

Portland Observer Auto Review

News and reviews on new motor vehicles

2010 Ford Mustang V6 Coupe Premium

BY KATHLEEN CARR

The 2010 Ford Mustang was significantly upgraded with subtle exterior changes that result in a slight modernization of the current retro Mustang bodywork. The interior is a more night-and-day difference. The overall design is familiar, but the materials are richer, the panel fits are tighter and the switchgear is now more ergonomically and aesthetically pleasing. Mustangs are quieter and more refined than the previous models. The Mustang has been in production for 45 years.

It comes standard with a 4.0-liter V6 that produces 210 horsepower and 240 pound-feet of torque. It's coupled to a standard five-speed manual or optional five-speed automatic transmission. Standard equip-



Vehicle Specifications: 4.0L SOHC V6 engine; 5-Speed manual transmission; 18 city mpg, 26 highway mpg; Base MSRP \$23995, Total MSRP of vehicle tested \$254400.

ment on all models includes a CD player with an auxiliary audio jack, full power accessories, antilock brakes and stability control. The Mustang V6 trim levels can be fitted with upgrades like a navigation system and performance upgrades.

The Ford Mustang is at the front of the pack when it comes to performance-per-dollar.

A premium package (\$3000) upgrades with leather six-way power driver seat with power lumbar and two-way adjustable head restraint, bright shift knob,

door trim panel inserts, leather wrapped steering wheel w/aluminum spokes, six-gauge cluster with MyColor, gloss paint center stack and console, satin door speaker surrounds, Ambient lighting, Bright aluminum accent dash appliques, pedal

covers, scuff plates and shifter knob, special wheels, Shaker 500 AM/FM/6CD MP3 audio system, eight speakers, Sirius Satellite Radio, Sync communications system, and split-folded rear seats.

An optional Track Package

includes upgraded front brakes, a recalibrated AdvanceTrac system that allows later intervention, and the 3.73:1 axle ratio. Track Package II will include Pirelli 19-inch tires and wheels, upgraded front and rear brakes and heavier springs, shock absorbers and brakes along with recalibrated traction and yaw control systems designed for weekend racing. Ford Racing Performance Parts will offer a wide array of performance and appearance options for the new Mustang, up to and including a complete bolt-on supercharger kit.

The Ford Mustang is the only one of the original pony cars to enjoy an uninterrupted production run and it does not matter what the gas prices are. This is a vehicle that is as common as the apple pie in most households. Over the years Ford has made some changes to the Mustang but from one look you know it a Mustang. I think that I love to hear the roar of that engine. There's a part of me that just wants to burn rubber and I believe not matter what your age as consumers it will bring the wild out in you.

Ask Deanna!



Real People, Real Advice

An advice column known for reality based subjects!

Dear Deanna!

My brother is dating a girl that is using him. She's pretty and that's why my brother runs after her like a sick dog. It really bothers me to see this. He acts as if he has to do everything for her, do what she says and can't think for himself. I've seen her out with guys and she talks on the phone to several of my male friends but she claims it's innocent. I don't believe her especially after seeing her in the club with a guy. How do I expose her and her lies? -- Temia; Sacramento, Calif.

Dear Temia:

If your brother wants to be a mat-

ter that's walked all over, there's not much you can do to change it. Obviously he's content being used and sharing his girlfriend. The best you can do is give him advice to be cautious, pay attention to the signs and be clear of his expectations in his relationship. If he chooses to ignore the words of wisdom, sit back and be ready to support him when she takes him to the cleaners, hurts him and bleeds him dry.

Dear Deanna!

I'm a bachelor that actively dates and I'm tired of women trying to change me. I go into relationships being honest and direct. After a while, these women want more than I'm willing to give. I don't have any problems with this but it makes me mad when they accuse me of leading them on, cheating and lying. It is what it is and I stay the same from the first date to the last. What can I do to protect myself from drama when these women want more from me? --Travis the Bachelor; Hous-

ton, Texas

Dear Bachelor:

You put yourself in this situation by playing the relationship game. If you don't want them asking for more then you need to stop acting like a boyfriend and treat these women as around the way girls. In other words, if you're a recreational dater giving your body to all and heart to none, then let them know. Yes, tell them that you're using them, you don't want anything serious and you have more than one girlfriend. This will make your life easy and simple because once they hear the real truth, they'll slam you and keep searching for a real man.

Dear Deanna!

I'm close to an emotional breakdown. My boyfriend is causing me so much stress that I can't eat, sleep or do anything. I have lost so much weight. He comes in late, criticizes everything I do and he smokes inside the house. I think he's also cheating too. I

stay because he takes care of me but there's no love. I'm at the point where I feel he views me as his personal maid. The verbal abuse is too much but I can't seem to break away. What should I do? --Jasmine; Chicago

Dear Jasmine:

You're in the middle of a serious time bomb that's going to explode and you'll be the one hurt. This is a relationship of convenience and your man gets all the benefits and you get nothing but stress. If you're seeking a future heart attack, nervous breakdown and severe weight loss, then stay for the ride. If you're interested in good health, peace and respect then raise your standards, love yourself, find a new love and keep it moving.

Ask Deanna is written by Deanna M. Write Ask Deanna! at the email askdeanna1@yahoo.com or 264 S. LaCienega Blvd, Suite 1283 Beverly Hills, CA 90211. Website: www.askdeanna.com

No Increase for Social Security

But second stimulus check possible

(AP) -- There will be no cost-of-living increase for more than 50 million Social Security recipients next year, the first year without a raise since automatic adjustments were adopted in 1975. Blame falling consumer prices. By law, cost-of-living adjustments are pegged to inflation, which is negative this year because of lower energy costs. Social Security payments, however, do not go down even when prices drop.


The Obama administration, meanwhile, is pursuing a different way to boost recipients' income. On Wednesday, President Barack Obama called for a second round of \$250 stimulus payments for seniors, veterans,

retired railroad workers and people with disabilities.

The payments would match the ones issued to seniors earlier this year as part of the government's economic recovery package. The payments would be equal to about a 2 percent increase for the average Social Security recipient.

The White House put the cost of the payments at \$13 billion. Obama didn't say how the payments should be financed, leaving that up to Congress. The president is open to borrowing the money, which would increase the federal budget deficit, just like Congress did with the first round of stimulus payments.

Social Security payments increased by 5.8 percent in January. On Wednesday, President Barack Obama called for a largest bump up since 1982. The big increase was largely because of a spike in energy costs in 2008.




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