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AUTOMOTIVE

SUNDAY, JULY 6, 1997 • PAGE 7, SECTION J

Value-packed Honda CR-V shines

CAReport



By Anne Fracassa
Avanti NewsFeatures

I usually make it a habit to not look at the sticker price of a vehicle I'm testing until the week is over and I'm sitting down to write about it. It used to make me biased and more critical of the vehicle.

So when I looked at the sticker of the 1997 Honda CR-V with its anti-lock brakes package, my eyes almost flew out of my head: \$20,695, including dealer installed floor-mats and destination and handling. Starting price was \$20,300.

Quite pricey for a small sport utility vehicle, I thought -- until I closely scrutinized the sticker. Everything you want is there. There weren't any added options. Nothing.

When most car companies start with the manufacturer's suggested retail price, it's more and more common that that's before you add the steering wheel or power anything.

With the CR-V, however, what you see is what you get. And it's all there: Power everything, automatic transmission, AM/FM stereo, rear window wiper/washer, 4-wheel-drive, cruise, air conditioning, ABS and dual airbags. In other words, fully equipped. No surprises.

This is the first time Honda has engineered and designed a sport utility on its own. Well done, this CR-V is. It's got styling, sportiness, a rugged look, and even though it looks really small, it really isn't.



The Honda CR-V...what you see is what you get. And it's all there.

That's what really surprised me about the CR-V. From the outside, you would expect it to have around the same amount of room as a small sport ute. There's actually enough room for five and a pretty substantial cargo area in the rear. And if you really want some room, fold down the rear seats and you've got 67.2 cubic feet -- more than enough to haul all your special belongings.

About the only disappointment is the power it doesn't have. The CR-V is propelled by an all-new 2.0-liter 16-valve dual overhead cam engine that promises 126 horses. You certainly won't win a drag race in this one.

Once it's cruising at a decent 40 or 50 mph, however, you'll find it does have power to pass on a two-lane road such as Square Lake just east of Woodward. Push it up to 55 or 60 and you'll find yourself looking down at the speedometer that just passed 80 without you really being aware

that you were doing that speed. "Honest, officer, I really didn't think I was going that fast."

And the fuel efficiency of this engine is really great: 22 mpg in the city and 25 mpg on the highway. Very respectable.

Technology was not forgotten in this cute SUV. You'll find plenty of Honda's latest innovations.

First, there's "Grade Logic Control" in the automatic transmission. What it does is simple: when climbing a steep hill, the transmission automatically downshifts and holds a lower gear. That eliminates the gear hunting that happens in most automatic transmissions. It also downshifts when going downhill and allows better braking.

Then there's "real-time 4-wheel-drive." This Honda-engineered system allows the 4-wheel-drive system to operate in front-wheel drive under

