## 1991 SATURN

If all cars are built with the same basic parts, then what makes one car better than another?





It's a question that just about every engineer in the auto-making business asks at one time or another.

And it just happened to be the question raised in a lot of people's minds one early January morning in 1985.

It was a big day in automotive history. A new car company had just been founded. The press was rushing about taking notes. And there were the usual speeches, questions, congratulations, predictions...all of which sounds very dramatic.

And it was. But not for reasons most apparent on that day. It wasn't dramatic because of the funds being invested, but because of the spirit that prompted such an investment.

You see, Saturn isn't a company founded in the traditional way—with committees, six-month feasibility studies, and the like. It's a company founded through the sheer will and determination of a few people who believed—despite what anybody else thought—that they could build a small car good enough to compete with the best on the road.

These people realized, of course, that starting a totally new car company was a bold move—given that competition was edging its way in from all directions, with undoubtedly more just around the corner.

But they also realized that the situation wasn't likely to change—at least not until someone took the initiative to change it. And who was better prepared than they were to effect that change?

They knew the industry inside out. They'd been imagining cars like these for years. And they were more than ready to take on the challenge.

So take it on is exactly what they all did. Those first few people who founded Saturn. And the 3500 others who jumped at the chance to participate once they heard about it—participate being the operative word.

As you'll soon see, it's not just the engineering that makes one car any better than another.

It's the spirit of the people involved.

"If there's anything that drives this company, it's a fascination with how things work—and might work better."

- Jay Wetzel, Chief Engineer

Saturn has taken a "clean slate" approach to developing its company and its cars. No red tape. No time clocks. None of the typical trappings of hierarchy that can come between people and the way they feel about the product they're building

That fascination was probably nowhere more acute than in the mind of Jay Wetzel. "Saturn was a challenge a lot of us just couldn't wait to sink our teeth into," Jay says. "It was a chance to do things differently. To toss aside preconceptions. To push ahead with all the ideas we'd been playing out in our minds for years."

According to Jay, Saturn's goal wasn't to build a car jam-packed with every whiz-

> bang technological advance one could throw into it, but to build a good, reliable, well-designed, and exceptionally engineered car-a car that could compete with what seemed to be the world's favorite small cars.

It was a competitive edge that Saturn engineers would pursue by purchasing some 200 Hondas, Toyotas, Nissans, and other competitive vehicles—cars the engineers would test themselves by putting them through their paces alongside Saturns on every test trip. And "filleting them," as Peter Dugdale, a British-born engineer, described it-tearing them apart to find out what worked, what didn't, and why.

All in all, Saturn spent almost five years picking apart the competition. And probably even longer picking the brain of the small-car buyer—especially the import buyer.

Jay put it this way: "Most great cars in history reflect the personality of one person. In our case, that person just happens to be the consumer."

Whenever there was a question, it was the consumer who arbitrated. Saturn tested designs in consumer research clinics all across the nation and then set out

> to build the car people described. A car that's nimble and quick to respond. One that grips the road when it has to. One

that almost begs to be driven. A car that's fuelefficient, roomy, and dependable—performing every bit as well in Death Valley in the heat of August as in Buffalo in the bitter cold of

A car that's easy to maintain. One that doesn't make you tear other things apart to get to the part that needs servicing.

A car with a personality all its own no cookie-cutter stuff. One that borrows from the best of the best worlds: the reliability you've come to expect from the Japanese, and the performance you've come to respect in the Europeans.

All of which, Jay explains, wouldn't have been that big a deal at a sticker price of \$30,000. The challenge facing Saturn engineers, however, was to offer a car for less than half that price. And that meant making a few changes. Actually, more than a few. "If we really wanted to pull this car off," Jay says, "we knew we had to find a way to work smarter, faster, and-

more important—together."

That's why if you were to visit Saturn's new manufacturing and assembly complex in Spring Hill, Tennessee, you'd see technicians on the line working alongside engineers in charge of design. You'd see people from all areas of the company contributing and collaborating on an equal footing. Committing themselves to something they believe in. Something they can affect. Something they feel belongs to them.

And if you're wondering what all these changes have to do with you and the new Saturns, consider what Kevin Hawkins, a factory technician, has to say: "I know it's going to be tough convincing some people to take another look at an American car. But I also know that I never felt this way about any job, any car, or anything I ever built.

"When you believe in something this much, it makes a big difference."







neers describes it: "The environment here is really different. There are no perceived limitations, no hardand-fast rules to follow. It's sort of like being a kid again-and it tends to bring out the best in people."

It was a frosty day in Detroit when ninety-nine people packed their bags for destinations around the world. Their goal: to find out how successful companies became so successful. What they learned led to a landmark agreement between management and labor-an agreement so simble it fits in a file folder not the usual three-inchthick hinder



TWO

THREE

### SATURN SL1

If you've been looking at compact cars lately, then you've been hearing a lot about "price/value." It's an appealing description—until you think about it.

An anti-lock braking system, an option you expect to find on expensive vehicles. It is also an option on every Saturn. Then the question that comes to mind goes something like this: Okay, give it to me straight. How much "value" am I sacrificing to get this car at a lower price?

Well, when it comes to the Saturn SL1, the answer is precious little. The SL1 starts with a peppy



1.9-liter single-overhead-cam fuel-injected engine tuned to give you more oomph than you expect for city driving, and all that you need for freeway cruising. It comes with a five-speed manual transmission and some pretty impressive EPA ratings—an estimated twenty-seven miles per gallon in the city and thirty-seven on the freeway. The SL1 also has frontwheel drive, four-wheel independent suspension, and a long list of "standard" features that are typically listed as "optional" on competitive models.

Things like variable-effort power steering. An adjustable steering column. Full analog instrumentation, including a tachometer, trip odometer, and engine temperature gauge. Fourteen-inch tires. Tinted glass. Halogen headlights. Reclining front bucket seats. Remote trunklid and fuel-filler door releases. A carpeted cargo area. And a rear-window defroster.

All of which makes it clear that Saturn's notion of price/value isn't what the term can sometimes turn out to be—a car stripped down to the bone, equipped with only the bare essentials.

Saturn engineers wanted a sedan that would enter the market a little differently.

And with a lot more to offer.



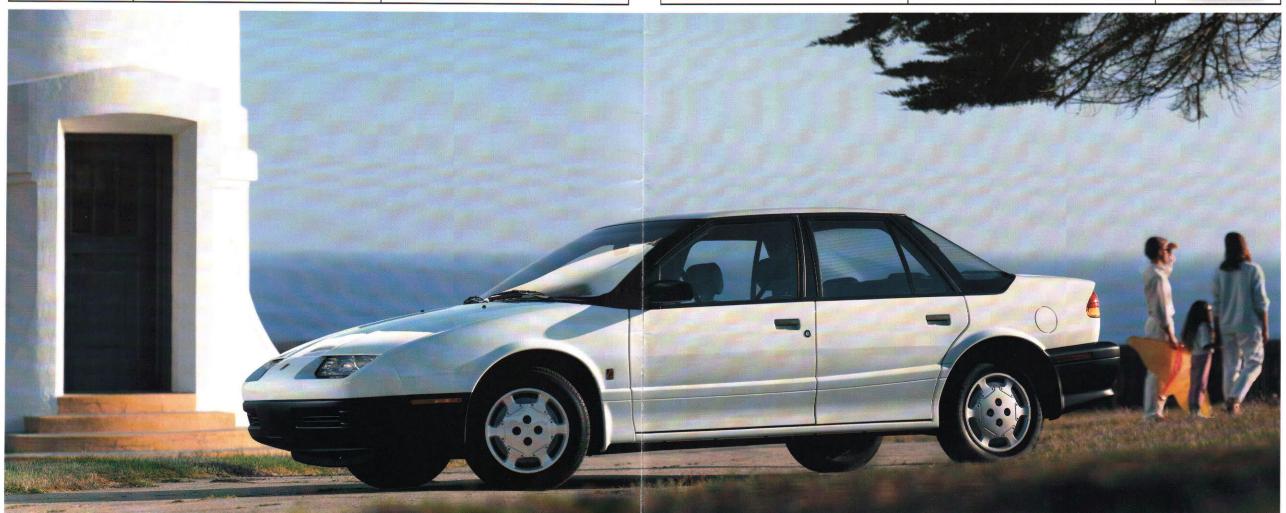
THE CHAPTER ITS IN PRINCE

THE CHAPTER ITS IN PR

Every Saturn model comes equipped with a fourspeaker AM/FM stereo system that includes seven station presets, seek/scan tuning, separate adjustments for bass and treble, and a digital quartz clock. The Saturn SL is priced even more economically than the SL1. The SL features slightly different upholstery and wheel covers than the SL1. And it's only available with a manual transmission and manual steering.

