

1947 plymouth business coupe

1947 plymouth business coupe represents a significant chapter in American automotive history, embodying classic design, engineering innovation, and the post-war era's economic resurgence. This vintage vehicle has garnered attention from collectors, car enthusiasts, and historians alike due to its distinctive styling and reliable performance. The 1947 Plymouth Business Coupe is notable for its streamlined body, functional features, and its role in Plymouth's lineup during the late 1940s. This article delves into the detailed specifications, historical context, design elements, engine performance, and restoration considerations of this iconic automobile. Through a comprehensive exploration, readers will gain a thorough understanding of what makes the 1947 Plymouth Business Coupe a prized classic car. Below is a detailed table of contents outlining the key topics covered.

- Historical Background of the 1947 Plymouth Business Coupe
- Design and Styling Features
- Engine and Performance Specifications
- Interior and Comfort Aspects
- Restoration and Collectibility

Historical Background of the 1947 Plymouth Business Coupe

The 1947 Plymouth Business Coupe was produced during a pivotal era following World War II when the automotive industry was transitioning back to civilian vehicle production. Plymouth, a division of Chrysler Corporation, aimed to provide affordable yet stylish vehicles to the American public. The Business Coupe variant was particularly designed with professionals and business owners in mind, offering a two-door coupe with practical features.

Post-war economic expansion led to increased demand for personal vehicles, and Plymouth capitalized on this by releasing models that combined modern engineering with conservative pricing. The 1947 model year was essential as it marked the continuation of the pre-war body style with subtle updates to meet evolving consumer preferences.

Market Position and Competitors

The 1947 Plymouth Business Coupe entered the market competing against other mid-priced American cars such as the Ford Deluxe Coupe and Chevrolet Fleetline. Plymouth positioned this model to appeal to buyers seeking a balance between economy, durability, and style. Its reputation as a reliable and practical vehicle made it a popular choice among small business owners and urban drivers.

Production Numbers and Legacy

Production figures for the 1947 Plymouth Business Coupe indicate that it was a significant contributor to Plymouth's overall sales. The model has since become a sought-after classic car due to its historical significance and representative styling of the late 1940s. Its legacy is maintained through car clubs and vintage automobile shows where enthusiasts celebrate its heritage.

Design and Styling Features

The 1947 Plymouth Business Coupe showcases classic American car design characterized by smooth lines, rounded fenders, and a prominent grille. The styling reflects the Art Deco influence prevalent in the automotive industry during the 1930s and 1940s, combined with practical considerations for everyday use.

Exterior Characteristics

The vehicle's exterior features a two-door coupe body style with a streamlined roofline and a spacious trunk. Chrome accents adorn the grille, bumpers, and trim, enhancing its visual appeal. The car's silhouette is defined by its rounded hood and fender design, which contribute to aerodynamic efficiency and aesthetic harmony.

Color Options and Finishes

In 1947, Plymouth offered the Business Coupe in a variety of factory paint colors, including shades of blue, green, black, and maroon. The finishes were typically glossy, reflecting the paint technology of the period. These color options allowed buyers to personalize their vehicles while maintaining a professional appearance suitable for business use.

Distinctive Features

- Two-door coupe body with rear passenger seat
- Chrome-plated front grille with horizontal bars
- Steel wheels with hubcaps matching the body color
- Dual side mirrors for enhanced visibility
- Functional trunk space with a rear-mounted spare tire option

Engine and Performance Specifications

The performance of the 1947 Plymouth Business Coupe was driven by a robust powertrain that balanced power and fuel efficiency. Plymouth utilized proven engineering solutions to ensure reliability and ease of maintenance, which were critical factors for business owners relying on their vehicles for daily transportation.

Engine Details

This model was equipped with a 3.6-liter inline six-cylinder engine, also known as the Plymouth "Flathead Six." The engine produced approximately 95 horsepower, delivering sufficient power for city and highway driving conditions of the time. The flathead design was known for its simple construction and durability.

