

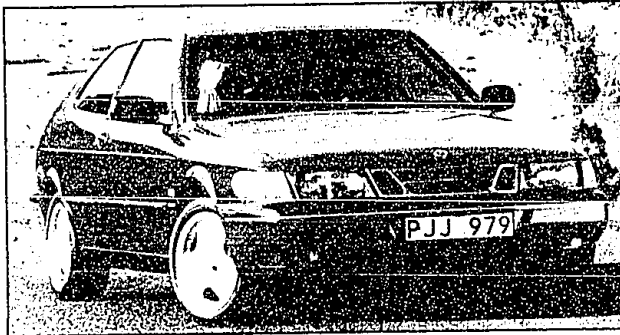
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CAREport



900 brightens Saab's profit picture



ROAD
TEST
By
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Fracassa

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Avanti NewsFeatures

BRASELTON, Ga. — Officials from Saab Cars USA say the company expects to turn a profit for the first time in six years based on the 1995 900 3-door coupe and 900 convertible.

Saab plans to sell 3,700 900 coupes and 4,500 convertibles. Both cars are built on the same

assembly line as the 900 5-door in Trollhattan, Sweden.

The 3-door comes in \$2,500 cheaper than its predecessor with a base price of \$22,960, with the turbo going for \$28,100. The con-

vertible starts at \$31,990, with a fully equipped SE with V-6 engine topping out at \$38,490.

Backed by a naturally aspirated 2.3-liter 4-cylinder powerplant (a derivative of the Saab 900 engine), the base 900 coupe produces a respectable 150 horsepower at 5700 rpm. Mated to a 5-speed manual transmission, the 900 coupe is in control of the road, taking to winding roads or straightaway high-

way with the ease of an eagle.

But for the extra \$5,000-plus, the 16-valve 2.0-liter turbo engine that produces 185 horses at 5500 rpm can make the old ticker race a bit.

Fast at takeoffs and solidly confident during passing, the turbo option is one to consider. This engine has the highest horsepower output of any 900 previously offered by Saab.

The turbo package also includes a

sport suspension group, which further enhances road feel, responsiveness and handling. The turbo models also have 16-inch all-season radials, an audio upgrade and stylish rear spoiler.

Safety features on the 900 coupe include driver's- and passenger's-side airbags, anti-lock brakes, three-point seatbelts for all five passengers and front and rear crumple zones. The car meets 1997 side-impact standards.

Doors open a full 9 inches wider than the previous 900 model, making it even easier to get in and out of. Other unique features include a telescoping steering wheel, center pass-through in the rear to accommodate surfboards or skis and a 40/100 split rear seat for larger loads.

Even with the rear seat folded up, the cargo capacity of the trunk is nearly 50 cubic feet. The audio system also features a volume control that lowers or increases automatically as the speed of the car increases or decreases.

The new generation of Saab 900 coupe is a solid, stylish vehicle. It can accommodate a single person as well as a family and do the job in style and comfort usually reserved for the bigger sedans.

Anne Fracassa is senior editor of Avanti NewsFeatures.

If you'd like to see a particular model tested or if you have a car question, send Anne Fracassa a message at AVANTI 1054, Avanti's America Online mailbox. Or comment through the Internet at AVANTI1054@aol.com



October 8-14, 1995

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK



• Kitchen fires have become the number-one cause of reported home fires, and responsible for one-quarter of all home injuries. Stay in the kitchen while cooking on your stove or while using your oven.

• Space heaters should be placed at least 3 feet from anything that can burn and please remember to turn them off when leaving your home or going to bed.

• Carelessly unattended cigarettes are the leading cause of fire deaths in the United States. Never smoke in bed, provide large deep ashtrays for guests and put water on butts before putting them in the trash.

• Smoke detectors should be placed on every level of your house, to give you and your family plenty of time to escape. Check your smoke detectors at least once a month, replace batteries once a year.

• Immediately unplug any plug, any smoking or unusual smelling electrical appliances and have them repaired. Replace any cracked or frayed cords. Don't overload extension cords or outlets.

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