Saturn's automatic transmission offers two driving modes: performance and normal. You've probably noticed a similar feature on competitive vehicles. Well, looks can be deceiving. The Saturn option is quite different. To find out why, turn to page eight.





## "It's not like we're breaking any laws of physics with these new engines. We just spent a lot of time fine-tuning them."

-Peter Dugdale, Engine Engineer

Given that Peter has been fussing over engines since he was twelve, fine-tuning is something he ought to know a lot about. Peter grew up in the English countryside, spending every spare minute of his youth hot-rodding cars with his brother.

As Peter tells it, his brother did most of the racing and he did everything else. Including constructing a homemade dynamometer in the family garage. Building engines to compete in the English racing circuit. And finally, moving to California

> to work with performance engine builders, who convinced him, once and for all, that the most respected engines are those least encumbered by complexities.

"The real challenge is not to get carried away by technology," Peter says, "but to perfect simplicity, pulling the most you can from the least number of components."

That's the thinking that Peter brought to Saturn in 1985. And that's the philosophy held by all the members of Saturn's powertrain team, all the people who developed Saturn's two new fuelinjected 1.9-liter cast aluminum engines.

The single-overhead-cam engine is tuned to provide maximum fuel efficiency, while the dual-overhead-cam engine is tuned for performance, with competitive fuel economy.\*

Obviously, the two Saturn engines are designed for slightly different drivers. But there's one tuning characteristic they

share: Both, according to Peter's description, are "very torqueneavy engines." Other engines may be world-class in power output per cubic inch displacement, but what they give up to get there is low-end torque. In other words, they're great for

"pedal to the floor" on the German autobahn. But they're very frustrating in the city, when traffic runs stop-and-go. There they feel sluggish, as if you're in the

wrong gear, and not quite in the power band.

"Given that most Saturn drivers will have far fewer occasions to be cruising on the autobahn than sitting in stop-andgo traffic," Peter says, "we opted for a broad, flat torque curve. Which means these engines will always be there for you when you need them, responding instantly when you press the throttle."

The performance of the Saturn engines also has to do with how well each is linked to the Saturn automatic transmission—by virtue of a device called the powertrain control module. It's a box containing two microprocessors—one controlling the engine, the other controlling the transmission, and each constantly in communication with the other.

"Engines and automatic transmissions have been linked before," Peter explains, "but never like this." The theory is that the better these two components can respond to each other's needs, the better each Saturn will be able to respond

to yours—an early priority for the powertrain team.

"I'm really big on benchmarking and setting priorities, and then just going for it," Peter adds. "One thing I learned in racing is that building an engine isn't always the big science people make it out to be. Not that it's easy. It's just that you can do pretty much anything you want if you make the effort. That's what it takes-just effort. Keep on polishing the corners, keep on perfecting it. Just do it."

\*See Saturn's EPA ratings on page twenty-four.

the engine to the automatic transmission is called the powertrain control module It's not the first time automakers have used computer technology to link an engine to a transmission, but it's the first time the two have communicated on such an intimate level.

make foam cups. Saturn is currently the only automaker using this advanced technology

The lost foam casting

process used to build

polystyrene, the same

sort of material used to

Saturn engines involves

cam engine is tuned to give you the best of both worlds when it comes to power—full thrust in the

higher cruising gears and a surprising degree of torque in the lower driving gears.

There's one more bit of news you may be hearing about Saturn engines—and that's how they're manufactured. Saturn uses an advanced process called "lost foam casting Molten aluminum (cast iron, in the case of the crankshaft) is poured into sand molds containing polystyrene, which evaporates leaving precision engine parts in its place. The process produces more intricately finished componen eliminating many of the machining operations typically required. What's more, ninum for the block and cylinder heads reduces mass and makes the cars lighter, which means better fuel economy. The lighter internal components give the ter, which makes them that much more responsive

When a rubber timing belt breaks, it can mean hent values and extrensive engine work. Saturn is one of the few cars in its class to be equipped with a steel timing chain—as opposed to the typical rubber type.

#### TRANSMISSION

## "It listens, learns, and responds to every slight press on the pedal, every subtle change in climate."

—Bob Downs, Transmission Engineer

Saturn's new automatic transmission is controlled by a microprocessor programmed to pursue one simple obsession—finding the perfect shift.

According to Bob, it'll be searching for that perfect shift no matter where you are. Climbing a mountain pass in the Rockies.

Maneuvering over a dirt road in the Midwest. Or cruising down

a sun-baked freeway in Southern California.

When it comes to fuel efficiency,

more efficient than automatics.

Thanks to Saturn's powertrain

control module, the Saturn auto-

matic is almost as fuel efficient as

the manual. Just turn to the EPA

ratings on page twenty-four.

Bob wasn't always so sure Saturn's new automatic would make it out of the lab, through all the testing, and onto the road. "Ideas this radical usually get shot down," he says. "But then, Saturn is a company that thrives on challenge and a 'you never know until you try' attitude."

And Bob was determined to try. As were others

he talked into joining him: a few bright, ambitious young engineers he hired fresh out of college, as well as colleagues such as Larry Nitz—people who were willing to leave good jobs and commit their careers,

and themselves, to making this "wild idea" a hard-edged reality.

Not surprisingly, it's a reality that has managed to rack up eleven patents—which begins to explain why the new design is creating such a stir in engineering circles.

It's what Larry Nitz describes as a "smart" transmission. One that not only controls shift "points" but actually controls shift "feel." You'll understand better what Larry means

by "feel" when you try out Saturn's two shift modes: performance and normal.

Other cars offer similar transmission options.

But as Larry explains, "similar" is all they are. Nobody else is using the same means of controlling shift feel.

Saturn controls feel
with the help of computer
algorithms, silicon sensors, and
tiny solenoid valves. The algorithms
define "the perfect shift."
The sensors detect
influencing variables
—temperature, altitude, turbine speed,
engine torque, oil temperature, and so forth. And the
solenoid valves interpret these computer-based
messages into mechanical action.

The result: a transmission that works hard to always feel and shift the same, regardless of road or weather conditions. In fact, it even compensates for wear over time. And, surprisingly, the automatic can be manufactured on the same assembly line as the manual—another first in the U.S. auto industry.

Which brings to mind another transmission you may be interested in—Saturn's five-speed manual. This assignment went to Warren Leet's engineering team, whose goal was to design the manual to be tight, yet

smooth. To have a very light clutch feel and a very easy-to-maneuver gearshift. Warren's team made many cross-country

> road trips testing the new transmission on various grades—all to ensure that gear ratios were matched to engine output for optimum performance. Early reviews indicate

that Warren's team hit their performance targets. After a test drive, *Popular Science* described the Saturn gearbox as being

"a short-throw bit of automotive pleasure that could be shifted with the thumb and index finger, coordinated with a clutch action as instinctive as tapping your foot at a square dance."