Transmission and Drivetrain

The Business Coupe featured a three-speed manual transmission, which was standard for vehicles in its class during the 1940s. Rear-wheel drive provided dependable traction and handling characteristics suitable for various road surfaces. The manual gearbox allowed drivers to have greater control over the vehicle's performance.

Fuel Economy and Driving Experience

Fuel efficiency was moderate, with the vehicle averaging roughly 15 to 18 miles per gallon, depending on driving conditions. The suspension system utilized leaf springs, contributing to a comfortable ride despite the vehicle's relatively rigid structure. Steering was manual, requiring moderate effort but offering responsive handling for urban driving.

Interior and Comfort Aspects

The interior of the 1947 Plymouth Business Coupe was designed with both functionality and comfort in mind. Although primarily a business-oriented vehicle, the cabin offered adequate space and features to support longer journeys and daily commutes.

Seating and Upholstery

The coupe accommodated two passengers with bench-style seating upholstered in durable cloth or optional leatherette materials. The seats were designed to provide support and comfort, with sufficient legroom for front and rear occupants. The interior color schemes generally complemented the exterior paint options, creating a cohesive aesthetic.

Dashboard and Instrumentation

The dashboard featured a straightforward layout with essential gauges, including a speedometer, fuel gauge, and temperature indicator. Controls were ergonomically placed to ensure ease of use, and the steering wheel was large, facilitating comfortable maneuvering.

Additional Comfort Features

- Manual crank windows for ventilation
- Optional heater for cold weather conditions
- AM radio available as an upgrade
- Simple door panels with armrests
- Spacious trunk accessible from the interior

Restoration and Collectibility

Today, the 1947 Plymouth Business Coupe is a prized collectible vehicle among vintage car enthusiasts and restorers. Its classic design and historical significance make it a popular choice for restoration projects and display in car shows.

Challenges in Restoration

Restoring a 1947 Plymouth Business Coupe requires attention to detail and access to period-correct parts. Some challenges include sourcing original components such as the flathead six engine parts, chrome trim, and authentic interior materials. Additionally, maintaining the car's original paint colors and finishes is essential for preserving its value.

Value and Market Demand

The market value of a well-maintained or fully restored 1947 Plymouth Business Coupe varies depending on condition, originality, and historical documentation. Fully restored models can command premium prices, especially when accompanied by verified provenance and maintenance records. The vehicle's appeal extends to collectors seeking post-war American cars with distinctive styling and practical engineering.

Key Considerations for Collectors

- Verify the authenticity of engine and chassis numbers
- Assess the condition of the bodywork for rust or damage
- Ensure availability of replacement parts or compatible substitutes
- Evaluate the quality of previous restorations or repairs
- Consider joining Plymouth or vintage car clubs for support and resources

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the key features of the 1947 Plymouth Business Coupe?

The 1947 Plymouth Business Coupe features a streamlined design, a 3.8L inline-six engine, a 3-speed manual transmission, and was designed primarily for business use with limited rear seating.

How many 1947 Plymouth Business Coupes were produced?

Plymouth produced approximately 50,000 Business Coupes in 1947, making it a relatively common model for that year.

What engine does the 1947 Plymouth Business Coupe have?

The 1947 Plymouth Business Coupe is equipped with a 3.8L (217 cubic inch) inline-six engine producing around 95 horsepower.

How much is a 1947 Plymouth Business Coupe worth today?

The value of a 1947 Plymouth Business Coupe varies depending on condition, originality, and restoration, but typically ranges from \$15,000 to \$30,000.

What distinguishes the Business Coupe from other 1947 Plymouth models?

The Business Coupe is distinguished by its two-door configuration with no rear seat or limited rear seating, aimed at business users needing extra cargo space.

Is the 1947 Plymouth Business Coupe considered a classic car?

Yes, the 1947 Plymouth Business Coupe is considered a classic car and is popular among vintage car collectors and enthusiasts.

What type of transmission does the 1947 Plymouth Business Coupe have?

