

Hyundai's Accent boasts 'Fluidic Sculpture' design

Hyundai Auto Canada Corp. introduced the all-new 2012 Accent at the recent Montreal International Auto Show.

Available in four-door and five-door formats, Accent redefines expectations in the subcompact category by offering the company's attractive 'Fluidic Sculpture' design, best-in-class fuel economy, and a full complement of standard safety features.

Despite surprising technology and a significant increase in safety features, Hyundai will hold the line on pricing from the prior generation to continue delivering unmistakable value to customers.

The 2012 Accent's all-aluminum 1.6-litre Gamma four-cylinder engine utilizes the latest engine technology to deliver a class-leading 138 hp and 123 lb/ft of torque and an estimated best-in-class 4.7 L/100 km highway fuel economy rating.

The engine's most notable feature is its use of Gasoline Direct Injection (GDI), a first for the subcompact category.

Hyundai doesn't believe that consumers should have to pay a premium for safety, so a long list of safety features are included as standard equip-

ment on all 2012 Accent models.

Electronic Stability Control (ESC) and Traction Control work together to help deliver confident handling in all conditions.

Vehicle Stability Management (VSM) integrates control of the ESC and motor-driven power steering (MDPS) to provide handling assistance in slippery conditions or in sudden cornering scenarios.

Accent rides on a 2,570 mm wheelbase and is 1,700 mm in width, representing an increase of 70 mm and 5 mm respectively over the outgoing model. As a result, Accent enjoys superior interior volume and passenger space.

Total length of the new model is 4,370 mm for four-door versions and 4,115 mm for the five-door. While the car's exterior dimensions are consistent with those of traditional subcompacts, Accent is classified by Transport Canada as a compact sedan thanks to its interior volume. To provide perspective, Accent four-door features more total interior volume than the Honda Civic.

—Metroland Media
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The 2012 Hyundai Accent will come in both four- and five-door models.

Focus Electric battery keeps things moving

Cold temperatures and consistent snowfall can slow things down in the winter, but not the Ford Focus Electric.

Thanks to the use of an advanced active liquid-heating system, the battery provides additional power, longer range and is preconditioned after charging all in cold temperatures.

Extreme temperatures can affect battery performance and reduce the range of electric vehicles. The range will not be impacted as much with a liquid-heated system compared to an air system.

That's why Ford will use an advanced active liquid-cooling and heating system to regulate the temperature of its lithium-ion battery packs, which are de-

signed to operate under a range of ambient conditions.

The use of active liquid heating also enables owners of Focus Electric to automatically precondition battery pack temperature during daily recharging. While the vehicle is plugged in to the power grid, the vehicle system will be able to warm up the battery on cold days.

On cold days, heated liquid warms the batteries, gradually bringing the system's temperature to a level that allows it to efficiently accept charge energy and provide enough discharge power to get good vehicle performance.

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