

Adventurers! I bought a new car! For *Adventuring!*

Story: The "new Philanthropic Paul" keeps his "disposable car" 3-or-4 years, gives them away to needy teenagers. Next week, my 4y.o. PT Cruiser (77K-miles, excellent condition) goes away to Heather in OH. Here's what Heather gets (not the bike/trailer)...



...which is a terrific car, never a "fix" or rattle/squeak. Nice. Over 77K-miles, average 22.5 mpg. What I wanted, really tried to get, (as a replacement for the PT) was a Prius...



...and I went through a buddy as "buyers agent" (mantra follows)...
"I can get it for you wholesale!" but that deal fell through ☹.

My idea was to have two cars, a disposable mpg-champ (Prius) and a luxury-vehicle too. Hmmm, what-now?

Well there was only one car left to test-ride, a car that (oddly enough), depending on options, would be either the dispose-a-car, or the Luxury Car.

So I drove over to the dealer, was (typical occurrence) descended upon by salesmen in a state of excitement roughly equivalent to starving Tsetse flies...

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tsetse_fly

...who have just discovered a bleeding carcass ☹ ☹ ☹.

I had my speech ready:

- A) 4wd
- B) Max-power
- C) Fully-optioned
- D) White
- E) Willing to wait if not-on-lot

Ha! The salesman's reply was:

- 1) We have 3 on the lot, one a 2007 leftover
- 2) The last year of production for this car is 2008, and the dealers (for this reason) didn't order many; What-you-see-is-all-there-is
- 3) 4wd is out-of-the-question

Oh terrific. I had 2 alternatives...

- 1) Believe the guy (a “car salesman”)
- 2) Do **not** believe the guy

I elected #2 above, but said what-the-heck, lets take one of the cars for a test-ride. Then, if I liked it, I'd go to another dealer and special-order the car. I spotted a sticker on the test-car...



...and the window-sticker was \$24,000! That price is a **25% discount!** This is the leftover-2007.

With tax/license/fee's (“out the door”) the price was \$19, 850.

Dilemma follows...

- 1) Not 4wd
- 2) Minimum power (smallest of 3 available engines)
- 3) Not white

Mental re-calculation...

What if I made this car (the potential “luxury car”) into the “cheap/disposable” car?

For the Prius I wanted (equipped exactly as this car was equipped), out-the-door (a “steal”) would be \$23,000.

Is it possible that after 3–4 years, a car that averages (possibly less than) half of Prius mpg would still “pay off”? **YES**

That is, “yes” if it were cheap enough. I offered \$19,500 out-the-door and flashed my checkbook. Cash-customer!

A room full of mob-hitmen-looking salesmen broke out into roaring laughter. As I was leaving, I reminded the sales-manager...

- 1) The reason they could **all** laugh was because there were no customers upon which to waste their time
- 2) The car was an “orphan” (discontinued model) they couldn’t sell
- 3) Businesses run on cash-flow not “estimated future sales”
- 4) Good thing they were not “commission sales staff” thus would get paid no-matter-what so who cares if I leave?

Ever see 3-big-guys try and get through a door at the same time? That was “them” chasing “me” into the parking lot. With a “best and final” offer from the dealership of **\$19465 out-the-door**. Honestly, I couldn’t resist this offer.

What did I buy?

A 2007 Dodge Magnum wagon



A “stripper”. A Magnum cannot be optioned cheaper (i.e. “zero options”). Nonetheless...

- 1) Air
- 2) Power windows
- 3) Tinted glass
- 4) CD/radio
- 5) Remote locking
- 6) Cruise control
- 7) Tilt/telescope steering wheel
- 8) Lotsa “mini-goodies”

Test-ride:

- 1) Quiet
- 2) Smooth
- 3) Comfortable (for me “terrific”)
- 4) Back seats really comfy
- 5) Lotsa room-in-back-seat even w/driver seat far-back
- 6) Can hold 4 adults, riding-gear, “supplies”
- 7) Turning-radius *smaller than my PT Cruiser!*

EPA mpg is 19-city, 26-highway. Corrected from EPA 2007-standards to 2008-standards this is 17-city and 24-highway.

Engine is a 2.7-liter (165 cubic inch) V-6. The car is vastly faster than a Prius, can hold 50% more stuff (at least). Prius can tow one bike only while the Magnum can tow a 3 bike trailer.

On Monday, I'll put it into the local tow-gear shop to have a tow-hitch installed. On Saturday, I pick up ride-buddy Art and we'll use the Magnum to tow a 2-bike/trailer out into the Mojave. Will report mpg etc.

In closing:

- 1) This is my “disposable/economy” car, which also happens to be able to tow and go-long-distance. While I hope for comfort, I make no claim this is a “luxury/performance” car. I do love the looks!
- 2) The “hemi-powered” 4wd version of this car (“luxury, performance, do-it-all” car) would have cost me another \$15,000 (yes, if the car were awesome, I might have paid that). Thanks for reading along! **Paul P.**