

Consumer Guide 1988 – Plymouth Reliant

Plymouth Reliant



Plymouth Reliant LE 4-door

WHAT'S NEW FOR '88

Reliant, a front-drive compact that's identical to the Dodge Aries, is available in only one price series for 1988 with fewer options to choose from as Chrysler simplifies its K-car lines and gives them the "America" treatment that proved successful on the Dodge Omni/Plymouth Horizon subcompacts. Base prices have been cut by nearly \$1300, individual options have been reduced and more optional equipment is available only in option packages. Last year's base series is gone, leaving only the LE series for the 2- and 4-door sedans and 5-door station wagon. The only significant mechanical change for 1988 is that an electronic lock-up torque converter now comes on the 3-speed automatic transmission with either the standard 2.2-liter 4-cylinder engine or optional 2.5-liter four. Last year, the lockup torque converter, which is supposed to improve fuel economy by reducing slippage between the engine and

transmission, came only with the 2.5 engine. A 5-speed manual transmission is standard with the 2.2. The automatic is optional with the 2.2 and required with the 2.5.

FOR

Value • Passenger room • Economy

AGAINST

Handling • Engine noise (2.2)

SUMMARY

Chrysler is trying to use the same magic on the K-cars that rejuvenated sales of the Omni/Horizon twins. They've certainly got us interested with a base price of \$6995. Assuming you want more than a stripped sedan, how about around \$9000 for a Reliant with the 2.5-liter engine, automatic, air conditioning, a stereo and few other extras? That's cheaper than many subcompacts, plus you get Chrysler's 7-year warranties on the powertrain and rust. The K-cars have been designed for basic family transportation since they were introduced seven years ago, so don't expect a compact luxury sedan or a BMW-beater for \$9000. In fact, don't expect a car that beats the Honda Accord either, except in price. In these days of \$15,000-16,000 Accords and Toyota Camrys, it's refreshing to see a fully-equipped compact for less than \$10,000. We recommend the 2.5-liter engine as the best choice. The 2.5 has better performance and less noise than the standard 2.2-liter engine, and still returns reasonable fuel economy. The interior is large enough to hold four adults with room to spare (if you stick with the standard front bucket seats) and the trunk has adequate cargo space. The K-car wagons have decent cargo space for this class. Chrysler's come up with another low-priced car that should appeal to value-conscious shoppers.

SPECIFICATIONS	2-door notchback	4-door notchback	5-door wagon
Wheelbase, in.	100.3	100.3	100.3
Overall length, in.	178.9	178.9	179.0
Overall width, in.	67.9	67.9	67.9
Overall height, in.	52.5	52.9	53.3
Front track, in.	57.6	57.6	57.6
Rear track, in.	57.2	57.2	57.2
Curb weight, lbs.	2317	2323	2448
Cargo vol., cu. ft.	15.0	15.0	67.7
Fuel capacity, gal.	14.0	14.0	14.0
Seating capacity	6	6	6
Front headroom, in.	38.2	38.6	38.5
Front shoulder room, in.	55.0	55.4	55.4
Front legroom, max., in.	42.2	42.2	42.2
Rear headroom, in.	37.0	37.8	38.5
Rear shoulder room, in.	58.8	55.9	55.9
Rear legroom, min., in.	35.1	35.4	34.8

Drivetrain layout: transverse front engine/front-wheel drive. **Steering:** rack and pinion, 4.0 turns lock-to-lock. **Turn diameter, ft.:** 34.8. **Front brakes:** 9.3-in. discs. **Rear brakes:** 7.9-in. drums. **Construction:** unit.

POWERTRAINS	ohc I-4	ohc I-4
Displacement, l/cu. in.	2.2/135	2.5/153
Fuel delivery	TBI	TBI
Net bhp @ rpm	93 @ 4800	96 @ 4400

POWERTRAINS	ohc I-4	ohc I-4
Net torque @ rpm	122 @ 3200	133 @ 2800
Availability	S	O
EPA city/highway mpg		
5-speed OD manual	25/33	
3-speed automatic	25/30	23/27

PRICES (preliminary)

PLYMOUTH RELIANT AMERICA	Retail Price	Dealer Invoice	Low Price
2-door notchback	6995	6371	6800
4-door notchback	6995	6371	6800
5-door wagon	7695	7001	7500
Destination charge	429	429	429

STANDARD EQUIPMENT:

2.2-liter TBI 4-cylinder engine, 4-speed manual transmission, power steering (wagon only), power brakes, reclining front bucket seats (bench seat may be substituted at no charge, but requires Popular Equipment Discount Pkg.), cloth and vinyl trim, intermittent wipers, optical horn, left remote mirror, right visor mirror with map/reading light, AM ET radio, 185/70R13 SBR tires (notchbacks; wagon has 185/70R14).

OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT:

2.5-liter 4-cylinder engine (Popular or Premium Pkg. req.)	288	245	265
Popular Equipment Discount Pkg.			
2- or 4-door with bucket seats	994	845	914
2- or 4-door with bench seat	894	760	822
Wagon with bucket seats	788	670	725
Wagon with bench seat	688	585	633
3-speed automatic transmission, power steering, full console, tinted glass, dual remote mirrors, AM & FM ST ET, trunk dress-up 14" tires, upgraded sound insulation, tonneau cover (wagon).			
Premium Equipment Discount Pkg.			
2-door with bucket seats	1456	1238	1340
2-door with bench seat	1356	1153	1248
4-door with bucket seats	1507	1281	1386
4-door with bench seat	1407	1196	1294
Wagon with bucket seats	1301	1106	1197
Wagon with bench seat	1201	1021	1105
Cruise control, power door locks, tilt steering column, upgraded steering wheel, misc. lights. Requires Popular Equipment Pkg.			
Wagon Convenience Pkg. Rear wiper/washer, luggage rack.	250	213	230
Air conditioning (tinted glass req.)	807	686	742
Tinted glass	124	105	114
Rear defogger	153	130	141
California emissions pkg.	102	87	94
AM & FM ST ET cassette	262	223	241
Power steering (std. wagon)	248	211	228
Road Touring Suspension, wagon	61	52	56
Conventional spare tire, notchbacks (13")	75	64	69
Wagon (14")	86	73	79
Pearl coat paint	41	35	38