The 1947 Plymouth Business Coupe typically came with a 3-speed manual transmission, although some models were available with a vacuum-operated clutch known as the Fluid Drive.

Are parts for the 1947 Plymouth Business Coupe still available?

Yes, many reproduction and original parts for the 1947 Plymouth Business Coupe are still available through classic car parts suppliers and specialty vendors.

What is the fuel economy of the 1947 Plymouth Business Coupe?

The 1947 Plymouth Business Coupe has an estimated fuel economy of around 15-18 miles per gallon, typical for cars of its era and engine size.

Can the 1947 Plymouth Business Coupe be used as a daily driver?

While it is possible to use a 1947 Plymouth Business Coupe as a daily driver, its vintage design means it lacks modern safety and comfort features, so it is more commonly used for occasional driving and car shows.

Additional Resources

1. The Classic Charm: 1947 Plymouth Business Coupe

This book dives into the timeless design and engineering of the 1947 Plymouth Business Coupe, exploring its significance in post-war American automotive history. It covers the car's styling, mechanical features, and the cultural impact it had during the late 1940s. Rich with photographs and detailed specifications, it serves as an essential guide for classic car enthusiasts.

2. Restoring the 1947 Plymouth Business Coupe: A Step-by-Step Guide

A comprehensive manual for classic car restorers, this book provides detailed instructions on bringing a 1947 Plymouth Business Coupe back to its original glory. It includes tips on sourcing parts, bodywork, engine tuning, and interior refurbishment. Perfect for hobbyists and professionals alike, the guide emphasizes authenticity and quality craftsmanship.

3. Post-War American Cars: The Story of the 1947 Plymouth Business Coupe

This historical account places the 1947 Plymouth Business Coupe within the broader context of America's automotive industry after World War II. It examines how Plymouth adapted its designs to meet the changing needs of consumers and how the Business Coupe reflected economic and social trends of the era. The book includes interviews with former Plymouth engineers and owners.

4. Driving Nostalgia: Memories of the 1947 Plymouth Business Coupe

A collection of personal stories and anecdotes from owners and enthusiasts of the 1947 Plymouth

Business Coupe. The book captures the emotional connection people have with the car, recounting road trips, family moments, and car club experiences. Illustrated with vintage photos and memorabilia, it's a heartfelt tribute to a beloved classic.

5. Technical Specifications and Innovations of the 1947 Plymouth Business Coupe

Focused on the engineering side, this book breaks down the mechanical innovations and technical specs that made the 1947 Plymouth Business Coupe stand out. It covers the engine types, suspension systems, and transmission options available during the model year. A valuable resource for mechanics and automotive engineers interested in classic car technology.

6. Collecting and Valuing the 1947 Plymouth Business Coupe

A guide for collectors, this book discusses the market value, rarity, and investment potential of the 1947 Plymouth Business Coupe. It provides tips on authenticating vehicles, understanding condition grades, and negotiating purchases. The book also includes data on auction results and trends in classic car collecting.

7. 1947 Plymouth Business Coupe: Design Evolution and Styling

This title explores the aesthetic journey of Plymouth's Business Coupe, analyzing how design trends influenced the 1947 model. Featuring sketches, design drafts, and comparative studies with other models, the book highlights the artistic and functional choices that defined the coupe's look. It's ideal for readers interested in automotive design history.

8. The Plymouth Legacy: From 1947 Business Coupe to Modern Classics

Tracing Plymouth's brand evolution, this book connects the 1947 Business Coupe to subsequent models and the company's eventual fate. It discusses how Plymouth's innovations and market strategies shaped the brand's identity. The narrative provides insight into the classic car's place in a larger automotive legacy.

9. 1947 Plymouth Business Coupe: Maintenance and Care for Long-Term Preservation

This practical guide offers advice on maintaining and caring for a 1947 Plymouth Business Coupe to ensure its longevity. It covers routine maintenance tasks, storage tips, and troubleshooting common issues faced by owners. The book is a must-have for anyone looking to keep their classic coupe in excellent running condition.

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