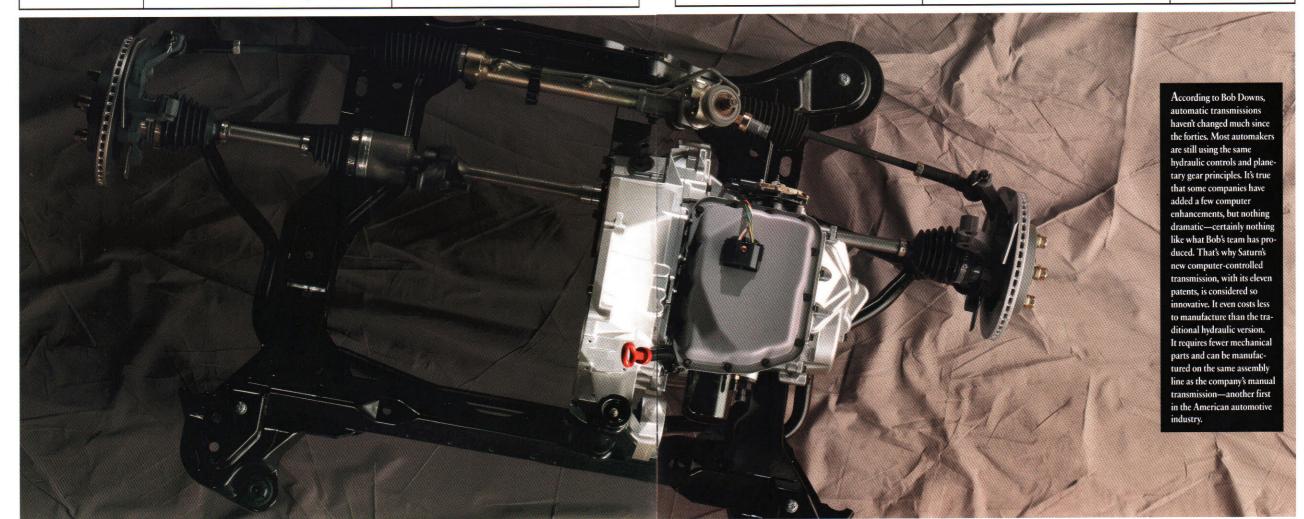
As Warren explains, "We tackled the job the only way we knew how. We got our hands on the best transmissions out there. Then we dissected them, extracted bits and parts of each, built on that, and produced what we think is an even better product.

"But then, that's something people have to experience for themselves, just as we did. You can't feel it until you drive it."

What's perfect to one person isn't always perfect to another. That's why Saturn has two different driving modes—normal and performance. And that's why when you're driving a Saturn, you'd better keep both sets of driving gloves handy.

Imagine a shift so smooth that it's like slicing through hot butter. With the help of the microprocessor tucked away in Saturn's powertrain control module, the Saturn automatic has its own definition of the "perfect shift" and is constantly seeking it.





RIGHT

## SATURN SL2



Just because you appreciate good fuel economy, doesn't mean you don't appreciate a more sport-tuned engine. Not to mention a few extras when it comes to styling.

In fact, there are some people who value that sporty nature and that extra hint of sophistication so much, that they're even willing to pay a little more to get it.

These are the people who'll probably be most interested in Saturn's upper-level sedan, the

Saturn's instrument panel is a clean, clear analog display with gauges that provide real information.

SL2. It's a car most accurately described as a sport sedan—a comfortable balance between a small Japanese car and a European touring sedan, with a good blend of what you might expect from each—

reliability and performance, respectively.

The SL2 comes with Saturn's performance engine, a 1.9-liter duel-overhead-cam multiport fuel-injected engine that delivers 124 horsepower at 6000 rpm. Working with a five-speed close-ratio manual transmission (automatic is optional), this engine's tuned to give you an extra surge of power, an extra bit of thrust when you accelerate. And to give you an estimated EPA rating of thirty-four

miles per gallon on the freeway, twenty-four in the city.

The SL2 is front-wheel drive with a sport-tuned suspension that includes stabilizer bars in both the front and rear. The front bar is larger than the one in the rear to provide the stability you need for quick cornering.

The tires are speed-rated 195/60R15 steel-belted performance radials designed especially for Saturn by Firestone.

The SL2 comes with a long list of standard features—including alloy wheels, full analog instrumentation, and variable-effort power steering, to name a few.

It also comes with a sticker price that may surprise you. Pleasantly.

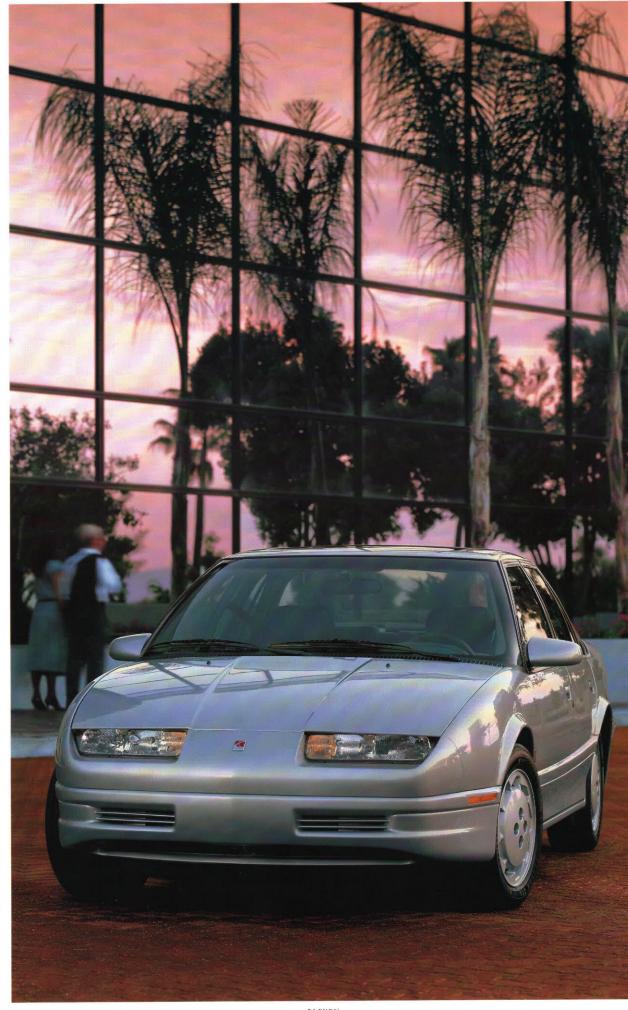
Cruise control is optional on every Saturn. Other cars offer it, too—but not quite the way Saturn does. With a control switch that's conveniently positioned on the steering wheel, within finger's reach. And a microprocessor that's programmed to keep the speed consistent.





A compact disc player and upgraded speaker system are optional with every Saturn model. The system includes all the essentials: AM/FM stereo, graphic equalizer, eleven presets per band, audio search, fast forward/reverse, pause, seek/scan tuning, and a digital quartz clock.





ELEVEN

## "As tempting as it may be, you can't just build a car to perform. You've got to build it to survive."

-Ken Wasmer, Structural Engineer

A day filled with "structural analysis" may not sound all that riveting to Ken's friends—but that's because they envision him hunched over a calculator crunching numbers.

Every Saturn

vehicle has strategically placed "crush zones."

These zones are specifically

designed to help absorb the

energy of a crash before it

reaches vehicle occupants.

When Michele Smith joined

Saturn and began working on

rear seat restraint systems, her

friends with children made one

earnest plea: "If you really want

seat in the back seat of your car.

it easier for us." Michele restronded

safety seats, trying them out, and

by purchasing an array of child

making a few design decisions

parents will appreciate.

to help us, try putting a baby

See how hard it is, and make

Well, he's crunching all right, but not necessarily numbers. His idea of crunching is to purchase seven brand-new import vehicles, drive them back to the Saturn test facility, wire them to a computer, and run them into the nearest wall.

"It's the only way to find out what your competition's made of," says Ken. "You can't just call people up and say: 'Hey, could we borrow your crash data?'"

So Ken's team did the next best thing. They crashed the cars themselves—thereby collecting their own data. They conducted identical tests with Saturns and the competition to

see, firsthand, who fares best when it comes to what people care most about: How well will the car perform in low-speed impacts? How much

> will it cost to repair? And the big question: How will it fare in a crash?

