

Strength and grace BY JOE SAGE

1,000 LB-FT OF TORQUE IS JUST PART OF THE EQUATION

The full name of this truck as above covers a lot of ground. It hits high specs through and through. It's a 3500 (the heavier of the 2500/3500 Heavy Duties). A Crew Cab (the middle of three available, as rather than building a cab-and-a-half, Ram builds this four-door and another even bigger four-door, the Mega Cab). Long box (that elusive-these-days 8-footer). Dually (an option, but a natural for this tow beast). It's a 4x4. And it's dressed in high-steppin' Laramie Longhorn trim.

That's a lotta truck—enough (with a few more options, including a Max Tow package with 5th wheel prep) to bring its \$60,750 base price up to \$72,810.

But there's more—its 6.7-liter Cummins Turbo Diesel inline-six engine, a 400-hp beast breaking a new threshold at 1,000 pounds of torque. This adds another \$11,795 to the build, now totaling \$86,300 (including \$1,695 destination)—but it's a fair bet that nothing can stop this truck, up to its 5,800-lb payload and 34,130-lb tow capacity, all without breaking a sweat.

But torque is not the only milestone. We had this truck about the same time it was announced that Ram had moved up to the number two seller in that most brand-loyal of segments, pickup trucks.

And maybe the biggest thing: the 2019 Ram HD is an all-new truck, following the all-new 2019 Ram 1500 pickup introduced earlier in the year—(arguably the 15th generation in a lineage going back to

1914)—which has picked up one trophy after another. (See our May/June 2018 issue for the new 1500's launch and March/April 2019 for a followup on the 1500 and for the new 2500's launch.)

In addition to new highs in horsepower, torque, payload and towing lineup-wide, the new 2500/3500 trucks are noteworthy for also following suit to the increasing levels of luxury and features that have worked their way into the 1500 trucks. Now, drivers of the toughest-duty trucks can enjoy the same, and this Laramie Longhorn is the perfect example. Check out the specs at right: power sunroof, driving assist electronics, surround-view cameras, trailering tech, 17-speaker premium audio on the popular 12-inch Uconnect screen (with clear and often glove-worthy redundant controls), and so much more. As in the 1500, the cab has grown to provide a bit more legroom in front and a lot more in the rear, now matching the front, so your whole work crew enjoys the same spacious comfort. Storage abounds, including an enormous console bin that accommodated our full camera bag with ease (with plenty of room left for lots more gear).

You may hesitate to drag your muddy boots inside the first time, but the truck's sense of purpose dominates, and you'll find that those boots fit right in. The new HD trucks simply combine their most massive levels of capability ever with a huge dose of, "Hey, this is really nice." ■

SPECIFICATIONS

BUILD	ladder-type frame, steel cab, dbl-wall steel box
ENGINE	6.7L I-6 Cummins 3500 High Output Turbo Diesel
HP/TORQUE	400 hp / 1000 lb-ft
TRANSMISSION	Aisin AS69RC 6-spd auto, elec control
TRANSFER CASE	BW 44-48 part-time w elec shift 2WD, 4WD high, neutral, 4WD low; low ratio 2.64
DRIVETRAIN	4X4
AXLES	F: AAM 9.25" beam w center disconnect R: AAM 12.0" beam (w 3500 Max Tow)
SUSPENSION	F: 3-link w track bar, coils, stblzr bar, solid axle; R: 2-stg longtdnl leaf (opt suppl air bags), solid axle
STEERING	hydraulic pwr assist
BRAKES	disc w twin-piston pin-slider caliper & ABS, Hydro-boost pwr asst F: 14.17x1.54" / R: 14.09x1.34"
LENGTH / WB	Crew Cab Long Box: 260.8 / 169 in
TURNING CIRCLE	53.7 ft
APPROACH / BRKOVER / DEPART	23.3 / 22.4 / 23.5°
GROUND CLEARANCE	DRW 12.3 in
HEADROOM / LEGROOM (FR)	40.9/39.8 / 40.9/40.2 in
GVWR / PAYLOAD (per this spec)	14,000 / 5800 lb
TOW CAPACITY (per this spec)	34,130 lb
FUEL / MPG	ultra low sulfur diesel / NA
BASE PRICE	\$60,750
DIESEL: 6.7L I-6 Cummins HO Turbo Diesel, 220A alt	11,795
OPTIONS: Walnut Brown metallic clear-coat (200); Tri-fold tonneau cover (695); power sunroof (1095)	1,990
TOWING TECH GROUP: surround-view camera, trailer reverse guidance	695
SAFETY GROUP: adaptive cruise w stop, full-spd fwd collision warning-plus, blind-spot & cross-path detect	795
PROTECTION GROUP: transfer case skid plate	95
MAX TOW PKG: 4.10 axle, 5th wheel prep, Mopar 30K direct mnt 5th whl hitch, auto level rear air susp, CHMSL, cargo view camera, reflecting triangles, vinyl flags, fire extinguisher, roadside safety kit, spare fuses	3,695
LONGHORN LEVEL 1 EQUIP GROUP: 17-spr Harman Kardon premium audio, Uconnect 12", pwr running boards, wireless charge pad, SiriusXM/360L, blind-spot & cross-traffic detection	3,495
DUALLY: dual 17x6 rear wheels, 17" spare wheel, 17x6 premium aluminum wheels, box & fender clearance lights, chrome flat cab-length side steps	1,295
DESTINATION CHARGE	1,695
TOTAL	\$86,300

