Suburban Observer & Eccentric Lutomotive Showca



Skylark redo stresses creature comforts

By Anne Fracassa Avanti NewsFeatures

It really depends on who you talk to about the 1996 Buick Skylark, I think it's the perception people have about the Buick brand.

You've got the average guy out on the street who says, "Yep, that's a Buick."

Then you've got me. Still average-gal material. But I just loved the way the Skylark looked a couple of years are

way the Skylark looked a couple of years ago.
I don't know if you remember it, but the old Skylark had stark, distinct lines, a front end that was radically different (for a Buick) and a porty look like no other on the road.
I really liked that Skylark. In fact, people were stopping me and asking me what I was driving, It was a lot like when I first drove the Riviera.

Although the pointed front fascia is gone, the Skylark is still very dis-tinct — but really toned down. Buick calls it a "classic, contemporary"

ok.

I just wish it wasn't so ordinary.

Don't get me wrong. This is a fine
remium compact coupe and sedan,
has all the creature comforts and It has all the creatu features you would expect from a Buick. And more.



ROAD TEST Ву Anne Fracassa

For example, the Skylark this year features a restyled exterior, an all-new interior with dual airbags, as moother and quieter standard engine and a new 4-speed automatic transmission.

And at a base price of \$15,995, you'll get quite a bit of bang for your buck.

Outside, you'll find a new fascin, grille, hood, parking lamps, head-lamps and taillamps and updates did moldings that provide a smooth transition from front to rear.

At dusk and in low lighting, the

At dusk and in low lighting, the side moldings light up, providing a real separation that really shows off

The instrument controls are a lot larger, easier to read and oven easier to use this year. What's really neat are the radio controls. They're easy to use oven when you're driving.

I already said the seats were comfortable, but here's a little more. Cloth is standard, but the Skylark was in had leather bucket seats. (A bit cold on the tush in the winter and hot in the summer. But it's soil teather. The kind that envelopes you and makes you really feel safe and warm.)

warm.)
You can choose from a 55/45 split bench or bucket seats and both can be outfitted with driver's lumbar control. Leather's only available in

Power windows, door locks and rear defogger have all been moved around and are now backlit. That

the Skylark's new lines and rounded corners.

Inside you'll find the real change a totally redone interior. I'm not talking about rearrangement of instrumentation here.

I'm talking comfy new scating, an updated door and trim, new instrument panel and controls, new sent belts and a new steering wheel.

The instrument controls are a let large, easier to read and even easier to read and even easier to see his wear. What's really neat

The optional organe, the treat and-true 3100 V6 rated at 155 horsepower, provides a quiet alternative and pretty good fuel economy at 21 in the city and 29 on the highway. The Skyldra (fore some standard features generally found on more high-end welnides, such as 4-wheel anti-lock brakes, dual sirbags, traction and Passleck theft deterrent systems, air conditioning, a tilt steering wheel, rear-window defogger, carpet savers, delay windshield wipers, visor vanity mirrors, a single-key door locking system (finally), delayed entry and exit lighting, theater dimming interior light, battery rundown protection and warning-chimes for leaving the turn signal on too long (annoying), headdamps or leaving the keys in the ignificon.

This year, the Skylark is outfitted with coolant that doesn't require servents.

vicing for five years or 100,000 mlles, platinum-tipped spark plugs that last about 100,000 miles and transmission fluid that requires no change under normal operating conditions.

Buick also offers a special edition Skylark this year to commemorate General Motors' sponsorship of the 1996 U.S. Olympic Team and the Olympic Games in Atlanta.

The Olympic edition features a gold USAS'-ing badge on the fenders, gold accent trim on the facias and side moldings, gold Skylark ansuplate accent, gold accented wheel covers, Gran Sport body color grille and blacked-out rear tailiamplens, a choice of red, white or green exterior colors, a 4-way seat, cruise control and storage armrest.

Even with all that stuff, the Olympic edition tops out at \$16,413.

That's value.

1996 Buick Skylark
Where built: Lansing, Mich.
Vehicle class: Compact.
Engine: 2.4-liter Twin Cam 4-yilider.
Mileage: 22 city / 32 highway.
Price as tested: Around \$17,000.

Restore Fuel Injection To 100% Efficiency

(NAPS) Here's some good news for motorists. A fuel-injector cleaner was developed that cleans, lubristness, con-ditions and restores any type of fuel injection system to 100-percent operat-ing efficiency. Unlike many types of car maintenance, cleaning your fuel injec-tion system is an easy, inexpensive way

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Blaster Fuel injectur Cleaner into the gas tank.

1. Pour half a bottle of concentrated Plaster Fuel Injectur Cleaner into the gas tank.
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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

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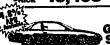
Anne Fracassa is senior editor of Avanti News Features



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