

Pony Cars by Tim Abbazia

The 1964 ½ Ford Mustang introduced the pony car to the American public. Back in the day, a horsepower volcano erupted in Detroit prompting the release of Chevrolet's Camaro and Dodge's Challenger.

Today, much more refined than their 1960's counterparts, some buyers still pay attention to the pony car segment, and new buyers are also becoming fans of the Camaro, Mustang, and Challenger.

The 2010 Chevrolet Camaro has put Detroit's "Bow-tie" brand at the head of the pack. But, can we truly refer to the approximately 15,000 units sold in September as a pack? Septembers sales numbers for the Chevy were approximately 8,000 cars to Fords 5,000 Mustangs, and struggling Chryslers 2,000.

The Camaro's LS3 engine mated to a six speed manual produces a class leading 426 Horsepower, at a bargain price. This has been the pony cars concept since its introduction, a car that gives you loads of horsepower while leaving money in your wallet.

The Mustang's base V8 is a 4.9 liter, 315 horsepower motor. The Mustang which received a face lift and minor power train improvements is a very refined and fast automobile. The Mustang's solid rear axle suspension, is very popular among the drifting and drag racing community, and has become very refined over the cars 40 plus year lifespan.

The Challenger is based on the same platform as the Dodge Charger and Chrysler 300, and could possibly look more true to its original, than the two other cars. The Challengers 426 cubic inch motor produces 425 horsepower, and boasts an independent rear suspension like the Camaro.

Pony Cars have long been a cheaper alternative to expensive sports cars, and serve the same purpose today. Detroit's big three is taking on the worlds performance coupes with three extraordinary automobiles.