



Ram HD earns praise



The editors of *Automobile Magazine* test drove the 2011 Ram 3500 Laramie Longhorn Crew Cab 4x4 and offered praise for the truck's design, execution, performance and handling.

"It's really incredible how far the Ram 3500 has come in the past few years," said Phil Floraday, Senior Web Editor.

"The Ram's large, flat interior surfaces are almost more luxuriously trimmed than most homes, with ash wood trim, premium leather swathed across most surfaces" and intricate stitching wrote Donny Nordlicht, associate web editor.

Art Director Matt Tierney said Ram is making the best looking trucks - inside and out - of Detroit automakers. With this 3500 Laramie, Ram did a beautiful job of simply stretching what is already a handsome truck into a crew cab with a massive 8-foot bed, Tierney said. "Attention to detail and creativity abound," he said.

Assistant Editor David Zenlea added that, "Puttering around town, it doesn't feel all that different from the Ram 1500, which itself doesn't feel all that different from a well-mannered SUV."

2012 Jeep® Wrangler maintains off-road leadership, increases power and efficiency

The new 2012 Jeep® Wrangler is an impressive vehicle, an icon that's as capable as ever but much easier to live with on a daily basis, thanks to the added refinement of the new engine and the 2011 interior upgrade, *Road and Track* said.

"Let's get right to the point: the new powertrain absolutely transforms the Wrangler," AutoPacific's *VehicleVoice.com* said.

"It's far more powerful and fuel efficient. It's as off-road capable as ever," *VehicleVoice.com* said. "It's a win-win for everyone. And that, friends, is progress."

The 3.6-liter Pentastar engine completes a two-year makeover that saw the interior redone for the 2011 model year, transforming the Wrangler into a rather premium entry that maintains its still-affordable base price, *Autoweek* said.

The 2012 Wrangler now has the on-road refinement and powertrain performance to match its competitors while



maintaining all the off-road cred, the iconic look and the no-sacrifices tough-as-nails layout, *The Car Connection* said.

The Car Connection writer said he frequently caught himself uttering "wow" while testing the vehicle on the trail. *Popular Mechanics* said that even with all the on-road improvements, the Wrangler "remains the most capable off-road vehicle you can buy."

The top comes off, as do the doors, and the windshield even folds down for those who want the wind in their face -- these unique features have been Jeep hallmarks for years and they're still included on the latest Jeep Wrangler, the *Toronto Star* said.



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Mid-size sedans share praise for fresh designs



The 2011 Chrysler 200 and Dodge Avenger, built on the same assembly line, were praised from different sources for their freshened designs and improved performance.

In an article titled, "Dodge's midsize sedan hits the comeback trail," *Automedia.com* said the car's freshened front and rear styling, significantly redesigned suspension, a powerful new available V-6 and an all-new interior make the Avenger feel almost like an all-new car.

Among competitors, Avenger's combination of high horsepower and strong fuel economy figures is hard to beat, the website said. The final element of the Avenger's rework is the completely new interior, the review said.

"The Avenger's transformation to 2011 has been remarkable, turning it into a com-

petitive midsize sedan that's going to appeal to a much broader range of customers," *Automedia.com* said.

Ridelust.com said the Chrysler 200 is improved in every conceivable way; the exterior styling is fresh and distinctive, the 200's interior is now-class-leading and even the optional Pentastar V-6 engine returns better fuel economy while producing more horsepower.

The outside features familiar Chrysler styling trends, yet the new 200 doesn't look like anything else on the road, the review said. If the outside is impressive, the inside of the 200 is "stunning," the review said.

"The 2011 Chrysler 200 is a sound bargain in a family-oriented midsize sedan, and if you're in the market for one, the 200 definitely deserves a place on your shopping list," *Ridelust.com* said.



Forbes Magazine features CEO Marchionne

Although he gets props for bringing "Chrysler back from the dead," repaying taxpayers and building better-selling cars, *Forbes* advises readers to "hold your applause" in a feature story about Chrysler Group CEO Sergio Marchionne in their Sept. 12 issue.

The story says that Marchionne forced Chrysler Group to confront long-ignored problems such as inefficient plants, production overcapacity and value-destroying incentives since assuming management control of Chrysler in 2009.

Marchionne readily admits much work remains and that the Fiat-Chrysler alliance is still in its "infancy," *Forbes* said.

The magazine notes that Chrysler Group has demonstrated progress increasing market share, introducing 16 new or updated models in the past two years, and luring more shoppers to showrooms with better marketing.

Vehicles get future "classic" status

While it may take 25 years to recognize a classic, there are some cars that are classics as soon as they roll off the assembly line, the *Detroit News* said.

The *News* offered its predictions of which vehicles being produced today will become classics in the future, including three from Chrysler Group.

2012 Jeep® Grand Cherokee SRT8: "Anyone who claims an SUV can't act like a muscle car has never driven the Grand Cherokee SRT8®," the *News* said. This revised model provides more stability on the road and all of the creature comforts of a regular Grand Cherokee, the paper said.

The other SRT models - Dodge Challenger SRT8, Dodge Charger SRT8 or Chrysler 300 SRT8 - qualified for future classic status with their streamlined looks even before the SRT team beefed them up, the *News* said. Now SRT drops the new 6.4-liter Hemi V-8 under its hoods, straps on racing brakes and suspension and fine tunes its performance, and the SRT8 models are the "bullies of Auburn Hills."

2012 Fiat 500: Little cars are coming, and the wave of acceptance starts with this Fiat, the *News* said. Loveable, drivable and tailored as well as an Armani suit, this year's 500 is the first to arrive in America.



A future classic: 2012 Fiat 500c

