

Kelley Blue Book Presents 10 Vehicles with 'Attitude'

While style may not be the primary reason most consumers cite for choosing a car, for those who demand plenty of personality from their daily ride and really want to stand out from the crowd, Kelley Blue Book has compiled a list of "10 Cars that Exude Attitude." The list is posted at kbb.com.

The Kelley Blue Book editors have named a GM muscle car standby, two Chrysler vehicles and a Fiat in their listing of 10 with standout "attitude."

In an article appearing in the PR Newswire, Jack R. Nerad, executive editorial director and executive market analyst of Kelley Blue Book's KBB.com, said "KBB's list of 10 Cars that Exude Attitude showcases vehicles that stand out from the crowd, cars that our editors think have undeniable personality."

"From a sub-\$20,000 subcompact to an exotic six-figure sports car, our list demonstrates that drivers can buy attitude-filled rides at many different price points."

Analyzing the "attitude" of the 2013 Chevrolet Camaro, Kelley Blue Book editors remarked on "those sinister headlights. The brawny shoulders. That hunched-down profile . . ." They

went on to say it's impossible to ignore the car's "ultra-aggressive aesthetics."

"The Camaro is the automotive equivalent of a Venice Beach bodybuilder flexing for the crowds," KBB editors summed up.

Two 2013 Chrysler products that received the KBB thumbs-up for attitude are the SRT Viper and the Ram 1500.

Of the Viper, KBB editors called the car an "American exotic" that could convey its performance mojo on its aggressive looks alone.

The editors added, "Beneath its svelte new aluminum and carbon-fiber exterior is a massive V10 engine whose 640 horsepower leaves no question about the Viper's ferocious performance abilities."

Of course, suggesting brawn and capability is key to truck design cues, and the Ram 1500 is no exception.

Of the Ram, KBB editors remarked, "The Ram has long stood out from its boxy full-size truck rivals with an aggressive snout more akin to a semi."

The KBB editors added that, among other virtues, the 2013 model offers more efficient powertrains, infotainment options and an advanced air-suspension system.

Chrysler alliance partner Fiat



2013 Camaro



2013 Ram 1500

also received a nod for one of its signature products.

The 2013 Fiat 500 minicar received praise for its "cute-as-a-button" design and "sassy persona," proving that a vehicle doesn't have to be big to sport a

big automotive attitude.

Other attitude notables cited in the kbb.com article are the 2013 Lamborghini Aventador, Mini Cooper Paceman, Mercedes-Benz G-Class, Nissan Juke, Land Rover Range Rover and Kia Soul.

Delphi Sponsors Contest for Auto Technicians

Today, Delphi Product & Service Solutions launched its annual Delphi Dream Shop Sweepstakes in the U.S. and Canada. For the grand prize, Delphi will equip one lucky professional automotive technician with Delphi parts, tools, equipment, supplies and training. Hundreds of other prizes will be awarded monthly, weekly and instantly.

The winning technician can use the grand prize to upgrade his existing workspace or build his ultimate Dream Shop. Technicians can register at the dedicated Delphi Dream Shop website (delphidreamshop.com) or, new for 2013, through Delphi's Facebook page (facebook.com/DelphiAutoParts).

The grand prize winner will be introduced this November at the 2103 Automotive Aftermarket Products Expo (AAPEX) which will be held in Las Vegas.

"In its third year, the Delphi Dream Shop continues to receive an enthusiastic response from technicians," said Lúcia Veiga Moretti, president, Delphi Product & Service Solutions. "This year it is even easier to enter and follow the contest with the addition of Delphi's Facebook page, which many are already using — along with Twitter and YouTube — to learn about Delphi products and to diagnose, service and repair vehicles of today and the future."

The Delphi Dream Shop sweepstakes includes electronic equipment needed to service the increasingly complex vehicle electronics found on-vehicle, including Delphi's new AutoIQ diagnostic kit with Wi-Fi-enabled tablet and a high-performance laptop that comes with shop management software.

New Michigan Museum Dedicated to 'Iconic' Model A Ford

The Grand Opening Celebration of the new Model A Ford Museum — the world's largest public museum dedicated to the Model A — will take place 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, May 18, in Hickory Corners, Mich.

Fashioned after a 1928 Ford dealership, the new museum is located near Kalamazoo on the 90-acre campus of the renowned Gilmore Car Museum — America's Signature Collection.

"The Model A is a car that all can relate to," said Michael Spezia, executive director of the Gilmore Car Museum. "It was an affordable and very popular automobile that has been owned and enjoyed by millions of people."

"We are proud and honored to welcome the Model A Ford Museum to our historic campus."

Nearly 5 million Model A Fords were manufactured during 1928-1931 and marked the second commercial triumph for Henry Ford after the Model T. In fact, during that time period, more people owned a vehicle produced by Ford Motor Company than any other automaker worldwide.

In late 1927, when Henry Ford announced the first all-new Ford in two decades would soon be available, he was greeted with such tremendous public enthusiasm that 400,000 Model A Fords sold "sight unseen" before the car was even unveiled.

"The legendary Model A Ford has become an icon of Americana," says Stan Johnson, president of the Model A Ford Foundation, Inc. (MAFFI). "And the mu-

seum will preserve the car and the era."

Johnson states representatives from Ford Motor Company, including Corporate Historian Robert Kreipke, will take part in the Grand Opening ceremonies. They'll be joined by representatives of various national and regional Model A Ford clubs, as well as hundreds of Model A Fords from around the country at the event.

MAFFI raised more than \$1 million for the building project and completed the 12,000-square-foot museum in less than a year.

Among the nearly 30 vehicles, cut-away engines and various memorabilia in the new museum, exhibit highlights include:

- Thomas Edison's Model A. This was the very first Model A Ford completed, driven off the assembly line by Henry Ford on Oct. 21, 1927, and presented to inventor Thomas Edison. It will be exhibited for the first time in decades to the general public when the museum opens. In 1943, Edison's widow donated the car to the Henry Ford Museum, which has graciously loaned it to the Model A Ford Museum.

- A rare 1930 Model A school bus. This vehicle originally served the El Monte, Calif., school district. It was rescued and restored by a Model A club in Placerville, Calif., and shipped to the museum in time for its opening.

- Authentic and unusual Model A Trucks. From an original United States Postal delivery truck to a unique dual-powered-axle truck that was used in build-

ing the Hoover Dam and a tow truck that could be ordered with stylish sides and chrome side rails.

- Original 1920s and '30s clothing. These period garments range from styles worn by schoolchildren, housewives, and workers, to a prized wedding dress.

Auto Aftermarket Has Growth Ahead

The U.S. automotive aftermarket industry is expected to grow 3.4 percent annually through 2016 to \$263.8 billion, adding an additional \$32.6 billion to the economy. These and additional aftermarket growth figures are contained in a Channel Forecast Model sponsored by the Automotive Aftermarket Industry Association (AAIA) and the Automotive Aftermarket Suppliers Association (AASA).

AAIA and AASA partnered to produce the Channel Forecast Model to create a single industry view of the size, growth rate and outlook for the motor vehicle af-

termarket and thus provide a unified view of the industry's magnitude, significance and potential importance to legislators, regulators and investors.

"The forecast model demonstrates that despite strong new vehicle sales, historic high gas prices, and a flattening of miles driven, our industry is poised for steady growth," said Kathleen Schmatz, AAIA president and CEO. "Why? The average age of vehicles is 11.3 years, the oldest ever, and the age mix of vehicles continues to favor older vehicles, creating a robust sweet spot for service and repair."

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