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The Jeep Compass, is upgraded for 2011 inside and out with new styling features, a bump up in sophistication, greater content levels, even a Jeep Trail Rated package to

make this entry-level crossover Jeep a more competent on- and offroad weekend warrior. 2012 models will carry over relatively unchanged except for new colour choices.

Find your bearings with the new Jeep Compass

By ROB BEINTEMA

Caguide Magazine
Metroland Media Group

A decade ago, Jeep set about the task of broadening its appeal to a larger market.

Despite all the wailing and gnashing of teeth over diluting the brand from the offroading faithful, Chrysler started exploring the soft-roader segment of crossover sport utes, first dipping its toes into the water with a two-door V6 AWD Compass concept that debuted at the NAIAS in Detroit in 2002, then committing with the unveiling of the actual Compass production version five years later at the same show.

The Patriot sibling followed shortly thereafter.

Both the Compass and the Patriot owed most of their underpinnings to the Dodge Caliber. And both were geared and priced to compete in the entry-level compact SUV segment, with the Compass coming in

as a mainly on-road crossover, the Patriot pushing a more masculine image, with a nod to Wrangler-like styling and ability.

For the 2011 model year the Compass received a long list of mid-life upgrades.

Jeep started with the exterior, trimming down the blocky fenders and wide-skirted fat quarters with a leaner, more athletic style. When designers searched for a new styling direction for the Compass, they didn't have to look far, taking their inspiration from the brand new icon at the top of the Jeep lineup.

With the 2011 Jeep Compass, we applied the premium design cues of our award-winning Grand Cherokee, said Mike Manley, President and CEO of Jeep Brand, Chrysler Group LLC. Combined with new interior appointments, and refinements to the suspension and steering systems, Jeep Compass provides consumers the ultimate combination of styling, capability, fuel economy, efficiency, safety and value

in the compact-SUV segment.†

The new 2011 Jeep Compass carries a distinct family resemblance to the all-new, premium 2011 Jeep Grand Cherokee. Up front, the squared-off grille was slanted back and pimped with a small dose of chrome surrounding the traditional seven slots. The new face was complemented with new front fenders and a new fascia, also gaining attitude with a new power bulge hood. More sophisticated quad reflector headlamp assemblies replaced the old round-eye heritage headlights and lighting performance was further enhanced with standard high-output projector fog lamps.

A band of protective cladding and new brightwork was also added on the outside. And the new look has been completed with slimmer roof rails, a new rear fascia, new body-colour rear spoiler, new wheels, and with upscale LED taillights and additional chrome bling on some of the higher priced models.

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