

Consumer Guide 1988 – Chrysler LeBaron

Chrysler LeBaron Sedan/Wagon

WHAT'S NEW FOR '88

The front-drive LeBaron 4-door sedan and Town & Country 5-door wagon, based on the Chrysler K-car body and



Chrysler LeBaron 4-door

chassis (Dodge Aries and Plymouth Reliant) have a more powerful standard battery and redesigned air conditioning controls for 1988. A 500-amp battery is now standard in place of a 400-amp battery. A fuel-injected 2.2-liter engine is standard on the sedan, while a fuel-injected 2.5-liter engine is standard on the wagon, optional on the sedan. A turbocharged 2.2 is optional on both. This year, the turbo 2.2 has a new Mitsubishi-made turbocharger that Chrysler says is lighter and more responsive than the old U.S.-made turbocharger, though horsepower remains the same as last year at 146. All three engines are available only with a 3-speed automatic transmission in the LeBaron sedan and wagon.

FOR

Luxury appointments • Performance (turbo)

AGAINST

Noise (turbo)

SUMMARY

The sedan and wagon are the oldest and least appealing of the "Three LeBarons" because they're merely spin-offs of the less-expensive K-cars, gaining only plusher appointments and a turbocharged engine option. Interior room is pretty good for the compact exterior dimensions, though some newer compacts (such as the Honda Accord and Toyota Camry) are more spacious. The sedan and wagon do have more interior room (particularly in the rear seat) than the LeBaron coupe and convertible. Our first advice is to save some money and buy a K-car instead of one of these. Our second advice—if you ignore the first—is to choose either the 2.5-liter or turbocharged 2.2-liter engine. The 2.5 is the quietest and smoothest, and will enable you to keep pace with traffic (Porsches, Corvettes and the like excluded). The turbo 2.2 has a raucous, harsh nature, but gives these cars spirited acceleration and brisk passing response on the open road. If you want more power and are willing to live with a noisier engine, then choose the turbo 2.2. Skip the non-turbo 2.2 because it has most of the turbo engine's noise, but none of the additional power. Since there are no substantive improvements over the basic K-car package in the LeBaron sedan and wagon, we see nothing here to get too excited about.

SPECIFICATIONS	4-door notchback	5-door wagon
Wheelbase, in.	100.3	100.3
Overall length, in.	179.2	179.0
Overall width, in.	68.0	68.0
Overall height, in.	52.9	53.2
Front track, in.	57.6	57.6
Rear track, in.	57.2	57.2
Curb weight, lbs.	2582	2759
Cargo vol., cu. ft.	15.0	67.1
Fuel capacity, gal.	14.0	14.0
Seating capacity	6	6
Front headroom, in.	38.6	38.5
Front shoulder room, in.	55.4	55.4
Front legroom, max., in.	42.2	42.2
Rear headroom, in.	37.8	38.5
Rear shoulder room, in.	55.9	55.9
Rear legroom, min, in.	35.1	34.8

Drivetrain layout: transverse front engine/front-wheel drive. **Steering:** rack and pinion, power assisted, 3.2 turns lock-to-lock. **Turn diameter, ft.:** 38.1. **Front brakes:** 10.1-in. discs. **Rear brakes:** 7.9-in. drums (8.7-in. wagon). **Construction:** unit.

POWERTRAINS	ohc I-4	ohc I-4T	ohc I-4
Displacement, l/cu. in.	2.2/135	2.2/135	2.5/153
Fuel delivery	TBI	PFI	TBI
Net bhp @ rpm	97 @ 5200	146 @ 5200	100 @ 4800
Net torque @ rpm	122 @ 3200	170 @ 2400	133 @ 2800
Availability	S	O	S ¹
<small>1. std. coupe, conv. & wgn.</small>			
EPA city/highway mpg			
3-speed automatic	23/28	20/25	23/28

PRICES (preliminary)

CHRYSLER LE BARON	Retail Price	Dealer Invoice	Low Price
LeBaron 4-door notchback	11286	9862	10575
Town & Country 5-door wagon	12889	11249	12070
Destination charge	495	495	495

STANDARD EQUIPMENT:

2.5-liter TBI 4-cylinder engine, 3-speed automatic transmission, power steering, power brakes, headlamps-on chime, full-length front console, tinted glass, door courtesy lights, trunk/cargo area and underhood lights, ignition lock light with time delay, Message Center (low fuel and washer fluid, door, trunk/liftgate ajar warnings), left remote and right manual mirrors, visor mirrors, AM & FM ST ET, padded vinyl landau roof (sedan), cloth and vinyl bench seat, variable intermittent wipers, premium wheel covers, P185/70R14 SBR WSW tires. **Town & Country wagon** adds: 2.5-liter TBI 4-cylinder engine, cargo area dress-up, tonneau cover, liftgate wiper/washer.

OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT:

2.5-liter TBI 4-cylinder engine, 4-door . . .	288	245	265
2.2-liter PFI turbo engine	700	595	644
Air conditioning	807	686	742
Pearl coat paint	41	35	38
High-back bucket seats w/center armrest, 4-door (Popular or Luxury Pkg. req) . .	378	321	348
Low-back vinyl bucket seats w/center armrest, wagon	206	175	190
Popular Equipment Discount Pkg., 4-door .	1214	1032	1117
Wagon	1185	1007	1090
<small>Air conditioning, cruise control, rear defogger, power mirrors, power decklid/liftgate release, tilt steering column, floor mats, trunk dress-up.</small>			
Luxury Equipment Discount Pkg., 4-door . .	2260	1921	2079
Wagon	2167	1842	1994
<small>Popular Equipment plus 2.5-liter engine, power windows, door locks, and driver's seat, lighted visor mirrors, leather-wrapped steering wheel, wire wheel covers.</small>			
Mark Cross Pkg., wagon	1052	894	968
<small>Leather 50/50 seats, premium door panels.</small>			
Protection Group, 4-door	152	129	140
Wagon	90	77	83
Rear defogger	153	130	141
California emissions pkg.	102	87	94
Illuminated entry (Pop. or Lux. Pkg. req.) .	78	66	72
Power seat (left or bench)	248	211	228
AM & FM ST ET cassette	298	253	274
Conventional spare tire	86	73	79
Locking wire wheel covers	182	155	167