

Portland Observer Auto Review

News and reviews on new motor vehicles

2011 Subaru Impreza WRX STI

BY KATHLEEN CARR

The Subaru Impreza 5 door has added a new option to the consumer a four door sedan. The 2011 STI's wide-body fenders has also improved handling thanks to wider wheels, wider track dimensions and stiffer sub-frame bushings.

The 2011 STI is powered by the same 305 horsepower, turbocharged 2.5-liter flat-four, delivering the same meaty 290 ft-lbs of torque at 4000 rpm. The big performance upgrade

for the WRX is that the front and rear track increases by 1.3 inches and 1.5 inches, respectively, and the tires (235/45 vs. 225/45 on the old car) and wheels (17 x 8-inches vs. 17 x 7) are wider all around. It also has firmer rear-suspension subframe bushings, which are intended to reduce body roll in corners.

All-Wheel Drive system has excellent weight balance with a low center of gravity only adding to the handling of the vehicle. It all-wheel



Tested vehicle information: 2.5 liter turbocharged engine; 6-speed transmission; 17 City MPG, 23 Highway MPG; MSRP \$34,720.

drive system with the DCCD (Driver Control Center Differential featuring three performance mode and six driver – selectable differential-locking setting, mechanical and electronically controlled limited-slip center differential, helical limited-slip front differential and TORSEN limited-slip differential which it choosing the mode base on the driver input. The WRX STI driver also can custom-tailor the level of dynamic intervention offered by VDC. Changes are made by pushing the OFF switch on the dashboard to the left of the steering wheel column.

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