

Third Generation News

From Third Generation Gold Card Judges Stewart Jones and Terry McCoy

Major Mustang Makeover

Twenty years after Mustang's first major body change, the 1987 GT Mustang turned plenty of heads.

Although most of the same body panels and the same platform that had been

used since 1979 were still in place, 1987 was the year for a drastic change. A more aerodynamic look was in place accentuated by flush head-

lights. The GT models took on a very different appearance, while the LX series with the 5.0 option looked more like the GT of the past.

Gone from the lineup, however, was the generally misunderstood SVO and the V6 power plant.

The 1987 GT received the most radical change thus far in the third generation line-up. With the redesign, the fog lamps became round with no covers, and the hood no longer sported a satin black decal with the letters "GT" cut out.

Lower side scoop in front of the tires gave the GT a very aggressive look. New louvered-look taillights, combined with a new rear spoiler and complete ground

effect package gave the GT a really bold, fearless muscle car attitude. A low-key hint as to the performance of the 5.0 LX comes by way of the stainless dual exhaust peaking from beneath the rear bumper cover.

New 15 x 7 turbine cast aluminum rims highlight the GT while the 5.0 LX gets the ten-hole rims. Both styles of wheels were shod with Goodyear 225/60VR15 tires.

A futuristic cockpit complemented the bold exterior. The dash had a type of wraparound feel with easy to reach pods and switches. Large analog gauges were backlit for excellent readability. The control pods for the headlights, flashers, rear defroster, convertible top, or fog lamps (GT only) were also within easy reach. The climate control system used three rotary controls positioned below a pair of large air vents. The radio and clock display became an

Ford photo



integrated unit, the ash tray/lighter was moved beside the driver seat, and the armrests house the power window and door lock controls. Speakers were mounted inside the doors giving Mustang six speakers with the Premium Sound System.

Horsepower was at 225, the best since who knows when, but the speedometer stopped at 85 mph. Front brakes were increased to 10.9 inches with the rear stabilizer bars at .82 inches for the 5.0L.

Just as the 1967 change took Mustang to a new level of styling excitement, so did the makeover of the 1987 ponies, probably one of the most exciting changes of the third generation Mustangs.

Did You Know? Topic: 1987 Mustang

1. Only two engines were offered - the 2.3 EFI four-cylinder and 5.0L H.O. V8 which is standard on the GT and optional for the LX.
2. First time that a graphic equalizer was offered.
3. First year for the dual electric remote control mirrors standard on all convertibles.
4. Convertibles that received leather seats had a large, pillow-like headrest. Some had two-tone leather door panels.
5. The 1987 GT was the first third generation Mustang to get side scoops and louver styled tail lights.
6. This year introduced the stalk control pods that controlled headlights, flasher, rear defrost, power top, and fog lamps (GT). The dimmer switch was separated from the headlight switch.
7. The Ford Blue Oval appeared to "float" in the grill opening on the LX.
8. The rear quarter glass was now larger with the word "Mustang" in the lower corner.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Answers in next month's issue.

1. What was the first year that the Blue Oval appeared on Mustang's deck lid?
2. What was the last year of the TRX rims?
3. Where did the taillights on the 1993 Cobra come from?
4. What was the first year that the 16-inch rims were used?
5. What year and model received chrome rims?