It's the one question that Ken says comes up over and over in consumer research clinics—especially for people with children. And understandably. "If you're driving a small car and you hit something," he says, "chances are it's going to be something bigger than you are."

The challenge from
an engineering perspective, therefore, is to build
a car that performs bigger

than it looks. Which brings to mind what many call the crux of a Saturn—the spaceframe. The

concept isn't new. But when it comes to building a frame that's "crashworthy"—well, that's where Saturn starts stepping ahead.

Using a Cray supercomputer and a sophisticated software program called PAMCRASH, Ken's team

was able to quickly and accurately pinpoint, analyze, and devise ways to control the destructive "energy" of a crash. In other words, they could look at PAMCRASH simulations and then make design improvements that would either help to deter the impact with steel, or dissipate it before it reached vehicle occupants through what engineers call "crush zones."

Ken's team also took it upon themselves to push Saturn testing beyond fed-

eral safety requirements. For example, the government requires automakers to pass thirty-mile-per-hour front and rear crash tests. Saturn, however, conducts additional crash tests at higher speeds and various angles.

"If we're going to be the company we say we are,"

says Ken, "then we'd better be going beyond what's expected or required of us."

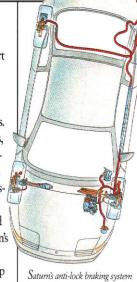
One engineer who took that philosophy to heart was Michele Smith. Her team's assignment was to design the rear seat restraint system, and their goal

was to design it to be versatile enough to protect children as well as it protects adults. Easier said than done. As Michele explains, the standard testing dummy is sized to represent fifty percent of the male population. Michele's team, however, designed their system to accommodate people considerably above and below standard size. She figured that way she'd cover a wider range of Saturn's customers.

Which she did—by developing a ramp that fits beneath the rear seat to help prevent people, especially children and petite women, from sliding under the safety belts—"submarining," as it's called in the industry. She also developed and patented a new safety belt latchplate that not only adjusts more easily to children but makes it

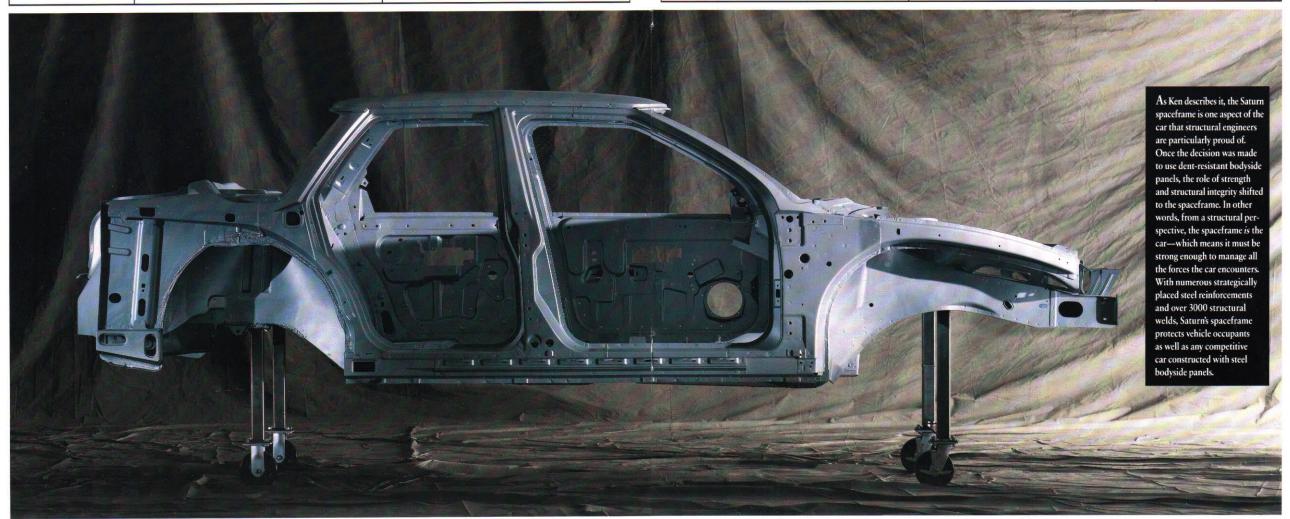
far easier for parents to secure child safety seats.

"Safety is a very peculiar business to be in," says Ken. "You want people to appreciate the fact that you did a good job for them. You just hope they never have to find out how good."



Saturn's anti-lock braking system (optional on every Saturn model, helps you to stop more quickly and maintain control when you need it the most—in the worst of driving conditions: rain, snow, or sleet.

Saturn engineers conducted some 200 crash test simulations on a Cray supercomputer. Using the Cray, they were able to glean more sophisticated data and make design changes much more quickly—and for a fraction of the cost of an actual test crash.



THIRTEEN

## "Five cruel winters, umpteen parking lots, and a couple of foul balls later, chances are this car won't look much different."

—Dave Whittaker, Body Panel Engineer

Saturn bodyside panels. They won't rust. They won't oxidize. They won't nick or dent nearly as easily as steel panels.

As Dave explains, it all has to do with the decision to construct the panels out of polymer materials instead of steel, and then coat them with a specially formulated paint.

"Steel would have been the easy way to go," says Dave. "It's the technology we all know. Engineered polymers are relatively new—at least in high-volume applications such as Saturn's—and there's always a challenge associated with new technology."



Saturn cars can hold their own against even the most threatening four-wheeled vehicles. In fact, if a shopping cart filled with forty pounds of groceries rolls directly into the center of your door, chances are you'll drive away with hardly a scratch. You might not be so lucky if you were driving a car constructed with steel bodyside panels.

"We had a clean-slate approach to design and manufacturing," Dave explains. "We didn't have any traditions to break, people to retrain, or old equipment to get rid of. Nobody was telling us what we could or could not be. The only mandate was to be worldwide-competitive—which made the decision to go with polymers a lot easier."

According to Dave, the engineers had done enough testing to know that polymer materials, combined with the right paint process, would beat steel hands-down when it came to dents, dings, chipping, rust, and corrosion.

The paint system the engineers chose represents the latest technology available—

a state-of-the-art process including a polyurethane primer, a waterborne acrylic color base, and a polyurethane clearcoat.

The primer is spe cially formulated to adhere to the panel and to be flexible —in other words, to give with the

panel upon impact. Typically, paints applied to steel surfaces are much more brittle, which accounts for easier chipping and cracking. The waterborne acrylic gives the color finish a "wet look," meaning it's more brilliant and lustrous, almost as if it had depth. And finally, the clearcoat helps shield the acrylic against things which can eventually ruin a finish—dust, dirt, tree sap, acid rain, and ultraviolet light.

All these benefits work together to give Saturn a competitive advantage, not just aesthetically but functionally. For example, polymer bodyside panels are two to four times more resistant to dents and dings than steel. And because paint adheres to polymer ten times better than it does to steel, Saturn's finish is ten times more resistant to chips.

"These cars are really going to surprise some people," Dave says, "and that's understandable. In another place and time, I'm not so sure all the engineers would have opted to go with a technology this advanced. I'm not sure we would have had the perspective.

