RECOMMENDS" PREMIUM FUEL --- YES NO

"REQUIRES" PREMIUM FUEL --- YES NO

NOTES Extremely Serviceable in most Areas

OBSERVED QUALITY

INTERIOR MATERIALS --- 5 4 3 2 1

EXTERIOR MATERIALS --- 5 4 3 2 1

INTERIOR FIT --- 5 4 3 2 1

EXTERIOR FIT --- 5 4 3 2 1

STAINLESS STEEL EXHAUST --- YES NO

TIMING CHAIN BELT

TRUNK FINISH --- 5 4 3 2 1

PAINT QUALITY --- 5 4 3 2 1

UNPAINTED PLASTIC ON EXTERIOR --- YES NO

MY GENERAL IMPRESSION OF THIS VEHICLE --- 5 4 3 2 1

NOTES AND COMMENTS Drives nice, Rides nice, Great exhaust note
easy to service, great Features But unless you
ARE very Tall or very athletic do not buy
without steps