

Cheyenne Concept Debuts with Less Weight

Less is more, said Chevy spokesman Tom Wilkinson, as he explained the brand's latest concept vehicle – the Chevrolet Silverado Cheyenne.

The new vehicle was unveiled at the SEMA Show in Las Vegas Nov. 4, featuring reduced curb weight and lowered ride height.

The performance-oriented version of the new 2014 Silverado regular cab combines that reduced curb weight with the performance of the new 420-horsepower 6.2L V8 for a strong power-to-weight ratio and exhilarating performance, Wilkinson said. The concept Silverado also features the lowered ride height, a rear stabilizer bar and Brembo carbon ceramic brakes to complement the Cheyenne concept's high-performance engine with enhanced handling and braking capability.

"The Cheyenne concept explores the performance possibilities of the all-new Silverado, which is already built on a mass-efficient layout and delivers a greater balance of performance and efficiency than any other full-size truck in Chevrolet's history," said Chris Perry, vice president of Chevrolet marketing.

The lightweight features built into the concept vehicle include carbon fiber replacements for the bumpers, tailgate and inner cargo box, shaving approximately 200 pounds from the 4,503 pounds base curb weight of a 5.3L-equipped Silverado regular cab with a 6'6" box, Perry said.

Cheyenne designers matched the form of the lightweight components with their low-mass function, Wilkinson said. The carbon fiber front bumper includes racing-inspired ground effects styling complemented by carbon body-side ground effects while the carbon fiber tailgate incorporates a spoiler. The hood features a Camaro Z/28-inspired extractor vent.

The Camaro Z/28 Brembo carbon ceramic brakes save more weight because the carbon ce-

ramic-matrix rotors are significantly lighter than conventional steel rotors, Wilkinson said. On the Camaro Z/28, for example, they save more than 20 pounds – and it saves unsprung weight, too, which enhances driving performance with more immediate and direct handling. The truck rolls on charcoal-painted 19-inch Camaro Z/28 aluminum wheels and high-performance tires.

The Cheyenne "diet" removes the trailer hitch, spare tire, interior center console and some of the sound-deadening material, Wilkinson said. The truck also has a lightweight aluminum driveshaft and composite rear leaf springs.

"Lightweighting is a time-honored method of making the most of a vehicle's performance, which Chevrolet has demonstrated time and again with vehicles like the original 2001 Corvette Z06 and the 2014 Camaro Z/28," said Perry. "And like those vehicles, the Cheyenne complements its lower weight with more horsepower."

The all-new EcoTec3 6.2L V8 that powers the concept truck is rated at 420 horsepower and 460 lb.-ft. of torque – the most power in the light-duty truck segment. It's unavailable in regular-production Silverado regular cab models, giving the Cheyenne 65 horsepower and 77 lb.-ft. boost over the production 5.3L V8. A Borla performance exhaust system adds an authoritative note to the 6.2L's output.

What remains is the Silverado's production six-speed automatic transmission, which features hill descent control, as well as fuel-saving electric power steering and StabiliTrak electronic stability control with hill-start assist.

Inside, the Cheyenne's performance theme is conveyed with Recaro sport seats and a flat-bottom steering wheel, similar to the steering wheel offered in the Camaro ZL1. Available safety features, including lane departure warning, front and rear park assist and a rear-vision camera, enhance safety without detracting from the truck's performance.

All Silverado models feature a fully boxed frame that serves as the foundation for their strength and capability. The main rails and major cross members are formed from high-strength steel, providing a rigid base for maximum hauling capability.

"Elements such as high-strength steel in the frame and body structure are found on all production models, while some also feature aluminum suspension components, contributing to the Silverado's everyday performance. With the Cheyenne concept, we've taken the low-mass concept to a new level – with exciting results," Perry said.

"It is only a concept right now, but we are continually exploring new ways to give Silverado customers more."



2014 Silverado Cheyenne concept

Mopar Accessories Keep Jeep Wrangler a 'Hot' SUV

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to provide even more options for customization."

Mopar and Jeep recently created Jeep Performance Parts as a portfolio of high-end, hard-core Jeep parts that include axles, lift kits, bumpers, winches, skid plates and suspension components.

Zvilbleman said these performance parts will offer factory-engineered solutions to increase off-road performance.

The following are the newest Mopar parts and accessories available for the Jeep Wrangler:

- 2014 Jeep Wrangler Trail Rated Kit – It includes a durable, high-quality tow strap and two heavy-duty D-rings.

- A pair of gloves is included for protection and the kit is transported in an attractive Jeep carrying bag.

- Front and Rear Axles – Engineered to bolt into any Jeep Wrangler from 2007 to 2014, these production front- and rear-axle assemblies come completely assembled.

- Dana 44 axles include a 4:10 ratio, 5 x 5-inch bolt pattern and an electric locker with an available wiring kit.

- Hardtop Headliner – Three years of development and testing were involved in creating this kit, Zvilbleman said.

- The high-density foam-backed non-woven fabric serves a triple purpose, enhancing the appearance of the hardtop, boosting the efficiency of the Wrangler's HVAC system and providing a quieter ride environment. Available for models 2007 and newer.

- Black Grille: This Mopar accessory is a direct, easy replacement for the production body-color grille, and also features the

hood seal and a matching black Jeep badge.

- Side Visor – The fold-down Mopar side visor for the Jeep Wrangler is a low-cost, easy-to-install defense that blocks side-long sunlight glare that can pull attention away from the road or trail.

The Jeep Wrangler kicks off the new model year with new features such as a new Trail Rated Kit. Clear park lamps and turn signal indicators replace the amber units, and Sport models can now be equipped with the Uconnect 6.5-inch touchscreen radio

Transit Connects Get Custom Jobs

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version of Transit Connect, two distinct models will be offered – the traditional cargo van, a panel-side hauler; and a new wagon model, which is a stylish, spacious and fuel-efficient people mover, Mattiace said.

Transit Connect Wagon features sliding doors and flexible, fold-flat seating for up to seven passengers.

For SEMA 2013, Ford challenged aftermarket customizers to show how the 2014 Transit Connect could take families and businesses further by imagining what is possible, Mattiace said.

There are a hotbed of builders based in Southern California and they responded, with wild designs, cool custom features and over-the-top ideas, Mattiace said. The Vandemonium designers included:

- CGS Motorsports created a mobile speed shop for the drag strip;

- Blood & Grease, which transformed a Transit Connect cargo van into a high-end fashion

with hard drive storage and SiriusXM Radio.

Sport models also have an available 32-inch Tire and Wheel Group featuring semi-gloss black 17-inch Rubicon aluminum wheels and BF Goodrich KM LT255/75R17 off-road tires.

Mopar is Chrysler's service, parts and customer-care brand and distributes parts and accessories. With Fiat S.p.A., Mopar is extending its global reach, integrating service, parts and customer-care operations. Its global portfolio now has more than 500,000 parts and accessories.

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