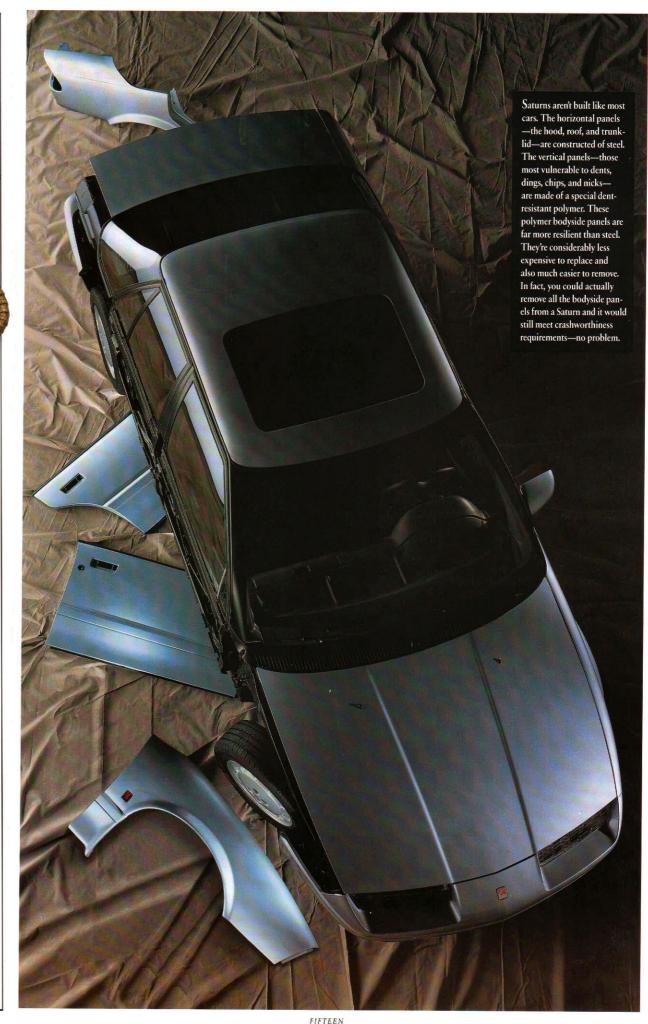
"The way we designed in the past, we were each assigned a particular part of the car—and that part was usually where our individual responsibility started and ended.

"That's not how it is here at Saturn. Here, engineers are involved, from day one, in every phase of the car's development—from customer research to overall conceptualization to marketing. It makes a big difference. When you can see the total picture, you're more creative. And any decision you make is that much closer to the mark."

When it comes to dents and dings, Saturn's polymer bodyside panels are two to four times more resilient than steel. Polymers are flexible, which means the panels just bend and then bounce back.

Steel portions of the car the spaceframe and the horizontal panels—are coated with what's called an "epoxy electrocoat," an electrostatically-charged primer which helps protect every nook and cranny against corrosion.





FOURTEEN

## SATURN SC



The console in the rear seat is a feature distinctive to the SC. It's not something you see in many cars, but it probably ought to be.

Retractable halogen headlights are just one more styling feature you'll find on the Saturn SC.



Let's face it: Four doors aren't the answer for everyone. Not everyone has soccer practice, ballet lessons, and carpool arrangements best suited to a sedan.

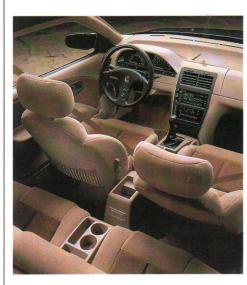
Some people have more pressing needs. For example, one of those life-long and burning desires to own a sport coupe. A vehicle that's known for its sleek lines, aerodynamic qualities, and ability to accentuate the pure pleasure of driving.

Well, these are the people that Saturn engineers had in mind when they designed the Saturn coupe.

The SC comes standard with Saturn's 1.9-liter dual-overhead-cam multiport fuel-injected engine, a five-speed manual transmission, an estimated

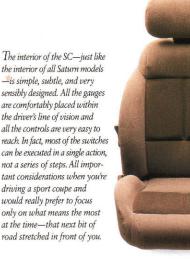
EPA rating of thirty-four miles per gallon on the freeway and twenty-four in the city, a sport-tuned independent suspension, speed-rated steel-belted tires, alloy wheels, a leather-wrapped steering wheel, and a few other pleasing surprises.

In fact, despite its sporty



demeanor, the Saturn SC will probably handle the ballet troupe almost as well as it handles the road.

But then, that's something you'll have to see and experience for yourself. As C.L. Sullivan, a Saturn powertrain technician, put it when asked his advice about how to sell an SC: "Don't try to talk to people about this car. Just give 'em a smile and hand 'em the keys."



You won't have any trouble finding a comfortable driving position in the SC. The driver's seat is adjustable for both lumbar support and seat height.





## "Like I told the whole team, when we open our showroom doors, we won't have one unhappy customer. I'd like to keep it that way."

-David Fischer, Saturn Retailer

Service technicians and consultants use a handheld computer to download information from each car's powertrain control module. This information is then transferred to a persona computer for diagnostic analysis.

David Fischer isn't alone in his feelings. Nor is he dispassionate about them. He's well aware of the image "car dealer" conjures up in the minds of most people. And he, along with other Saturn retailers, would like to change that.

Which is why Saturn called him five years ago to join other retailers in discussing new ways of doing business. David says he was eager to participate—even if he was a bit

skeptical.

"I just wasn't sure what these people were all about," he explains. "But then, Saturn wasn't at all what I expectedor what any of us expected. The Saturn people were talking about things retailers had been talking about among themselves for years. More important, they were asking us questions. About how we run our business. How a manufacturer can make things easier. What customers really want. What we, as retailers, need. All kinds of things."

As David describes it, this first meeting was the beginning

of a very candid relationship—one that put a lot of things in perspective and a lot of new practices into motion. "It's not every day you get a chance to start fresh," he says, "so let's do it right."

And "right" to him-and to all the others who ultimately joined Saturn as retailers—meant setting a few standards.

> Developing a stringent screening process for every retailer who wants to own a Saturn facility. And designing a mandatory

training program, an intensive course for everybody who wants to become a part of Saturn—from general manager to receptionist.

As David astutely points out: "It's not enough anymore to be selling an exceptional car. The people selling it and servicing it also have to be exceptional.

That's what customers are looking for. Not just that the car is reliable, but that they can trust us to be reliable as well."

David's point is well taken. And it's partly why Saturn brought in a service team to work with development engineers—even in the early design phases. One member of that team is Lew Frostick. You'll appreciate Lew's handiwork the minute you start poking around under the hood.

That's when you'll notice that you can check all the fluid levels-oil, transmission, power steering, brake, engine coolant, even windshield washer-when standing in just one spot. You might also notice how the oil drain plug and the filter are very sensibly locatedright next to each other, instead of at opposite ends

as is typically the case. "It may not sound like much," Lew says, "but it's indicative of the thinking that went into this car. Our engineers do their best to design reliable components. But let's face it. This isn't a perfect world. Things happen. So the least we can do is keep the design simple, make everything easy to get to, and cut down on what usually accounts for a good bit of the repair bill—service time."

of the engine compartment,

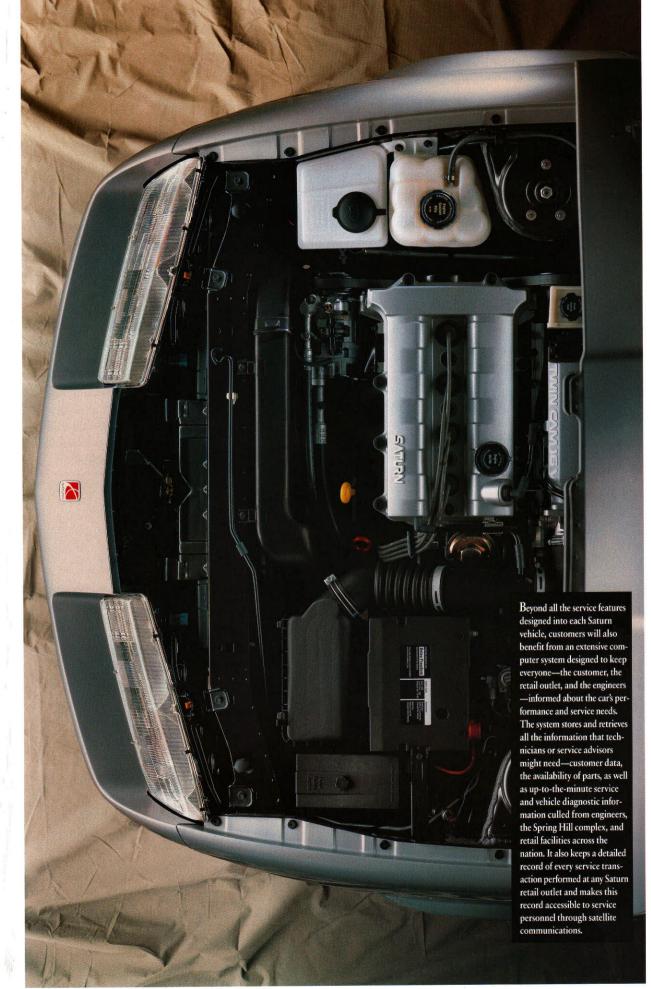
One feature that cuts down on service time is the diagnostic capabilities built into the Saturn powertrain control module. By accessing the data stored in this computer's memory—which takes less than a minute-technicians can get a virtual "transcript" of engine and automatic transmission malfunctions, which helps to diagnose any possible problems that much more quickly.

