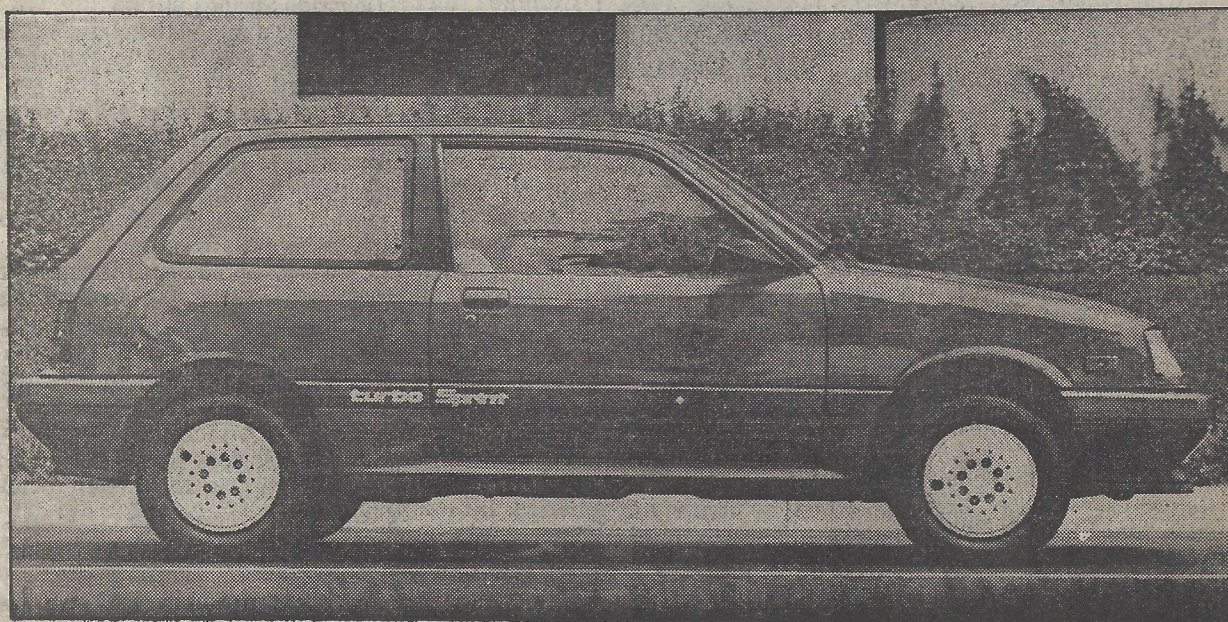


1-22, CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

WHEE

THE DENVER

'87's BEST BUYS



Chevrolet Sprint is top in the Econocar class.

Year's choices offer value, quality

By Gary Witzenburg
Motor Trend Magazine

The 1987 models are so good that shopping for a new car is no longer a question of separating the good from the bad but of choosing from varying degrees of good.

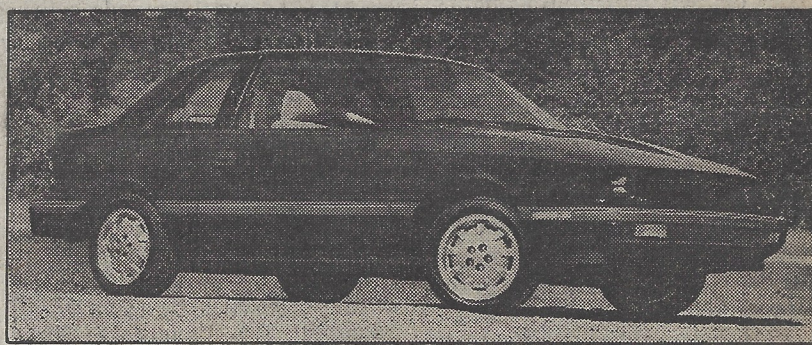
But with the selection so enormous and varied, how can anyone make an intelligent choice?

