

Italian Soul, American Attitude

Dodge's Sporty Crossover Brings Unexpected Flair to An Often-Dull Segment

By Derek Price

CARGAZING.COM

The 2024 Dodge Hornet proves that practicality doesn't have to be boring.

After a week testing the GT AWD model, it's clear that this Italian-built crossover brings something unique to the compact SUV segment: genuine sporting character wrapped in a practical package.

Under the hood, a turbocharged 2.0-liter four-cylinder engine produces a robust 268 horsepower and 295 lb-ft of torque. This powerplant, shared with Alfa Romeo models, delivers impressive thrust through a responsive nine-speed automatic transmission.

With standard all-wheel drive, the Hornet offers both confidence in inclement weather and engaging dynamics on dry pavement.

The Hornet's handling is where it truly stands apart from competitors. Sharp steering, firm suspension tuning and excellent body control create a driving experience more reminiscent of a sport sedan than a typical crossover.

Its Alfa Romeo Tonale roots are evident in the best possible way, delivering an engaging character that's rare in this segment and price point.

Visually, the Hornet makes a strong statement. Its sleek, aggressive styling suc-



With its aggressive styling and athletic stance, the Hornet successfully translates Dodge's performance heritage into crossover form.

cessfully translates Dodge's performance heritage into crossover form.

The design manages to look distinctly European while wearing American muscle car attitude — fitting, given that it's assembled in Pomigliano, Italy, with 56 percent Italian-sourced parts.

Inside, the cabin offers a good blend of technology and functionality. My GT tester came well-equipped with features include a 10.25-inch touchscreen infotainment

system and a 12.3-inch digital instrument cluster. The materials and build quality are solid, if not class-leading.

However, the Hornet's sporting aspirations do come with some compromises.

The rear seat space is tighter than some competitors, and cargo capacity falls short of class leaders. The firm ride, while great for handling, might be too stiff for buyers seeking maximum comfort.

At \$44,825 as tested, our GT AWD with the Blacktop

and Track Pack represents a significant investment. However, even base models come well-equipped with standard all-wheel drive and impressive performance credentials.

One potential concern is long-term reliability. While the Hornet is too new for meaningful reliability data, its Alfa Romeo roots might give some buyers pause, given the brand's historical reputation. However, recent quality surveys suggest improvement in this area.

The 2024 Dodge Hornet isn't for everyone. Buyers seeking maximum space, comfort or fuel efficiency might be better served elsewhere in the segment.

For those who prioritize driving engagement and distinctive styling in their compact crossover, the Hornet delivers a compelling and unique package.

It's refreshing to see an automaker bring genuine performance credentials to an often-uninspiring segment.

AT A GLANCE

WHAT WAS TESTED?

2024 Dodge Hornet GT AWD (\$36,400). Options: Premium paint (\$595), Customer Preferred Package 23L (\$2,245), GT Blacktop and Track Pack bundle (\$3,990). Price as tested (including \$1,595 destination charge): \$44,825

BY THE NUMBERS

Wheelbase: 103.8 in.
Length: 178 in.
Width: 82 in.
Height: 63.8 in.
Engine: Turbocharged 2.0-liter four cylinder (268 hp, 295 ft. lbs.)
Transmission: Nine-speed automatic
MPG: 21 city, 29 highway

RATINGS

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

WHY BUY IT?

The Hornet offers class-leading performance and engaging dynamics in a stylish package, making it an excellent choice for driving enthusiasts who need crossover practicality.

CARGAZING



With its aggressive styling and athletic stance, the Hornet successfully translates Dodge's performance heritage into crossover form.

Italian Soul, American Attitude

Dodge's Sporty Crossover Brings Unexpected Flair to An Often-Dull Segment

By Derek Price
CARGAZING.COM

The 2024 Dodge Hornet proves that practicality doesn't have to be boring. After a week testing the GT AWD model, it's clear that this Italian-built crossover brings something unique to the compact SUV segment: genuine sporting character wrapped in a practical package.

Under the hood, a turbocharged 2.0-liter four-cylinder engine produces a robust 268 horsepower and 295 lb-ft of torque. This powerplant, shared with Alfa Romeo models, delivers impressive thrust through a responsive nine-speed automatic transmission.

With standard all-wheel drive, the Hornet offers both confidence in inclement weather and engaging dynamics on dry pavement.

The Hornet's handling is where it truly stands apart from competitors. Sharp steering, firm suspension tuning and excellent body control create a driving experience more reminiscent of a sport sedan than a typical crossover.

Its Alfa Romeo Tonale roots are evident in the best possible way, delivering an engaging character that's rare in this segment and price point.

Visually, the Hornet makes a strong statement. Its sleek, aggressive styling successfully translates Dodge's performance heri-



The Hornet's driver-focused cockpit features modern technology and good build quality, though rear seat space is tight compared to some rivals.

tage into crossover form.

The design manages to look distinctly European while wearing American muscle car attitude — fitting, given that it's assembled in Pomigliano, Italy, with 56 percent Italian-sourced parts.

Inside, the cabin offers a good blend of technology and functionality. My GT tester came well-equipped with features include a 10.25-inch touchscreen infotainment system and a 12.3-inch digital instrument cluster. The materials and build quality are solid, if

not class-leading.

However, the Hornet's sporting aspirations do come with some compromises.

The rear seat space is tighter than some competitors, and cargo capacity falls short of class leaders. The firm ride, while great for handling, might be too stiff for buyers seeking maximum comfort.

At \$44,825 as tested, our GT AWD with the Blacktop and Track Pack represents a significant investment. However, even base models come well-equipped with standard all-wheel drive and impressive performance credentials.

One potential concern is long-term reliability. While the Hornet is too new for meaningful reliability data, its Alfa Romeo roots might give some buyers pause, given the brand's historical reputation. However, recent quality surveys suggest improvement in this area.

The 2024 Dodge Hornet isn't for everyone. Buyers seeking maximum space, comfort or fuel efficiency might be better served elsewhere in the segment.

For those who prioritize driving engagement and distinctive styling in their compact crossover, the Hornet delivers a compelling and unique package.

It's refreshing to see an automaker bring genuine performance credentials to an often-uninspiring segment.

A CLOSER LOOK



AT A GLANCE

FACTS, FIGURES AND RATINGS

WHAT WAS TESTED?

2024 Dodge Hornet GT AWD (\$36,400). Options: Premium paint (\$595), Customer Preferred Package 23L (\$2,245), GT Blacktop and Track Pack bundle (\$3,990). Price as tested (including \$1,595 destination charge): \$44,825

BY THE NUMBERS

Wheelbase: 103.8 in.
Length: 178 in.
Width: 82 in.
Height: 63.8 in.
Engine: Turbocharged 2.0-liter four cylinder (268 hp, 295 ft. lbs.)
Transmission: Nine-speed automatic
MPG: 21 city, 29 highway

RATINGS

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

WHY BUY IT?

The Hornet offers class-leading performance and engaging dynamics in a stylish package, making it an excellent choice for driving enthusiasts who need crossover practicality.