"About four years ago," Lew says, "we made a list of every conceivable way we could make servicing easier. Surprisingly enough, we managed to do virtually everything on that list."

sense innovation: a spin-off fluid filter on the automatic transmission. It not only makes the filter easier to change, but keeps you from having to remove the bottom pan-a procedure that can cause leaks.



Color-coded dipsticks tell you, at a glance, where to check the oil and transmission fluids-not to men-



Owning a Saturn automatically enrolls you in a 24-hour roadside assistance program for the duration of your car's war ranty. The program covers the Saturn car, not just its owner-which means that a family member or friend can take advantage of this service, too.

EIGHTEEN

NINETEEN

# "We did some mean and nasty things to those cars on the proving grounds. But if we didn't push them to the edge, somebody else would."

-Stan Fowler, Development Engineer

"When you've got your foot pressed to the floor, with the track moving outside at a blur, nothing is subtle," Stan says. "That's when you really begin to appreciate all those engineering terms that otherwise sound so nebulous—things like balance, integration, finesse, and so on."

Of all the people in this business, Stan

should know. Like a lot of Saturn's powertrain people, he's into motor sports and has spent a fair amount of time on the track doing what he enjoys most—pushing cars as close to the edge as he can get without falling off.

All Saturns feature four-wheel independent suspensions, with a MacPherson strut design on the front and a tri-link on the rear.

Given Stan's infatuation with cars, he seemed the perfect choice to head Saturn's vehicle development team—which is, without a doubt, one of the truest examples of "simultaneous engineering"

The Saturn sedans have a longer

wheelbase than most competitive

models—which helps to increase stability and make the ride that

much smoother

you're likely to find anywhere.

Here's how Stan describes the scene: "A group of engineers from various teams would hit the track driving prototype Saturns and a group of competitive vehicles—the goal being to see which car came out on top in head-to-head competition."

The team was judging performance, which to Stan's way of thinking means everything from the way a switch feels to the way the car takes off from a stoplight. The engineers built these cars to be more than just a means of transportation. But

then, as Stan says, that's something you can't fully appreciate until you get behind the wheel. It's only then that you'll feel things like the wide stance and the

longer wheelbase—characteristics that increase

stability and smooth out the ride over rough road surfaces. Characteristics that emphasize the sheer pleasure of driving.

Stan will unabashedly tell you that there's no magic in the design of Saturns. Even the suspension is one of the simplest around—a true MacPherson strut design.

"What makes
these cars work," Stan
says, "is attention to detail.
Nothing more, nothing less.
Meticulous finessing and lots of
refining. Constant competitive comparisons. And endless testing—from both
a performance and a durability standpoint."

First, the Saturn cars were taken to the desert proving grounds in Mesa, Arizona, a track with enough variation to mimic virtually every road surface imaginable, from chatter bumps to torsional dips. Then it was off to Kapuskasing in Canada, where the average temperature four months out of the year is a nippy twenty below—a great place to test performance on ice, not to mention cold starting, plus all the heating and ventilation systems.

Finally, the engineers shipped the cars to England,

to the Millbrook Proving Grounds operated by Lotus, for a 200,000-mile independent evaluation

The team wanted to see just how well their cars measured up to European driving conditions—lots of hills, switchbacks, narrow roadways, and extended high-speed cruising.

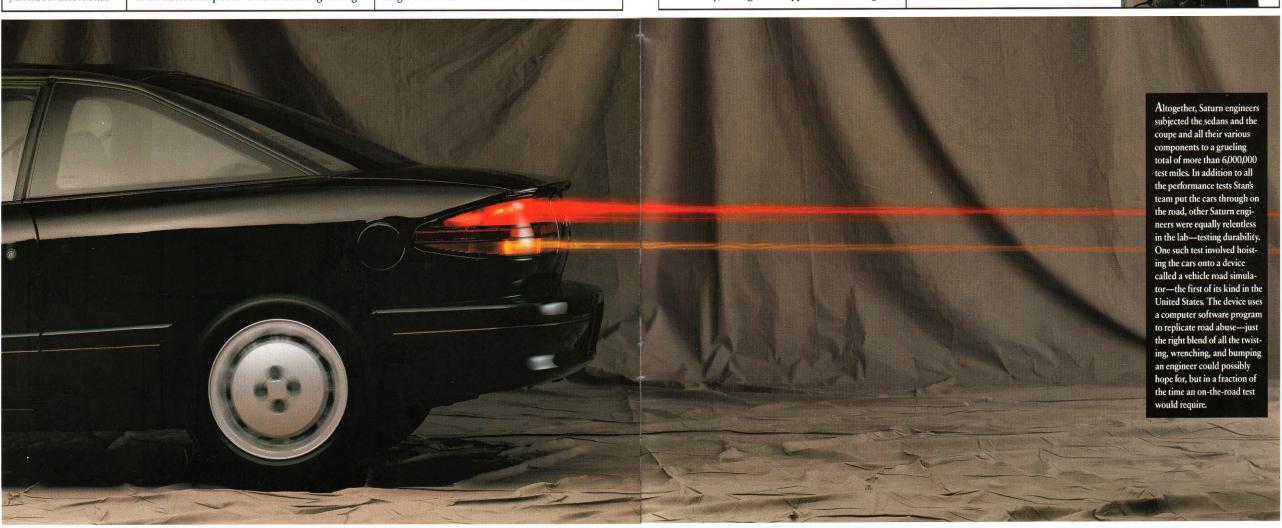
"Some people think we went overboard in our testing," says Dana Andreas, a powertrain engineer who ran Saturn engines through 50,000 hours of dynamometer testing. "Maybe we were a little nervous. But it's not every day you start a car

company from scratch and have all these people waiting to see what you're going to turn out. I think our obsessiveness, if you want to call it that, worked to our advantage.

"We probably thought up more ways of potentially breaking whatever we were trying to design—just to make sure it would perform once customers got their hands on it.

"The world has its eye on us. And there's not a person in this company who doesn't feel it." Saturn's variable-effort power steering automatically responds to the speed you're driving. You'll find it easier to turn the wheel in the city—when you're parallel parking. But then you'll be able to feel the road when you're on the freeway—when you're cruising at higher speeds and need that extra sense of control.

The SL2 and the SC are both outfitted with 195/60HR15 speed-nated tires, designed especially for Saturn by Firestone. They're called Firestone Firehawk GTA Performance Series Radials—just in case you were wondering. Good tires, in other words.



Power windows are optional on all Saturns (except the SL). The auto express feature on the driver's side means you don't have to hold the button down—you just touch it, and it does the rest on its

One more standard feature that'll come in

handy-storage pockets

on both front doors in

all Saturn models.

own.

Just about the time Jim Ulrich's interiors team was putting their design thoughts on paper, comments started coming in from

Saturn's first consumer research clinics.

"We don't want glitz. We just want something simple and tasteful, something done with a lot of thought and common sense."