Glad you asked. First, try separating the new models into logical categories. Then compare price vs. value, quality, standard and optional features and all-around performance. Some clear "Best Buys" will emerge. Others not so obvious manage to edge a number of worthy competitors.

Here are 10 categories.

✓ Econocars, of course, are the least expensive and most fuel-efficient autos on the market.

✓ Econosports are high-performance, crisp-handling, far more fun-to-drive sporty versions of certain econocars and small sedans, most listing for less than \$10,000.



The Dodge Shadow leads the Small Sedan class.

✓ Small Sedans, are family four-doors (and some two-doors and wagons) less than 175 inches in length.

✓ Medium Sedans are between 175 and 190 inches long.

✓ Large Sedans are over 190 inches.

✓ Luxury Sedans, regardless of size, are those with base prices over \$15,000.

✓ Sports Sedan class includes

those special four-doors with high performance, taut suspensions and a certain sporting character that makes them especially enjoyable to drive.

The many stylish two-door coupes and hatchbacks on the market are divided into two classes, Sports Coupes costing less than \$15,000 and Luxury Sports Coupes costing more. Finally, the Sports/GT group includes both two-seat sports

ELS

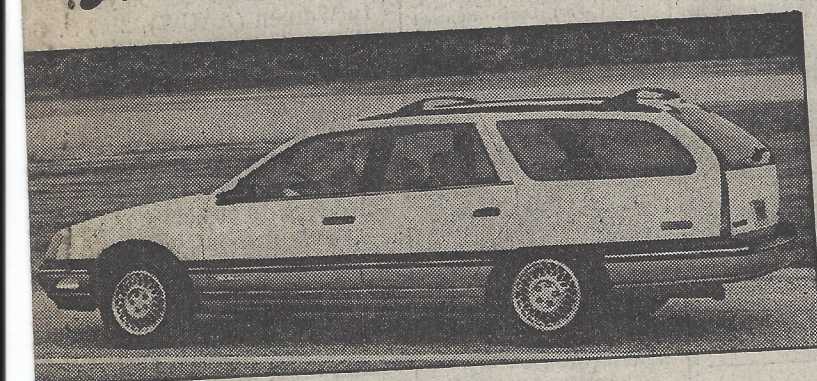
R POST

FUNERALS, OBITUARIES, 2



he Mazda RX-7 is tops in the Sports/GT class.

ity, all-around performance



he Ford Taurus leads the Medium Sedan class.

ars and high-performance 2 plus 2 coupes.

Different versions of the same car can fall into different categories. The basic Dodge and Plymouth Colts, for example, are Econocars, while uplevel versions such as Small Sedans, and Colt Turbos are definitely Econosports. Mustangs, Camaros and Firebirds are Sports Coupes, but Mustang GTs, Camaro Z-28s and Firebird Trans

Ams are Sports/GTs. Pontiac's 6000 is a Medium Sedan, but the limited-production 6000 STE is very much a Sports Sedan. You get the idea.

Here, then, are the "Best Buys" of this impressive '87 litter and some "Honorable Mentions."

✓ **ECONOCAR:** Chevrolet Sprint — The jury's still out on Yugoslavia's Yugo and Korea's Hyundai. Japanese subcompacts keep

moving upscale, and VW's new baby, Fox, has yet to arrive. So Chevy's Suzuki-built Sprint remains the "Best Buy" fuel-squeezer for 1987. Cute, solid and sprightly, the Sprint 3-door hatchback starts at just under \$6,000 (a couple hundred more for the slightly longer 5-door hatchback), and the economy special "ER" version offers 54 mpg, EPA city, 58 highway. Honorable mention: Toyota Tercel, Nissan Sentra, Mitsubishi Mirage, Dodge/Plymouth Colt.

✓ **ECONOSPORT:** Volkswagen GTI — A bundle of taut sinew in plain but efficient VW Golf clothes. A lot of grins per dollar for less than \$10,000. Honorable mention: Ford Escort GT, Toyota Corolla FX-16, Chevrolet Sprint Turbo, Mitsubishi Mirage Turbo, Dodge/Plymouth Colt Turbo.

