

# Consumer Guide January 1987 – Dodge Aries

## Dodge Aries



Dodge Aries 4-door sedan

### WHAT'S NEW FOR '87

The front-drive Aries K-car, Dodge's family compact and a twin to the Plymouth Reliant, loses last year's mid-price SE series but gains front bucket seats as standard equipment. Dropping the SE series leaves base 2- and 4-door sedans and the upscale LE series for all three Aries body styles (2-door, 4-door and wagon). That may only be the first step in streamlining the K-car lines; Chrysler reportedly is planning to give the Aries and Reliant the "America" treatment that has been successful on the Dodge Omni and Plymouth Horizon subcompacts. That would probably include eliminating the LE series, making more equipment standard and offering only a few options to reduce production costs and retail prices. Chrysler has moved in that direction the past two years, lumping popular options into discounted packages. With bucket seats now standard, a 3-place bench seat with fold-down center armrest will be optional at no cost on LE models.

### FOR

Economy • Cargo room • Warranties

### AGAINST

Handling (base models) • Engine noise

### SUMMARY

Entering their seventh model year, the K-cars are no longer the cornerstone of Chrysler's marketing plans, but they still account for a good chunk of Dodge and Plymouth sales. We've always rated them highly as sensible family transportation and good value for the money, and that hasn't changed. A fully-equipped LE sedan with the 2.5-liter engine, automatic transmission, air conditioning and the Premium Discount Package costs less than \$11,000 under preliminary 1987 prices, plus Aries is backed by Chrysler's 5-year/50,000-mile warranties. The optional 2.5 engine and automatic is the best drivetrain combination available. The 2.5 is smoother, quieter and more powerful than the standard 2.2, and it gives Aries lively acceleration for a family car without much loss in fuel economy.

**KEY:** **bbi** = barrel (carburetor); **bhp** = brake horsepower; **torque** = pounds/feet; **Cal.** = California only; **TBI** = throttle body (single-point) fuel injection; **PFI** = port (multi-point) fuel injection; **MFI** = mechanical fuel injection; **ohv** = overhead valve; **ohc** = overhead cam; **dohc** = double overhead cam; **I** = inline engine; **V** = V engine; **flat** = horizontally opposed engine; **D** = diesel; **T** = turbocharged; **OD** = overdrive transmission; **S** = standard; **O** = optional.

Handling is improved on LE models with the addition of 14-inch tires, while the base sedans suffer some loss of grip with narrower 13-inch rubber. We're glad to see bucket seats standard this year because the fixed seatback on the previously standard bench seat was so reclined that it spoiled the driving position and reduced rear seat leg room. Overall, these aren't the most modern compacts or the best performing, but there aren't many others that offer as much value in a family car.

SPECIFICATIONS	2-door sedan	4-door sedan	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

### BODY/CHASSIS

**Drivetrain layout:** transverse front engine/front-wheel drive. **Front suspension:** MacPherson struts, lower control arms, coil springs, stabilizer bar. **Rear suspension:** beam flex axle, trailing arms, coil springs, stabilizer bar. **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
Compression ratio	9.5:1	9.0:1
Fuel delivery	TBI	TBI
Net bhp @ rpm	97@ 5200	100@ 4800
Net torque @ rpm	122@ 3200	133@ 2800
Availability	S	O
<b>Final drive ratios</b>		
5-speed OD manual	2.51:1	
3-speed automatic	2.78:1	3.02:1

### PRICES (preliminary)

DODGE ARIES	Retail Price	Dealer Invoice	Low Price
2-door sedan	\$7655	\$6965	\$7255
4-door sedan	7655	6965	7255
LE 2-door sedan	8134	7233	7705
LE 4-door sedan	8134	7233	7705
LE 5-door wagon	8579	7624	8130
Destination charge	410	410	410

### STANDARD EQUIPMENT (included in above prices):

2.2-liter (135-cid) TBI 4-cylinder engine, 5-speed manual transmission, power brakes, front bench seat with center armrest, vinyl upholstery, upper door frame and belt moldings, halogen headlamps, full carpeting, P175/80R13 blackwall radial tires. **LE** adds: left remote mirror, special sound insulation, bumper rub strips, AM ET radio, cloth bench seat, intermittent wipers, luxury steering wheel, carpeted lower door panels, woodtone dash

and door panel appliques, digital clock, luxury wheel covers, dual horns, map, glovebox and trunk lamps, wide black bodyside moldings, black sill moldings.

**OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT:**

2.5-liter (152-cid) engine, LE (auto trans req.)	287	244	265
3-speed automatic transmission	534	454	490
Air conditioning (tinted glass req.)	790	672	725
Pearl coat paint	41	35	38
Cloth & vinyl bench seat, base	NC	NC	NC
Vinyl bench seat w/center armrest, LE	NC	NC	NC
Above w/cloth & vinyl, LE	NC	NC	NC
Basic Equipment Pkg., base	260	221	240
<small>AM mono ET, left remote mirror, intermittent wipers, deluxe wheel covers.</small>			
Popular Equipment Discount Pkg., LE sedans	740	629	680
Wagon	760	646	700
<small>Automatic transmission, power steering, tinted glass, AM &amp; FM stereo ET, dual remote mirrors, uprated sound insulation, trunk dress-up, tonneau cover (wagon), deluxe wheel covers, P185/70R14 blackwall tires.</small>			
Premium Equipment Discount Pkg.,			
LE 2-door	1261	1072	1160
LE 4-door	1312	1115	1205
Wagon	1589	1351	1460
<small>Popular Equipment plus rear defogger, power door locks, cruise control, tilt steering column, rear wiper/washer and luggage rack (wagon).</small>			
Light Pkg.	59	50	54
Tinted glass	121	103	111
Full console (NA w/bench seat)	157	133	144
Rear defogger	152	129	139
California emissions pkg.	102	87	94
Front & rear floor mats	46	39	42
Luggage rack, wagon	127	108	117
Power door locks, LE 2-door	146	124	134
LE 4-door, wagon	197	167	181
Power steering	242	206	225
Sound systems			
AM & FM stereo ET, base w/o Basic			
Equipment	271	230	250
Base w/Basic Equipment, LE	157	133	144
AM & FM stereo ET cassette, LE (Popular			
or Premium Equipment req.)	257	218	235
Conventional spare tire (13")	75	64	69
Conventional spare tire (14")	85	72	78
Cruise control	184	156	169
Tilt steering col. (cruise req.)	126	107	116
Heavy-duty suspension	61	52	56
Undercoating	44	37	40
Cast aluminum 14" road wheels, LE			
w/Popular or Premium Equipment	332	282	305
w/o Popular or Premium Equipment	381	324	350
Rear wiper/washer, wagon	130	111	120
Woodtone exterior applique, wagon			
w/o Popular or Premium Equipment	282	240	260
w/Popular or Premium Equipment	233	198	215
P185/70R14 tires, LE (req. w/road wheels)			
w/o Popular or Premium Equipment	164	139	151
w/Popular or Premium Equipment	67	57	62