

Desert-Bred Showstopper

Special-Edition Bronco Has Retro Livery, Real Capability, Serious Price Tag

By Derek Price

CARGAZING.COM

Rarely has a vehicle shown up in my driveway with this much swagger.

The Ford Bronco Stroppe 2-Door 4x4 does not arrive quietly. It explodes onto the scene in Code Orange, Oxford White and Atlas Blue, with throwback graphics and a stance that looks ready to pre-run the Baja 1000 before dinner. Neighbors notice. Strangers ask questions. Kids point.

This is not a subtle SUV.

The Stroppe name itself is a nod to Bill Stroppe, the legendary off-road racer and builder who helped cement the Bronco's reputation in desert competition in the late 1960s and early 1970s. He is not a household name like Carroll Shelby, but in off-road circles he might as well be royalty. That history matters here. It gives this special edition authenticity, not just stickers.

Still, this Bronco is more than a history lesson.

Under the hood sits Ford's 2.7-liter EcoBoost V6, good for 315 horsepower and 410 pound-feet of torque, paired with a 10-speed automatic. In a two-door Bronco with a 100.4-inch wheelbase, that is more than enough grunt. It pulls hard off the line and feels especially strong in the midrange, which is exactly where you want it when climbing, crawling or blasting across open desert.



The Bronco Stroppe's Code Orange, white and blue livery and 35-inch tires give the two-door SUV undeniable presence on or off the pavement.

What surprised me most, though, was not its off-road bravado. It was its composure on pavement.

This Bronco rides on 35-inch all-terrain tires, and I expected the usual compromises: wandering steering, roaring tire noise and a sense that you are piloting farm equipment down the interstate.

Instead, it is reasonably quiet at highway speeds, even without the optional sound-deadening headliner, and drives with more stability than a comparable Jeep Wrangler. The steering still feels truck-like, and the solid rear axle reminds you this is body-on-frame

hardware, but it is livable.

The cabin strikes a balance between rugged and playful.

The white instrument panel and Code Orange accents feel festive, almost defiant. You sit upright, with excellent outward visibility, and the controls are straightforward.

Ford's G.O.A.T. drive modes are easy to access, and the overall layout feels built for gloved hands and dusty trails.

Still, this is a two-door SUV. It is a lifestyle choice, not a family hauler. If you need room for kids and gear, the four-door Bronco makes more sense, and so does a

Wrangler Unlimited.

Fuel economy, at 17 mpg city and 18 highway, is predictably thirsty. That is the price of big tires, boxy aerodynamics and serious off-road hardware.

At \$77,665 as tested, including destination, the financial commitment is just as serious.

That is where the Stroppe becomes complicated.

I love that it exists. I love that Ford built a purpose-driven Bronco that's not trying to be everything to everyone. It's not chasing luxury buyers. It's not pretending to be a crossover. It's a tool, unapologetically engineered

to run fast in the dirt and look good doing it.

But I can't imagine Ford will sell many.

It is expensive. The color scheme is polarizing. The two-door configuration narrows the audience further. In some ways, it feels like a rolling auto show display, designed to spark conversation more than close deals. And I suspect some owners will hesitate before scratching that bright paint on a rocky trail.

Yet somewhere, there's a buyer who has been waiting for exactly this.

For that person, this Bronco will be worth every penny.

AT A GLANCE

WHAT WAS TESTED?

2025 Ford Bronco Stroppe 2-Door 4x4 (\$76,635). Options: Sound deadening headliner (\$135). Price as tested (including \$1,895 destination charge): \$77,665

BY THE NUMBERS

Wheelbase: 100.4 in.
Length: 174.8 in.
Width: 86.6 in.
Height: 78.9 in.
Power: 2.7-liter EcoBoost V6 (315 hp, 410 lbs. ft.)
Transmission: 10-speed automatic
MPG: 17 city, 18 highway

RATINGS

Style: 10
Performance: 9
Price: 4
Handling: 5
Ride: 7
Comfort: 6
Quality: 7
Overall: 8

WHY BUY IT?

Nothing else combines authentic Baja racing heritage, real desert-running capability and head-turning retro style quite like the Bronco Stroppe.

CARGAZING



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Inside, bold color accents and a simple, rugged layout reinforce the Bronco's purpose-built off-road personality.

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A CLOSER LOOK



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FACTS, FIGURES AND RATINGS

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