

# Consumer Guide January 1987 – Plymouth Reliant

## Plymouth Reliant



*Plymouth Reliant 4-door sedan*

### WHAT'S NEW FOR '87

Plymouth's identical copy of the Dodge Aries K-car gets the same changes as its twin: stainless steel exhaust system, elimination of the mid-level SE series (leaving base and LE), and addition of front bucket seats as standard equipment. All 1987 front-drive Chrysler cars get the stainless steel exhaust, which is supposed to be more corrosion resistant than aluminized steel. Speculation is that Chrysler plans to streamline the K-car lines further, offering them in a single series with few options choices, as has been done with the Omni/Horizon America. Currently, the 2- and 4-door compact sedans are available in base and LE trim, while the 5-door wagon comes only in LE guise.

### FOR

Economy • Cargo room • Warranties

### AGAINST

Handling (base models) • Engine noise

### SUMMARY

General Motors, Ford, Honda, Toyota, Nissan and Mazda have all introduced new or redesigned compacts since the K-cars debuted for 1981, so Reliant and Aries have grown long in the tooth. They still are fairly roomy inside and offer good trunk space for compacts, plus they're priced lower than most comparably equipped rivals and have better warranties (5 years/50,000 miles on the powertrain and body rust). We're glad

**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.

to see front bucket seats standard this year, since the bench seat that was standard previously had a fixed seatback that was so steeply angled it ruined the driving position for most people and cut into rear seat leg room. That same 3-place bench seat is available as a no-cost option this year; try it out before you buy. Chrysler has already trimmed options choices in the K-cars so that you can't get 14-inch wheels and tires on the cheaper base sedans. The standard 13-inch rubber reduces handling prowess and road grip compared to the wider 14-inch tires on LE models. The standard 2.2-liter 4-cylinder engine produces more noise, less power than the optional 2.5-liter four, which is also smoother due to the standard balance shafts mounted in the crankcase. The 2.5 doesn't look much stronger than the 2.2 on paper, but feels noticeably peppier on the road, and it won't use that much more gas. The K-cars are no longer at the leading edge of compact car design, but don't let that stop you from checking them out if you need basic, sensible transportation. They're still pretty good values.

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
Compression ratio	9.5:1	9.0:1
Fuel delivery	TBI	TBI
Net bhp @ rpm	97@ 5200	100@ 4800
	122@ 5200	133@ 4800
Net torque @ rpm	3200	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

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#### PRICES (preliminary)

PLYMOUTH RELIANT	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
AM mono ET, left remote mirror, intermittent wipers, deluxe wheel covers.			
Popular Equipment Discount Pkg., LE sedans	740	629	680
Wagon	760	646	700
Automatic transmission, power steering, tinted glass, AM & FM stereo ET, dual remote mirrors, uprated sound insulation, trunk dress-up, tonneau cover (wagon), deluxe wheel covers, P185/70R14 blackwall tires.			
Premium Equipment Discount Pkg.,			
LE 2-door	1261	1072	1160
LE 4-door	1312	1115	1205
Wagon	1589	1351	1460
Popular Equipment plus rear defogger, power door locks, cruise control, tilt steering column, rear wiper/washer and luggage rack (wagon).			
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