

TEST DRIVE

By: Winfred B. Cross



1993 Chevrolet Sportside Truck

With the new-found popularity of trucks, manufacturers are making them even more desirable.

Thus comes the sport truck. The recipe to make one is simple. Take one trustworthy C1500 full-size pick-up, give it monochromatic paint, bucket seats, a flared bed and throw a gold bow tie emblem on the hood and

you've got an appealing ride. I forgot the most important ingredient—the engine, preferably the biggest you can find. For Chevy, that is its fail-safe 5.7 liter V8. It's not the most modern unit, but with 210 horsepower and 300 pounds-foot of torque it's certainly one of the more powerful.

The interior of the Sportside isn't any different from most of GM's full-size offerings. The dash is fairly plain but easy to read. The seats are fine, however. I prefer bucket seats to bench seats any day. The seats were comfortable and very

supportive.

Unfortunately, the ride wasn't very comfortable. It was downright harsh. The trucks suspension must have been re-tuned because I don't remember the rest of Chevy's product line being this firm. The handling was good, however and the ride, though uncomfortable, was well controlled.

The engine performed without a hitch. Like most truck engines, it was loud, but powerful. Passing power was great and the deep throat growl of the engine was nice to hear.

Our resident truck expert, Monty Ramseur (he owns a GMC S-10 Jimmy) drove the Sportside overnight and liked everything but the harsh ride and the bright red paint. He's still more interested in the full-size Blazer, however.

My favorite feature of the Sportside is the light under the hood. It's tethered so you can pull it out and use to look for dropped screwdrivers, pliers or whatever. I know, no great piece of technology, but hey, it's a good idea.

The Sportside's base price was \$13,985. The bucket seats cost an extra \$490. A 3.42 ratio rear axle was \$44. The optional engine was \$845 and the oil cooling system was \$135. The sport handling package was \$1,065, while the automatic transmission (which was great) was \$890. A preferred equipment package included many comfort items such as power locks and mirrors, cruise, tilt wheel and cassette. That boosted the price an additional \$2,638.

Throw in a few more miscellaneous options, subtract \$800 for a discount on the preferred package and add \$595 for delivery and the as-tested price came to \$20,045. Not bad for a sporty full-size truck. The truck wars keep getting more interesting by the day.

'Demolition Man' wrecks competition at the box office

By John Horn
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES - Nostalgic moviegoers flocked to see the remake of the old television series "The Beverly Hillbillies," but the past was no match for the future as "Demolition Man" stayed in first place at the box office.

"Demolition Man," starring Sylvester Stallone and Wesley Snipes, earned \$10.3 million, according to figures released Monday by Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc.

"The Beverly Hillbillies" brought in \$9.5 million in its first weekend for second place. The other debut, the suspense film "Judgment Night" starring Emilio Estevez, netted only \$4.1 million.

"Cool Runnings," an \$11 million, no-star comedy about the Jamaican bobsled team at the 1988 Winter Olympics, became the fall season's sleeper hit, earning \$7 million for third place.

Although the film attracted only mildly positive reviews, it is one of the only current releases that appeals to family audiences. The Disney movie has made \$26.6 million to date and has lost little momentum since its premiere.

Several new films introduced in limited release enjoyed different results.

Tim Burton's "The Nightmare Before Christmas" opened in just two theaters but grossed \$130,000. It opens in 500 locations on Friday, a key test for the quirky film.

"Rudy," a college football film starring Sean Astin, collected a healthy \$830,000 in 117 locations. The love story "Mr. Wonderful," starring Matt Dillon, bombed.

"Malice," starring Alec Baldwin, made \$5.5 million for fourth place and "Judgment Night" was fifth. "The Good Son" collected \$3.2 million for sixth and "The Joy Luck Club" was seventh with \$3 million.

With \$2.7 million, "The Age of Innocence" was in eighth place. "The Fugitive" was ninth with \$2 million and "A Bronx Tale" made \$1.88 million for 10th.

1. "Demolition Man," Warner Bros., \$10.3 million, 2,258 locations, \$4,555 per location, \$29.6 million, two weeks.

2. "The Beverly Hillbillies," 20th Century Fox, \$9.5 million, 2,152 locations, \$4,426 per location, \$9.5 million, one week.

3. "Cool Runnings," Disney, \$7 million, 1,819 locations, \$3,853 per location, \$26.6 million, three weeks.

4. "Malice," Columbia, \$5.5 million, 1,519 locations, \$3,626 per location, \$27.2 million, three weeks.

5. "Judgment Night," Universal, \$4.1 million, 1,543 locations, \$2,650 per location, \$4.1 million, one week.

6. "The Good Son," 20th Century Fox, \$3.2 million, 1,708 locations, \$1,887 per location, \$35.2 million, four weeks.

7. "The Joy Luck Club," Disney, \$3

million, 481 locations, \$6,262 per location, \$14.9 million, six weeks.

8. "The Age of Innocence," Columbia, \$2.7 million, 839 locations, \$3,161 per location, \$22.3 million, five weeks.

9. "The Fugitive," Warner Bros., \$2 million, 1,202 locations, \$1,682 per location, \$172.5 million, 11 weeks.

10. "A Bronx Tale," Savoy, \$1.88 million, 884 locations, \$2,132 per location, \$10.7 million, three weeks.

11. "Mr. Jones," TriStar, \$1.86 million, 1,483 locations, \$1,252 per location, \$6 million, two weeks.

12. "The Program," Disney, \$1.4 million, 1,222 locations, \$1,151 per

location, \$18.9 million, four weeks.

13. "Mr. Wonderful," Warner Bros., \$1.2 million, 720 locations, \$1,635 per location, \$1.2 million, one week.

14. "For Love or Money," Universal, \$1.1 million, 1,240 locations, \$897 per location, \$9.1 million, three weeks.

15. "Free Willy," Warner Bros., \$1.1 million, 957 locations, \$1,152 per location, \$74.6 million, 14 weeks.

16. "Mr. Nanny," New Line, \$921,000, 1,293 locations, \$712 per location, \$3.4 million, two weeks.

17. "Rudy" TriStar, \$882,000, 117 locations, \$7,532 per location, \$1 million, 1 1/2 weeks.

18. "Gettysburg," New Line,

\$748,000, 127 locations, \$5,891 per location, \$2.1 million, two weeks.

19. "Jurassic Park," Universal, \$656,000, 500 locations, \$1,310 per location, \$327.9 million, 19 weeks.

20. "Hocus Pocus," Disney, \$461,000, 429 locations, \$1,075 per location, \$37.7 million, 14 weeks.

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