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## Chevrolet makes Trax into the compact CUV segment

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SONOMA, Ca.: With its world premiere last year at the Paris Motor Show, the 2013 Trax brings Chevrolet's fleet of small vehicle choices to five.

The 2013 Trax CUV joins Spark, Sonic, Orlando and Cruze in Chevy showrooms across Canada.

There are four trim levels—LS, 1LT, 2LT and LTZ.

The red hot Canadian CUV market is where buyers expect utility along with increasing levels of content such as connectivity and luxury appointments— but not at excessive cost.

We have all seen how Korean car-makers have risen from barebones transportation to world-class cars and trucks and GM has benefitted from this.

As owners of the former Daewoo company, the Korean work ethic and near obsessive drive to excel is shown in the design/engineering details of its GM offerings like the new Trax.

Utility is served with no less than eight different seating/cargo possibilities. For example, the front passenger seat folds flat for long items.

In addition to a 358-litre trunk (785 litres with second row 60/40 split/fold seat flat), there are various bins/cubbies above and on both sides of the centre stack, as well as a tray under the passenger seat. Further stowage can be made available under the cargo floor.



The 2013 Chevrolet Trax CUV is aimed directly at Canadian buyers looking for something larger and with more utility than a sedan or hatchback.

It also has four, inline cupholders between the front seats—the first time I've ever seen this.

The interior is thankfully offered in two-tone colours besides the standard allover black once so prevalent in GM's Korea vehicles.

The main gauge cluster design is borrowed from the Chev Sonic with a motorcycle-like round tach with an attached digital readout with everything from speed to several driver information readouts.

The top two trim levels feature Chevrolet's MyLink that's an infotainment system that aggregates content from smartphones onto a seven-inch, high resolution, full colour touch-screen display.

MyLink features a navigation app which can be downloaded onto compatible smartphones. It projects the route calculated by the smartphone onto the system's touch-screen.

Based on the Sonic platform, Trax is 4,248 mm in length, with a width of

1,776 mm and a wheelbase of 2,555 mm.

In an interesting aside at the press launch in Sonoma, Ca., GM presenters noted that only a few years ago there were six or more different versions of the corporate golden bowtie badge with varying shades of gold.

Today there is only version used on everything Chevrolet makes, so you know it is a Chevy immediately.

Trax also comes with a full suite of driver/vehicle safety features including 10 airbags, Electronic Stability Control (ESC) including Hill Start Assist (HSA), Traction Control (TC), an Anti-lock Braking System (ABS) with Electronic Brake Force Distribution. Hill Descent Control (HDC) is standard on all models.

Motive power is a turbo-charged 1.4-litre, twin-cam four-cylinder engine producing 138 hp and 148 lb/ft of torque with a standard six-speed manual or optional six-speed automatic transmission. Towing is not recommended.

Front-wheel-drive (FWD) is standard with optional all-wheel-drive on all but the base LS. With FWD models, there are front disc brakes with drums rear but four discs on the AWD.

There were no fuel ratings for the AWD available at the press launch but for the FWD manual it is 7.8/5.7/6.9L/100 km city/highway/combined and 8.1/5.9/7.1 for the automatic.

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