



American Cars, 1973-1980: Every Model, Year by Year

By J. "Kelly" Flory

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The 1973 oil crisis forced the American automotive industry into a period of dramatic change, marked by stiff foreign competition, tougher product regulations and suddenly altered consumer demand. With gas prices soaring and the economy in a veritable tailspin, muscle cars and the massive "need-for-speed" engines of the late '60s were out, and fuel efficient compacts were in. By 1980, American manufacturers were churning out some of the most feature laden, yet smallest and most fuel efficient cars they had ever built. This exhaustive reference work details every model from each of the major American manufacturers from model years 1973 through 1980, including various "captive imports" (e.g. Dodge's Colt, built by Mitsubishi.) Within each model year, it reports on each manufacturer's significant news and details every model offered: its specifications, powertrain offerings, prices, standard features, major options, and production figures, among other facts. The work is heavily illustrated with approximately 1,300 photographs.

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Editorial Review

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This title, part of an ongoing series, chronicles American cars made between 1973 and 1980. Entries include background on the nameplate, models available, cost, and measurements of the vehicle. Photos of the cars are shown by manufacturer and year, and the advertising slogans used to sell the cars are a nice touch to open each entry. Appendixes include minor makes and "replicars" (a copy of a vintage or classic automobile), option groups and packages, tire sizes, identification and recalls, and manufacturer logos. This work for American car enthusiasts may be better suited in the circulating collection than the reference collection and is recommended for public libraries. --Jack OGorman

Review

"When the editorial staff at Hemmings needs to verify something hard and fast, where do we go? Plenty of times, to the exhaustively researched, year-by-year reference books of Kelly Flory. Flory's works are our go-to books. They are incredibly good." --Hemmings Motor News

"This exhaustive reference work details every model from each of the major American manufacturers." --Antique Automobile

"It is amazing what harnessed passion can produce. Car lovers will be thrilled with this one-stop shop for specs on each automobile...an exhaustive store of information not easily located on the web." --Library Journal

From the Inside Flap

The 1973 oil crisis forced the American automotive industry into a period of dramatic change, marked by stiff foreign competition, tougher product regulations and suddenly altered consumer demand. With gas prices soaring and the economy in a veritable tailspin, muscle cars and the massive "need-for-speed" engines of the late '60s were out, and fuel efficient compacts were in. By 1980, American manufacturers were churning out some of the most feature laden, yet smallest and most fuel efficient cars they had ever built.

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