✓ **SMALL SEDAN:** Plymouth Sundance and Dodge Shadow — These are handsome, well-equip-

Please see **BUYS** on 21-D

um-
at 2
test
will
ole-

lay
orn
Mr.
do
he
to

rie
do

on-
in
ed
he
at

ge
rs
ny
n-
v-

a
;
1-

f

;

;

;

;

;

;

;

;

;

;

;

;

;

Automakers offering new, old

By Gary Witzenburg
Motor Trend Magazine

Everything's coming up roses for this fall's new-car buyers. And car manufacturer's are offering something new in their wares.

GM's Chevrolet Division has new Turbo versions of its three-cylinder Sprint and its subcompact Spectrum. Both baby Chevies are Japanese-built entries in the "pocket-rocket" econosport class. Coming attractions from the bow-tie boys are the all-new Corsica sedan and the Baretta coupe, due out in 1987.

Also new at Chevy is the mighty 5.7-liter-powered Camaro IROC-Z. While its muscular motor is essentially the same as the 230-horse "Tuned Port Injection" V-8 in Chevy's \$30,000 Corvette, it's down-rated to 220-hp in the IROC-Z

and powers the IROC from 0 to 60 mph in 6.5 seconds.

Pontiac features an all-new front-wheel-drive, full-size car with a familiar name — Bonneville, a close cousin to Oldsmobile's 88 and Buick's LeSabre. It's driven by a 3.8 liter, port-injected V-6.

The "we build excitement" division has added to its popular Firebird line with a Trans Am GTA with the IROC-Z's 5.7-liter TPI V-8 and the nicely face-lifted Fiero — now equipped with a five-speed transmission on its optional V-6 engine.

A step down in size and price are GM's fastest front-drive cards, the turbocharged Pontiac Sunbird GT and Buick Skyhawk Sport Hatchback. Members of the compact J-

car family, both are powered by Pontiac's overhead-cam turbo four speed, which has been boosted from 1.8 to 2.0 liters and now features 165 horses.

There isn't much new from Oldsmobile except a sporty Toronado called Trofeo., But Cadillac is making a bold move in January with the introduction of a high-tech, high-buck Mercedes 560-fighter called Allante. The two-seat, front-wheel-drive convertible should list in the \$50,000 range.

Ford's famous Thunderbird Turbo Coupe features power-boosting intercooling for its 2.3-liter turbo four and now packs 190 potent ponies under its long hood. The big Bird sports a fresh look and flies from 0-60 in 7.5 seconds.

The Mustang GT's awesome 5.0

1987's 'Best Buys' not necessarily top automobiles in each class

BUYS from Page 1-D

ped, crisp-handling hatchbacks with the look of upscale small sedans. You can choose among five versions — three-door, or five-door, optional turbo power and five-speed manual or three-speed automatic. Finer-driving small sedans can't be found for under \$8,000. Honorable mention: Ford Escort, Toyota Corolla, Chevrolet Nova, Mazda 323, Volkswagen Golf.

✓ **MEDIUM SEDAN:** Ford Taurus and Mercury Sable — These models are domestic Audi 5000s with futuristic good looks, V6 power and the smoothest, road-grippingest suspension this side of the Atlantic. There is ample room for six (five with front buckets), plus user-friendly controls and a convenience list as long as a Johnny Carson commercial break. Prices start around \$10,000 for Taurus, \$11,000 for Sable. Honorable mention: Toyota Camry, Nissan Stanza, Mazda 626.

✓ **LARGE SEDAN:** Chevrolet Caprice — This is America's big-car value leader for '87. It has a standard V6 or optional V8; and a choice of two-door, four-door or wagon models. The Caprice provides a lot of comfortable bulk for the buck at a bit over \$11,000. Honorable mention: Ford LTD Crown Victoria, Mercury Grand Marquis, Pontiac Bonneville.