"It was pretty clear the people we wanted to impress had had their fill of flashy digital displays and other assorted gadgetry," Jim says. "That's probably why one of the first things you'll notice about the Saturn interior is its simplicity. We wanted the design to be intuitive, so

natural that people could execute functions without taking their eyes off the road for very long—if at all."

The team started with the instrument panel. It's a clear, easy-to-read analog dis-

play. It even includes a tachometer and a temperature gauge designed to keep you informed precisely as to what's going on with your engine.

Saturn's optional power window controls are what Jim laughingly describes as "logic switches"—meaning up is up and down is down. "This may not sound like breakthrough design," he says, "until you



compare Saturn controls with those on competitive vehicles. Sometimes the others are so confusing that you find yourself just punch-

Jim's team also made sure to design in as much storage space as possible—including

ing everything until something happens."

map pockets in the doors, a large deep glove compartment, a rear seat console in the SC, and mesh pockets attached to the backs of

the front seats in the SL1, the SL2 and the SC.

"We were also very careful to steer clear of the cramped cockpit type of design, the kind so typical of small, sporty cars," Jim says. "We wanted the cars to be expressive and sporty, sure—but not to the extent that styling cut into things like comfort, visibility, headroom, and rear legroom. We pushed pretty hard to maintain an airy, open feeling.

"But then, pushing for perfection seems to be how this company works. We push ourselves, we push each other, and everybody just expects it. It's not like any place I've ever worked."



You'll notice that in Saturn cars, the stereo is located above the heater controls instead of below them. As engineer Jim Ulrich explains: "We put it where it's easier to reach. Given that people fiddle with their radios a lot more than they fiddle with temper ature controls, we thought it was a nice touch."

The Saturn sunroof is

designed to slide outside

over the top of the roof,

which does a lot to pre-

serve headroom in the

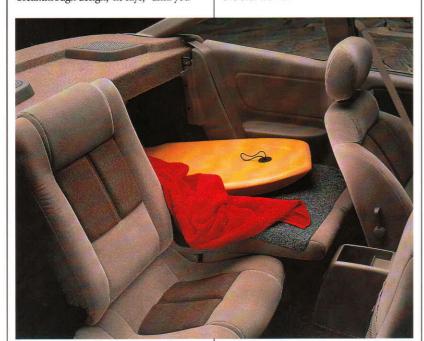
rear seating area. The

raised glass also acts as

a wind deflector, reduc-

ing wind noise.

All Satum rear seats are split into a sixty/forty ratio, as opposed to the typical fifty/fifty. You'll be amazed how convenient this will be.



TWENTY-TWO





Availability	SL, SL1		SL2, SC			
Engine Type	1.9-liter, SOHC, 8-valv	e 4-cyl.	1.9-liter, DOHC, 16-valve 4-cyl.			
Horsepower (SAE Net)	85 hp @ 5000 rpm	*	124 hp @ 6000 rpm			
Displacement	116 cu. in. (1907 cc)		116 cu. in. (1907 cc)			
Torque (SAE Net)	107 ft. lbs. @ 2400 rpr	n	122 ft. lbs. @ 4800 rpm			
Redline	5600 rpm		6500 rpm			
Bore & Stroke	3.23 in. x 3.54 in. (82 m	m x 90 mm)	3.23 in. x 3.54 in. (	82 mm x 90 mm		
Compression Ratio	9.3:1		9.5:1			
Fuel System	Fuel injection		Multi-port fuel in	jection		
Valve Train	2 valves per cylinder, c	hain-driven	4 valves per cylino	ler, chain-driven		
Engine Block	Aluminum alloy with cylinder liners	cast-iron	Aluminum alloy v cylinder liners	vith cast-iron		
Cylinder Head	Aluminum alloy		Aluminum alloy			
Emission System	3-way catalyst		3-way catalyst			
Ignition System Alternator Battery	Distributorless electro 12-volt, 85-amp 12-volt, 525 cold crank		Distributorless electronic 12-volt, 85-amp 12-volt, 525 cold cranking amps			
Recommended Fuel	87 octane unleaded re	gular	87 octane unleaded regular			
BODY/SUSPENSION/CI	HASSIS					
Body Type	Steel spaceframe					
Exterior Panels	Polymer bodyside panels and bumper fascias; galvanized steel hood and trunklid; steel roof					
Bumpers	5-mph front and rear					
Front Suspension	Independent MacPherson strut lateral link with coil springs and tubular front stabilizer bar					
Rear Suspension	Independent tri-link with coil springs					
Steering Type	Manual rack-and-pinion (SL); variable-effort power rack-and-pinion (SL1, SL2 & SC)					
Steering Ratio	24.4:1 (SL); 18.3:1 (SL1, SL2); 16.3:1 (SC)					
Steering Wheel Turns, lock-to-lock	4.0 (SL), 3.0 (SL1 & SI	(L2); 2.7 (SC)				
Turning Circles, curb-to-curb	39 ft. (SL, SL1 & SL2); 37 ft. (SC)					
Braking System Front Disc Rear Drum	Dual-diagonal, power-assisted front disc/rear drum Ventilated, 986 in. (250.5 mm) diameter 7.87 in. (200 mm) diameter					
Wheels	14" steel with full covers (SL, SL1); 15" aluminum alloy (SL2, SC)					
Tires	175/70R14 all-season steel-belted radial (SL, SL1) 195/60HR15 performance steel-belted radial (SL2, SC) T115/70R14 steel-belted radial compact spare					
Exhaust System	Stainless steel					
DRIVETRAIN						
Туре	Transverse front-engi	ne/front-whe				
-	is: MANUAL		OPTIONAL AUTOMATIC			
Iransmissions:	SL / SL1	SL2 / SC	SL / SL1	SL2 / SC		
Ratios (:1) 1st	3.077	3.25	2.238	2.526		
Transmissions: Ratios (:1) 1st 2nd	3.077 1.809	2.055	1.266	1.556		
Ratios (:1) 1st 2nd 3rd	3.077 1.809 1.207	2.055 1.423	1.266 0.811	1.556 1.030		
Ratios (:1) 1st 2nd 3rd 4th	3.077 1.809 1.207 0.861	2.055 1.423 1.032	1.266 0.811 0.595	1.556 1.030 0.700		
Ratios (:1) 1st 2nd 3rd	3.077 1.809 1.207	2.055 1.423	1.266 0.811	1.556 1.030		

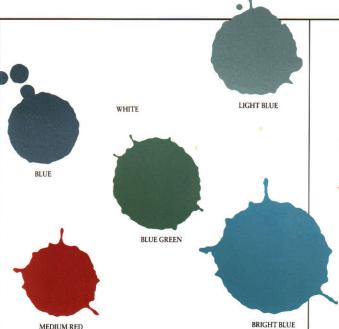
CAPACITIES		SH Justic Laboration			
Engine Coolant	7.0 quarts (6.6 liters)				
Engine Oil		4.0 quarts (3.8 liters)			
Fuel Tank		13.2 gallons (50.0	liters)		
EPA Estimated MPG (City/Highway) Manual Automatic	27/37 (SL/SL1 26/35 (SL/SL1		24/34 (SL2/SC) 23/32 (SL2/SC)		
EPA Passenger Volume	89 cu. ft. (SL, SL1 &	SL2)	76 cu. ft. (SC)		
EPA Cargo Volume	12 cu. ft. (SL, SL1 &	(SL2)	11	11 cu. ft. (SC)	
EXTERIOR DIMENSIONS					
		SEDANS		COUPE	
Wheelbase		102.4 in. (2601 mm)		99.2 in. (2520 mm)	
Overall Length		176.3 in. (4478 mm)		175.8 in. (4465 mm)	
Overall Width		67.6 in. (1718 mm)		67.6 in. (1718 mm)	
Overall Height		52.5 in. (1334 mm)		50.6 in. (1286 mm)	
Track, front		56.8 in. (1443 mm)		56.8 in. (1443 mm)	
Track, rear		56.0 in. (1422 mm)		56.0 in. (1422 mm)	
Minimum Ground Clearance		5.00 in. (127 mm)		5.00 in. (127 mm)	
Weight Distribution		61% front / 39% rear		62% front / 38% rear	
Curb Weight: Manual transmission and optional air conditioning  Optional automatic transmission and optional air conditioning		SL2 SC SL/SL1	lbs. (1,0536 kg) lbs. (1,094.8 kg) lbs. (1,083.3 kg) lbs. (1,068.9 kg) lbs. (1,108.4 kg) lbs. (1,096.9 kg)		
INTERIOR DIMENSIONS					
	1	SEDANS		COUPE	
FRONT					
Head Room		38.5 in. (979 mm)		37.5 in. (952 mm)	
Leg Room		42.5 in. (1080 mm)		42.6 in. (1081 mm)	
Shoulder Room		54.3 in. (1379 mm)		53.0 in. (1346 mm)	
Hip Room		51.6 in. (1311 mm)		51.3 in. (1304 mm)	
REAR					
Head Room		36.3 in. (923 mm)		35.0 in, (888 mm)	
Leg Room		32.6 in. (826 mm)		26.4 in. (672 mm)	
Shoulder Room		54.3 in. (1380 mm)		52.8 in. (1304 mm)	
Hip Room		50.7 in. (1289 mm)		49.2 in. (1251 mm)	