See CR-V, Next Page

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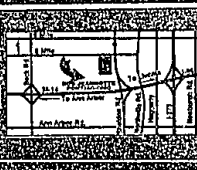
1997 FIREBIRD Automatic, air, power windows & locks, ABS brakes, dual air bags, aluminum wheels, 3600 V-6, rear defogger, AM/FM stereo, CD, rear spoiler, PASS key belt extender, dual sport mirrors. Stock #970053. SALE PRICE \$17,395* GM OPT II Deduct \$1069.35 36 month Smart Lease \$275** per mo.	1997 BONNEVILLE SE 4 DR SEDAN Air conditioning, automatic transmission, 3600 V-6, anti-lock brakes, rear deck spoiler, AM/FM stereo, rear window defogger, tilt, power windows, power locks, tinted glass, sport mirrors. Stock #970703. SALE PRICE \$18,995* GM OPT II Deduct \$1111.70 36 month Smart Lease \$249** per mo.	1997 JIMMY 4X4 4 DOOR Vortec 4300 V-6 engine, automatic trans., air bag, ABS brakes, air conditioning, power windows/locks & mirrors, tilt, cruise, AM/FM cassette stereo, & much more! Stock #979305. SALE PRICE \$23,995* GM OPT II Deduct \$1320.50 30 month Smart Lease \$259** per mo.	1997 SAFARI V-6 Vortec 4300 V-6 engine, automatic trans., ABS brakes, dual air bags, power windows & locks, 8 passenger, tilt & cruise, door lock glass, AM/FM cassette stereo & much more! Stock #979427. SALE PRICE \$18,995* GM OPT II Deduct \$1068.25 30 month Smart Lease \$289** per mo.
ALL NEW 1997 TRANS SPORT SE Automatic, air, V-6, AM/FM stereo cassette, cruise, tilt, power windows & locks, keyless entry, anti-lock brakes, seven passenger, dual air bags, tinted glass, rear defogger & more. Stock #970662. SALE PRICE \$20,785* GM OPT II Deduct \$1111.20 36 month Smart Lease \$229** per mo.	1997 GRAND AM SE COUPE Auto, air conditioning, ABS brakes, dual air bags, AM/FM stereo and more. Stock #970781. SALE PRICE \$12,495* GM OPT II Deduct \$732.45 36 month Smart Lease \$159** per mo.	1997 SONOMA EXTENDED CAB Air conditioning, SLS Sport, AM/FM cassette, 2.2 liter I-4, 5-speed, aluminum wheels, P205/75R15 tires. Stock #970720. SALE PRICE \$13,495* GM OPT II Deduct \$775.95 36 month Smart Lease \$179** per mo.	1997 SIERRA PICKUP Vortec 4300 V-6 engine, 4 speed auto. transmission, ABS brakes, dual air bags, air conditioning, AM/FM stereo and much more! Stock #979420. SALE PRICE \$15,995* GM OPT II Deduct \$851.25 30 month Smart Lease \$199** per mo.
1997 SUNFIRE SE COUPE Air conditioning, rear defogger, AM/FM, dual air bags, anti-lock brakes, sport mirrors, tinted glass, power steering, power brakes. Stock #970522. SALE PRICE \$12,595* GM OPT II Deduct \$663.95 36 month Smart Lease \$179** per mo.	ALL NEW 1997 GRAND PRIX SE SEDAN Automatic transmission, air conditioning, anti-lock brakes, dual air bags, 3600 V-6, AM/FM stereo, steering wheel radio controls, power windows, power locks, cruise, tilt and more. Stock #970802. SALE PRICE \$17,995* GM OPT II Deduct \$932.66 36 month Smart Lease \$279** per mo.	1997 3/4 TON SAVANA CARGO VAN 5.7 350 V-8 engine, 4 speed, auto., 6600 GVWR, air, tilt, cruise, SL door, 125" wheel base, air bag, ABS brakes. Stock #979233. SALE PRICE \$19,495* Commercial Buyers Ask About "Fit For Profit Program"	1997 SIERRA 3500 HD STAKE TRUCK Vortec 7400 V-8 engine, 4 speed, auto. trans., air conditioning, 12 stake body, 40" racks, 40" HD bulkhead, ICC bumper, 15,000 GVWR and much more! Stock #970413. SALE PRICE \$24,995* Commercial buyer's deduct \$900.

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'94 FIREBIRD FORMULA Red, auto, air, 1 rack, 37,000 miles \$12,995	'94 INTREPID ES Blue, 30,000 miles \$10,995	'93 BUICK REGAL GRAN SPORT 4 Door, black, 1 rack, 20,000 miles \$9995	'91 CAPRICE CLASSIC LTZ Blue, 30,000 miles, 1 rack \$9995	'94 SUNBIRD 4 DOOR Auto trans, air, only, 21,000 miles \$7995	'93 SAFARI VAN Extended, white, 1 rack, 20,000 miles \$9995	'95 BONNEVILLE SLE 4 door, V-6, auto, air, white, only \$14,995	'94 GRAND AM 4 door, V-6, auto, air, only \$9995	'90 BONNEVILLE Crew cab, 4 door, 1 rack, 40,000 miles \$5995	
'92 CHEVY LUMINA 4 door, auto, air, 1 rack, 20,000 miles \$4995	'95 YUKON 4 DOOR Forest green, grey leather, 22,000 miles \$24,995	'95 OLDS CUTLAS SUPREMACY SL 4 door, black, 25,000 miles \$12,995	'94 DODGE COLT Turbo, auto, 4 door, 20,000 miles \$3995	'94 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX Five to choose from, 1 rack & one wheel From \$11,995	'96 CHEVY LUMINA 4 door, dark red, auto, air Black, 16,000 miles \$11,995	'95 SUNFIRE GT Dark, leather, 18,000 miles \$11,995	'95 SATURN SL2 Four door, 1 rack, 16,000 miles \$9995	'93 CHRYSLER CONCORDE 2 to choose from, 1 rack, 20,000 miles \$7995	

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