✓ **LUXURY SEDAN:** Audi 5000CS Quattro — Audi's flagship

sedan weds all-wheel drive, anti-lock brakes and turbo power under a roomy, slippery-sleek four-door body. The ultimate all-weather cruiser, the fully equipped sedan sells for \$30,000, the wagon for \$31,500. Honorable mention: Acura Legend, Saab 9000, Volvo 740/760.

✓ **SPORTS SEDAN:** Dodge Lancer and Chrysler LeBaron GTS — These are the best buys in the sports sedan class for the third straight year. These roomy, handsome hatchbacks feature glued-to-the-road handling and an optional 2.5 liter balance-shaft engine. The Lancer's base price is an amazing \$9,500. The GTS is priced at \$9,800.

Honorable mention: Nissan Maxima SE, Mazda 626 GT, Pontiac 6000 STE, Volkswagen Jetta GLE.

✓ **SPORTS COUPE:** Acura Integra — powered by a wonderfully lively twin-cam, 167-valve, four cylinder engine with standard five-speed gearbox, this thinly-disguised Honda hatchback coupe is marketed by Honda of America's brand new "upscale" Acura Division. Integra is priced at under \$10,000. Honorable mention: Ford Thunderbird, Mercury Cougar, Dodge Daytona, Chrysler LeBaron Coupe, Toyota Celica, Volkswagen Scirocco.

✓ **LUXURY SPORTS COUPE:** Lincoln Continental Mark VII LSC — This hot-rod Lincoln features a 200 horse power V8 engine with port fuel injection, road-hugging

air suspension, standard anti-lock brakes and plenty of quiet, comfort and luxury for about \$25,000. Honorable mention: Jaguar XJ-S.

✓ **SPORTS/GT:** Mazda RX-7 — Lusty rotary power, a sexy new body and a trick rear suspension have moved Mazda's RX-7 well into Porsche territory in both looks and performance. Bend it into a curve and the rear wheels point slightly outward to help turn it in, then they shift inward on cue to keep the back end stable. Prices start about \$14,000 for the base modal and rise to a bit over \$20,000 for the super-fast Turbo. Honorable mention: Chevrolet Corvette, Pontiac Fiero, Ford Mustang GT, Dodge Daytona Shelby Z, Toyota MR2, Merkur XR4Ti.

Five of these ten are designed and produced in America. One, Audi's 5000CS Turbo Quattro, is thoroughly German; Volkswagen's GTI, is a German design built in VW's Pennsylvania plant. The other three are Japanese; but one, the Suzuki-built Sprint, is imported and marketed by Chevrolet.

Keep in mind that a "Best Buy" may not be the absolute best in its class, and it is probably not the least expensive. What it does offer is the best estimated overall combination of price, value, quality, styling, engineering, performance, handling, features, reliability and probable resale value. A lot of very excellent automobiles are not considered "Best Buys" because they are simply more expensive (due to

to attract fall car buyers

The Mustang GT's awesome 5-liter V-8 now has 225 horses with the standard five-speed. Mustang also boasts a pleasant face-lift and an improved interior. The '87 Mustang GT can do 0-60 in 6 seconds and has a top speed approaching 150 mph. The Ford Tempo and Mercury Topaz are available with optional all-wheel drive. Next year Lincoln-Mercury-Merkur dealers will have two new imports: a \$20,000-plus Merkur Scorpio, Ford of Germany-designed luxury sedan, and a Mazda-designed, Mexican-built small car called Tracer.

Chrysler boasts a new front-wheel drive LeBaron coupe. Early 1987 should also see the Chrysler-Maserati two-seater.

Chrysler's Dodge Sundance and Plymouth Shadow subcompacts —

available with regular or turbo 2.2-liter — are well-equipped and agile handlers. But for dollar value, check the Dodge Omni and Plymouth Horizon "America" models, priced at less than \$6,000.

