

2016 Dodge Challenger R/T with Scat Pack
Miles of Smiles Fun in The Sun



Every now and again a car comes along that makes your heart sing. Case in point this week's test vehicle a Plum Crazy 2016 Dodge Challenger R/T with the Scat Pack never failed in making me smile driving fast or crawling in traffic. OK I admit I am a Challenger fan and have been ever since the first modern day Challengers rolled off the line in 2008.

The 2016 Dodge Challenger R/T with the scat pack perfectly blends classic muscle-car flavor with computer-age technology and performance. The take-no-

prisoners styling is clearly linked to a glorious past of American big-engine performance, yet inside and under the hood are technological benefits of performance levels that were only wild dreams in the days the peak of the muscle car period.

For those like myself who enjoy large displacement good old fashioned America V8 power, the R/T is the bargain of the upper realm of Challenger performance. The SRT Hellcat with 707 HP is the top of the line model, the often forgotten middle child the SRT 392 blends performance with luxury features. For those on a budget (and just about who is not these days) the R/T with Scat pack is a great value.

You get the glorious 6.4 liter hemi V-8 packing 485 horsepower and 475 lb-ft of torque with either a six speed stick or the wonderful optional 8 speed automatic of which my Plum Crazy machine was equipped. With that great transmission and cylinder deactivation expect 25 mpg on the highway or more.

The Scat Pack gives pretty much all performance goodies of the SRT 392 including handling upgrades, some of the best Brembo brakes in the business and the cool performance pages in the wonderful U Connect touch screen

What you do not get is the Bilstein adjustable shocks found in the SRT or SRT Hellcat or some of the luxury and convenience features found in the high end models. But what a bargain my test car stickered at \$37,995 and equipped with the optional 8 speed automatic, and Uconnect system at bottom line price of \$41,886

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Everywhere I went in Plum Crazy is an attention-grabber. The engine can be a beast when called upon but can simply cruise nice and smooth if you are not in mood for a little arrested adolescent fun

Inside, the new Dodge Challenger is pleasant, comfortable and functional. In the center of the instrument panel is the touch screen that we've liked in other Dodge and Chrysler vehicles. The retro-style gauges for tach and speedometer look fantastic, and there's a sharp-display TFT screen nestled between the two. There's plenty of room in front for driver and front-seat passenger, and the rear seat can accommodate three people (although they might be snug), making the Challenger the only muscle car deserving of that claim. Even the trunk is surprisingly large and useful.

The no-nonsense look of the 2016 Challenger links to the past and the muscle-car era, yet with a modern, sleeker twist. But no doubt; there's an unmistakable family link to the Challengers that scorched boulevards, highways and racetracks back in the day. The long-hood, short-deck delivers classic proportions, the rake is just right.

Most of the 2016 Challenger's options are grouped either by the 10 trim levels or into the 13 packages. One significant stand-alone option is the Uconnect 8.4AN, with an 8.4-inch touch screen, navigation, AM/FM/HD radio, SiriusXM radio, Bluetooth, Uconnect Access, SiriusXM Traffic and SiriusXM Travel Link and Uconnect apps; this is one all-inclusive feature we heartily recommend you consider. Other options include the R/T Classic Package, The Shaker Hood package, Technology Group, three Sound Groups, a Super Sport Group, a Super Track Pak Group and the Scat Pack Appearance Group, complete with Bumble Bee rear stripes.

Living in Florida there is one thing I did in the Challenger R/T Scat Pack that would never be allowed in my home state of Massachusetts. With my wife and 5-year-old daughter we headed for the long stretch of beach from Daytona north on the beach. Many people forget that racing at Daytona started with racing on the beach. In 2016 the speed limit on the beach maybe 10 Mph but that did not spoil the fun driving alongside the oceans crashing waves. It was also fun watching the people react to Heritage Plum Crazy color and a robust exhaust note



Of all the modern day's muscle cars the Challenger is the most GT like with room for 4-5 people and a good sized trunk. Changes are coming for muscle machines like this so buy them while you can you won't regret it for one minute

Front Engine-RWD

Highlights

Styling

Standard and Available Equipment

6.4 liter Hemi V-8

Amazing Brakes

Good standard Alpine Sound System

Great Performance Value

Wonderful 8 speed automatic

Lowlights

City MPG

Slightly high trunk lift over height

The Long Drive Ratings

Scale 1 low-10 High

Exterior Styling 9

Interior styling and quality 8

Handling 7

Braking 9

Fuel Economy 5

Stereo System 7

Navigation Accuracy 8

Performance 9

Trunk-Cargo Capacity 8

Value 9