

Plenty of bang

BY JOE SAGE

Although it's an industrywide phenomenon, we often turn to Dodge Charger as an ultimate example of price stairstepping—or "price walk," as it's known to manufacturers and dealers. Charger sits—or starts—at the affordable to moderate end of the price scale and has a tremendous range of models, as well as a wide range of performance, drivetrain and feature builds, presenting a fascinating study in offering a range of options for each, without stepping on the attributes or pricing of models above and below each.

Dodge/SRT engineers are an enthusiastic and ambitious lot, and they keep coming up with more ways to up the Charger's game—especially in the upper-performance models—more power, more features, more style—yet no matter how much they add, they are determined to deliver any new build at a price point that's still lower than the next model up. Each model sits at a balance point that's clearly defined and eminently desirable. The comparative upstream or downstream is always a winner. This one is no exception—and it's pretty far up the scale.

Longer, lower, wider! You hear it regularly when new models are introduced, but in this case it's the visual core of a special Widebody build—3.3 inches

wider, as you'd expect, but also 2.6 inches longer and with three-quarters of an inch less height than a base SXT. It's also faster, has enhanced suspension, and is more of a head-turner, to boot.

It's quite a head-turner, in fact, despite its family sedan (and even police cruiser) basis. It's always interesting to see what response a vehicle gets from our fellow travelers, obvious to us since we drive different things all the time, and this one boiled the boy racer blood in everything from econocars to big SUVs. (It also could turn the heads of the aforementioned police, even in an area with no shortage of high-powered vehicles.)

The Monroney on this one indicates the model is an R/T Scat Pack Plus, and Widebody is an add-on package, though if you're shopping you'll find the Scat Pack Widebody is identified as a model. Either way, you'll have no trouble finding the right one. With a Scat Pack basis (which already brings you the big 485-hp 6.4L SRT HEMI® V8 at \$40 grand), its \$6000 Widebody Package (see sidebar) adds dang near a Hellcat's-worth of performance, short of the Hellcat's supercharged 707 hp, but also—even with a whole raft of additional add-ons—still well shy of Hellcat's \$72k price.

Note that the Hellcat is now a Widebody, too, so one of its most distinctive attributes, its appearance, is immediately part of your deal with the Scat Pack Widebody. And that's a nice deal.



The irony is not lost on us that we're sitting on 485 hp here and showing you the rear camera, but it's a stunner, with a strong and very useful image.

The Hellcat is also the only Charger with SRT in its name, and this Scat Pack Widebody comes with a full array of Hellcat tech—drive modes, performance pages, race options, pre-stage, shift light, line lock activation, engine holding, and that most brag-worthy of all, launch control.

We had the Charger Scat Pack Widebody for a week early in the virus lockdown. The whole world seemed like a cathedral, which could have made it odd to be roaring around in this, though we had our share of the usual array of showy company.

Quarantine nonetheless allowed us a great drive up AZ 87, the Beeline Highway. Aside from the possibility of track sessions, it's exactly the perfect kind of drive you'll want to do in your own. ■



SPECIFICATIONS

BUILD	unitized steel body, aluminum hood
ENGINE	6.4L (392 cu.in) SRT Hemi® V8 w MDS
HP/TORQUE	485 hp / 475 lb-ft
DRIVETRAIN	RWD
TRANSMISSION	8-spd auto 8HP70
ALTERNATOR	220 amp
SUSPENSION	High perf suspension: F: indep SLA w high upper A arm, lateral & diagonal lower links, coils over monotube Bilstein ADS gas shocks, 32mm hollow stblzr bar; R: five-link indep w coils, monotube Bilstein ADS gas shocks, isolated susp cradle, link-type 22mm hollow stblzr bar
STEERING	elec power w multi-mode assist
MODES	four-mode: street, sport, track, off, w ESC/traction control mode selection
BRAKES	(w Widebody pkg) SRT/Brembo ultra-hi performance 8+9 tandem-diaphragm vacuum booster, ABS, traction control, ESC, brake assist, brake knockback mitigation, hill-start assist
F:	15.4x1.34 two-piece alum hat, vented, slotted, 1.42 Brembo six-piston fixed monoblock alum calipers; R: 13.8x1.10, vented, slotted, 1.26 Brembo four-piston fixed w alum housing;
WHEELS	(w Widebody pkg) Devil's Rim 20.0x11.0 in
TIRES	opt Pirelli P Zero 305/35ZR20 3-season perf
LENGTH / WHEELBASE	201.0 / 120.0 in
TRACK (F/R)	65.6 / 65.3 in
OVERALL WIDTH	(at rear flares) 78.3 in
TURNING CIRCLE	39.0 ft
GROUND CLEARANCE	5.2 in
DRAG COEFFICIENT	0.380 Cd
HEADROOM (F/R)	(w/sunroof) 36.9 / 36.6 in
LEGROOM (F/R)	41.8 / 40.1 in
CARGO CAPACITY	16.5 cu.ft
WEIGHT / DISTRIB (F/R)	4373 lb / 55/45
FUEL CAPACITY	18.5 gal
MPG	15/24/18 (city/hwy/comb)

BASE PRICE (SCAT PACK) \$40,495

SCAT PACK WIDEBODY PKG: Brembo 6-piston fixed front caliper brakes, performance shift indicator, body-color fender flares, leather flat-bottom steering wheel, widebody competition suspension, adaptive damping suspension, Pirelli P Zero 305/35ZR20 (107Y) all-season perf tires, 20x11 Devil's Rim alum wheels.....6000

2DV PLUS GROUP: Scat Pack logo Nappa/alcantara seats, auto-dim outside driver mirror, power/heated mirrors w courtesy lights, radio-driver seat-mirror memory, blind spot mirror indicator, power tilt-tele wheel, power front seats w 4-way pwr lumbar, heated-vented front seats, heated rear seats, premium-stitch dash, front lower & overhead LED lighting, premium floor-mats, rear armrest w storage cupholder, illum rear cup-holders, blind spot & cross-path detect1995

TECH GROUP: advanced brake assist, rain-sense wipers, lane depart warn, auto high-beam, full-speed fwd collision warn-plus, adaptive cruise w stop1895

DRIVER CONFIDENCE GROUP: bi-function HID projector headlamps795

NAV & TRAVEL GROUP: Uconnect 4C NAV w 8.4" display, GPS nav, SiriusXM travel & traffic (5-yr)995

HARMAN KARDON AUDIO: GreenEdge® amp, GreenEdge 19 spkrs, surround sound1595

POWER SUNROOF1295

305/35ZR20 PIRELLI P ZERO 3-SEASON TIRES695

RED BRAKE CALIPERS595

DESTINATION CHARGE1495

TOTAL **\$57,850**

SXT RWD292 hp **\$29,995**

AWD292 hp **\$33,595**

GT RWD300 hp **\$31,995**

AWD300 hp **\$34,995**

R/T370 hp **\$36,495**

SCAT PACK485 hp **\$40,495**

SCAT PACK WIDEBODY485 hp **\$46,495**

SRT HELLCAT WIDEBODY707 hp **\$72,095**

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Lost 10mm Anti-Fatigue Garage Comfort Mat (shown) / SKU: 10-BKG-GBSK
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