Dodge's Daytona gets a slick face-lift and an intercooled "Turbo II" version of Chrysler's tough 2.2-liter turbo in the hot new Shelby Z model. The change boosts the Turbo II's power to 175 horsepower and the Daytona's 0-60 Sprint into the mid-7-second range.

Chrysler's Plymouth Voyager and Dodge Caravan will be offered next year in a new, longer version and an optional V-6.

AMC/Renault joins the pocket-rocket race with a quick and agile Alliance-based Renault GTA, avail-

able in two-door coupe and convertible versions. A new 2.0-liter 95 horse power engine can go from 0-60 in under 10 seconds.

Also new from AMC Wrangler, the Jeep CJ-7's able replacement. Except for contemporary rectangular headlamps and a much more modern instrument panel, you really can't tell this new basic Jeep from the old — until you drive it. Then it comes across as vastly superior in every way.

VW of America will pull the wraps off its Brazilian-built, Fox minicars early next year. They will be priced under \$6,000. And watch for VW's Golf GTI, America's original econosport.

© Los Angeles Times Syndicate

10 BEST CAR BUYS FOR 1987

	1986	1987
ECONOCAR:	Chevrolet Sprint	Chevrolet Sprint under \$6,000
ECONOSPORT:	Volkswagen GTI	Volkswagen GTI under \$10,000
SMALL SEDAN:	Mazda 323	Plymouth Sundance Dodge Shadow under \$8,000
MEDIUM SEDAN:	Ford Taurus/ Mercury Sable	Ford Taurus/ Mercury Sable \$10,000
LARGE SEDAN:	Chevrolet Caprice	Chevrolet Caprice \$11,000
LUXURY SEDAN:	Audi 5000CS/ Turbo Quattro	Audi 5000CS/ Turbo Quattro \$30,000
SPORT SEDAN:	Dodge Lancer/ Chrysler LeBaron GTS	Dodge Lancer/ Chrysler LeBaron GTS \$9,500
SPORTS COUPE:	Toyota Celica	Acura Integra under \$10,000
LUXURY SPORT COUPE:	Lincoln Continental Mark VII LSC	Lincoln Continental Mark VII LSC \$25,000
SPORTS/GT:	Mazda RX-7	Mazda RX-7 \$14,000

NOTE: A "Best Buy" is not necessarily the best car in its class in every way, or the least expensive. What it does offer is the best estimated overall combination of quality, styling, engineering, performance, handling, standard and optional features, reliability, value for money and probable future resale value at a reasonable price. A lot of very excellent automobiles are not considered "Best Buys" simply because they are more expensive (due to either high list price or excessive dealer mark-up) than comparable competitors.

Source: Los Angeles Times Syndicate

either high list prices or excessive dealer markups) than comparable competitors.

Whatever you do, shop carefully and compare feature-for-feature.

Don't buy on impulse or without a test-drive. Most important, buy a car you really like. One that suits your needs.

© Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Wheels mailbag

If you're sleepless from casting about for a Christmas gift for that youngster "who has everything," Aston Martin has a \$15,000 toy — called the "Junior" — that will certainly put your mind at rest — particularly if the child's mommy or daddy drives an Aston Martin.

The company is offering a hand-crafted, scaled-down replica of the firm's V-8 Volante.

No expensive component was overlooked in the search to build the Junior. The interior is trimmed throughout with Connolly hide. The body is made from hand laid fiberglass.

Junior is powered by a rear-mounted 319cc, four-stroke, 8-horsepower engine with a 5-speed gearbox. Top speed is 40 mph. Length is 8-foot-6 inches with a width of 3-foot-6 inches.

Nissan recall

Nissan Motor Corp. is recalling 33,000 1985 and 1986 Maxima sedans and 27,000 1986 Stanza two-wheel drive wagons.

The Maxima sedans were recalled for possible failure to meet federal standards governing how much windshield remains in place following some front-end collisions.

The Stanza wagons may not meet federal standards limiting the amount of gasoline spillage from some rear-end collisions.

Dealers will repair both defects free.

— John Eaton