

Portland Observer Auto Review

2010 Dodge Caliber SXT

BY KATHLEEN CARR

The 2010 Dodge Caliber stands out in the crowd. Its bold distinctive look will catch your eyes. In today's market it's hard to find a vehicle that does not look like another manufacturer's.

There are four four-cylinder engine choices for the Dodge Caliber. The bottom of the four is a 148-horsepower 1.8-liter inline-4, which comes standard on the base Caliber and the SXT. If you're looking for more power, it's possible to upgrade to a 158-hp 2.0-liter four, which is equipped exclusively with a CVT. The 148-hp 1.8-liter comes with a five-speed manual gearbox only. R/T and SRT4 offer two more engines with even more power than the first two.

The Caliber was great every day driving. Its engine matches perfectly with the CVT. It handles nicely but could use a little more fine tuning on the suspension. It is more refined than previous models and could get up to speed quickly for entrance on the freeway.

The Caliber comes only as a compact hatchback/wagon with rear seats that fold in a 60/40 split, increasing cargo space to a maximum of 48 cubic feet. The front passenger seat can fold forward to make



Vehicle Specifications: 2.0 Liter 14 DOHC 16 Valve Dual WT Engine; Continuously Variable Transaxle; 23 City MPG, 27 Highway MPG; MSRP \$18,740, Tested vehicle MSRP \$23,395.

room for longer items. The Caliber has decent headroom and legroom in the front and back. The cup holders are illuminated by LED lighting, which Dodge is proud of the "bright accents" throughout the interior, including chromed surrounds for the heating, ventilating, and air-conditioning vents, the shift bezel, and the instrument cluster rings.

The 2010 Dodge Caliber gives you a lot of bang for your dollar. They have upgraded the interior of the vehicle. It offers a lot of base amenities that have the feel of an upgraded vehicle. The Caliber is great for your daily driving due to its functionality. It is roomy and inexpensive. It will appeal to small families or those who like a smaller commuter vehicle to get around.



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