

## Pony Shows Staying Power

### Mustang GT Convertible Proves V8s Still Have Their Magic

By Derek Price

CARGAZING.COM

The latest Ford Mustang GT Convertible carries forward America's original ponycar formula while embracing modern technology.

Though equipped with digital screens and driver assists, this seventh-generation drop-top retains the visceral appeal that's defined the nameplate for nearly 60 years.

The 5.0-liter V8 serves as this Mustang's beating heart, producing 486 horsepower routed through a new 10-speed automatic transmission in our test car.

Ford's Coyote engine remains a marvel, delivering linear power throughout the rev range accompanied by a spine-tingling exhaust note through the optional active valve system.

The 10-speed shifts quickly and intelligently, though occasional hunting between gears occurs in normal driving.

Inside, Ford embraces contemporary tech with a 12.4-inch digital instrument cluster and 13.2-inch center touchscreen. While the video game-inspired graphics may seem forced, the customizable displays offer genuinely useful information.

Traditional Mustang design cues remain, including the dual-cowl dashboard and toggle switches.



Revised styling in the latest Mustang maintains its DNA while adding contemporary details and improved aerodynamics.

Material quality has improved, though some hard plastics persist at this price point.

Our test car's GT Performance Package adds meaningful upgrades including Brembo brakes, a Torsen limited-slip differential, and enhanced cooling.

The optional MagneRide dampers deliver an impressive balance of comfort and control, reading the road surface and adjusting damping rates accordingly. While

these options inflate the price considerably, they transform the Mustang's handling capabilities from capable cruiser to genuine sports car.

Track apps and performance features showcase the Mustang's sporting intentions. Launch control helps manage wheelspin, while line lock enables crowd-pleasing burnouts (on closed courses, of course). The electronic drift brake seems gimmicky but proves

effective for initiating controlled slides.

At \$66,270 as tested, this Mustang GT isn't cheap, particularly with desirable performance options. The base GT Convertible provides most of the essential experience for about \$15,000 less.

Still, even fully loaded, it delivers a compelling mix of heritage and technology. While electric vehicles may represent the future, this modernized pony car demonstrates that tradition-

al performance cars still hold strong appeal.

The Mustang's appeal has always transcended mere specifications. It's about the emotional connection — the way it looks, sounds, and feels.

This new generation maintains that crucial DNA while adding contemporary capabilities. It's a thoroughly modern interpretation of the American muscle car that honors its heritage without being trapped by it.

#### AT A GLANCE

##### WHAT WAS TESTED?

2024 Ford Mustang GT Convertible Premium (\$51,515). Options: Equipment Group 401A (\$2,900), 10-speed SelectShift (\$1,595), GT Performance Package (\$4,995), premium floor liners (\$200), Grabber Blue calipers (\$495), active valve exhaust (\$1,225), Magneride damping (\$1,750). Price as tested (including \$1,595 destination charge): \$66,270

##### BY THE NUMBERS

Wheelbase: 107 in.  
Length: 189.4 in.  
Width: 81.9 in.  
Height: 54.8 in.  
Engine: 5.0-liter V8 (486 hp, 418 lbs. ft.)  
Transmission: 10-speed automatic  
Fuel Economy: 16 city, 24 highway

##### RATINGS

Style: 10  
Performance: 9  
Price: 7  
Handling: 7  
Ride: 9  
Comfort: 8  
Quality: 6  
Overall: 7

##### WHY BUY IT?

The Mustang's classic V8 muscle-car character has been expertly updated with contemporary technology and capability.



# CARGAZING



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Traditional Mustang design cues remain, including the dual-cowl dashboard and toggle switches. Material quality has improved,



New digital displays dominate the cabin, but traditional performance touches remain. The new cabin does a good job bridging heritage and technology.

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#### A CLOSER LOOK



#### AT A GLANCE

FACTS, FIGURES AND RATINGS

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