#### UPDATED SERVICE INFORMATION

Saturn regularly sends its retailers useful service bulletins about Saturn products. Saturn monitors product performance in the field. We then prepare bulletins for servicing our products better. Now you can get these bulletins, too. Ask your retailer. To get ordering information, call toll-free 1-800-533-6000.

#### ABOUT THIS CATALOG

We have tried to make this catalog as comprehensive and factual as possible. We reserve the right, however, to make changes at any time, without notice, in prices, colors, materials, equipment, specifications, models and availability. Since some information may have been updated since the time of printing, please check with your Saturn retailer for complete details.



MEDIUM RED

COLOR COMBINAT	IONS	DETERMO				nion	
EXTERIOR	cer.	INTERIO		COLUBB	EXTE	RIOR	
	SEDANS SL/SL1 SL2			COUPE		ACCENT STRIPE (SC ONLY)	
White	Blue Tan	Blue Tan		Black Tan	Bright Red Gold		
Silver	Blue	Blue		Black	Bright Red		
Silver/Grey	_	Grey		Black	Bright Red		
Grey	Grey	_		_	_		
Beige	Tan	Tan		Tan	Bright Red		
Light Blue	Blue	-		_	_		
Blue	( <del>-</del> )	Blue		_	_		
Bright Blue	_	_		Blue	Silver		
Blue Green	_	Tan		Tan	Gold		
Blue Black	-	Blue		_	_		
Black	-	_		Black	Gold		
Red	-	_		Black	Silver		
Red/Silver	-	_		Black			
Medium Red	Tan	Tan		_	Bright Red		
Medium Red/Silver	1	Grey		_	-	-3	
ENGINEERING FEA	TURES		DRES		THE STREET	Tue-	
			The latest	SEDANS		COUPE	
			SL	SL1	SL2	SC	
1.9-liter SOHC 8-valve	4-cylinder engine						
1.9-liter DOHC 16-valv		,	0				
5-speed manual transm	, ,				-		
Electronically-controllor ransmission with lock driver-selectable perfor	ed 4-speed automa up torque converte	r and		•	•	•	
Manual rack-and-pinio		2000					
		ering					
Variable-effort power rack-and-pinion steering Power-assisted ventilated front disc/rear drum brakes							
Anti-lock Braking System (ABS) w/rear-wheel disc brakes			•	•	•	•	
Sport-tuned suspension system with front and rear stabilizer bars				•	•		
XTERIOR FEATUR	ES				Parties and		
Dent/corrosion-resista		de panels					
Black front & rear burn							
Color-keyed front & rear bumper fascias				0			
Tinted glass	•						
Halogen headlights (retractable SC only)							
Driver side black mirror (manual)							
Passenger side black mirror (manual)		85		0			
Dual color-keyed mirrors (manual)							
Passenger side mirror (power)							
Full wheel covers (specific to each model)							
15"Alloy wheels							
Center trunklid reflector panel					_		
NTERIOR FEATURE							
teclining front bucket s		le headrests					
Oriver seat with adjusta ushion height						•	
60/40 split fold-down rear seatbacks					-		
Adjustable steering column							
eather-wrapped steeri							
ull-length front consol		ashtrays				-	
ear seat center console	with cupholders a	nd storage				-	
Full cut-pile interior carpet							
ull cut-pile interior car	pet		_	_		_	



INTERIOR FEATURES (continued)				
		SEDANS		C
	SL	SL1	SL2	
Glove compartment			=	
Front door storage pockets			-	
Front seatback storage pockets				
Coat hooks and passenger assist grips				
Cargo area light and 3-way dome light (SL2, SC include delayed shut-off dome light)	•	•	•	
Driver side visor vanity mirror	- 8	80	89	
Passenger side visor vanity mirror	-			
Rear window defroster				
Heat/ventilation system with 4-speed fan and rear seat heat ducts	•	•	•	
Tachometer and trip odometer				
Engine coolant temperature gauge				
Oil-pressure gauge				
Warning chimes for headlights-on and key-in-ignition		-		
Two-speed wipers with three variable intermittent settings		•		
AM/FM stereo radio with clock and four speakers				
AM/FM stereo with cassette, clock and four speakers	<b>III</b> 10		<b>1</b>	
AM/FM stereo with cassette, graphic equalizer, clock and four speakers (coaxial on factory installations)	<b>III</b> 10	<b>=</b> 00	<b>III</b> III	
AM/FM stereo with compact disc player, graphic equalizer, clock and four speakers (coaxial on factory installations)			<b>II</b> 10	
Power sunroof with tilt-up feature, inner sliding shade and dual map lights	0	-		
Air conditioning (Prep kit required for retailer installation)		<b>30</b>	••	1
Cruise control (SL requires air conditioning prep kit and/or anti-lock brakes for retailer installation)	<b>a</b>		<b>•</b> • •	•
Power windows and door locks				
PACKAGES				
SL1 Package A—includes power door locks and passenger side manual mirror.		•		
SL1 Package B—includes power door locks, power pas- senger side mirror, power windows and cruise control.				
Sl.2 Package B—includes air conditioning, power door locks, power passenger side mirror, power windows and cruise control.				
SC Package B—includes air conditioning, power door locks, power passenger side mirror, power windows and cruise control.				
	Available age Only	■ Facto	ry Installed (	Opti

#### SATURN SAFETY FEATURES

OCCUPANT PROTECTION: Automatic safety belt system for driver and right front passenger including visual and audible warning system • Manual lap/shoulder safety belts, outboard rear seat positions • Manual lap safety belts, front/rear seat positions, where applicable • Energy absorbing steering column • Energy absorbing instrument panel • Energy absorbing seatback tops, front • Interlocking door latches • Side-guard door beam • Passenger-guard inside door lock handles • Inertialocking, folding front seatbacks, two door models (manual release) • Safety armrests • Head restraints, driver and right front passenger (adjustable) • Break-away inside rearview mirrors • Security door lock • Parking lamps that illuminate with headlamps • Four-way hazard warning flashers • Backup lamps • Center high-mounted stop lamp • Directional signal control with lane change feature (turn signal lamp)  $\bullet \ Windshield \ defroster, washer \ and \ multi-speed \ wipers \ \bullet \ Inside \ rearview \ mirror \ \bullet \ Outside \ left \ rearview$ mirror (right mirror where applicable)  $\bullet$  Brake system with dual master cylinder and warning light  $\bullet$ Starter safety switch • Dual action hood latch • Low glare finish on inside windshield moldings, wiper arms and blades, metallic steering wheel surfaces • Illuminated heater and defroster controls • Tires with built-in tread wear indicators

TWENTY-FOUR

4.133

4.133



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