



An interior look at the 2004 Lancer Ralliart, featuring white faced gauges, leather wrapped sport steering wheel and a simple, yet efficient, dashboard layout.

# Ralliart adds performance to a compact sedan

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enhancements and suspension improvements and voila, you have a car that offers a sportier, performance-oriented ride.

The package also includes upgraded brakes, wheels, tires, exhaust and exterior appearance enhancements such as a rear spoiler, front and side air dams, and fog lights.

### SPORT BUCKETS

Inside, the Ralliart features sport bucket seats that hold the driver and passenger snugly in place, while the sport shifter assembly comes directly from the high-performance Lancer Evolution, the 271-hp turbocharged speed demon not yet available this side of the 49th.

While the Lancer fits firmly in the compact class, its interior size is surprising.

In fact, the rear seat legroom is among the best in class and equals many mid-size sedans.

The dashboard layout is plain and simple, yet efficient. Fit and finish appeared to be a step above some previous Mitsubishi models tested here.

### SMOOTH RIDE

On the road, the Lancer Ralliart provides a fairly smooth ride for a small car. The sport suspension allows you to feel the road yet not experience the shake, rattle and roll you sometimes get in cars with a stiffer suspension.

In short the Ralliart is a fun vehicle to drive and an easy one to like.

If your tastes are somewhat different than mine, there are other choices available in the Lancer.

Base model is the ES, a well-equipped entry-level car. Standard features include air conditioning, power windows, power door locks, power side-view mirrors, woodgrain interior trim accents, adjustable steering column, trunk lamp, electric rear window defroster, digital clock, 140-watt AM/FM stereo/CD player with four speakers, and an eight-way adjustable driver's seat with height adjustment.

The Lancer LS sedan adds more features, including power sunroof, leather steering touch points, cruise control, remote keyless entry, 60/40 split fold-down rear seatbacks, rear centre armrest with cupholders, variable intermittent windshield wipers and a 140-watt AM/FM stereo/CD player with six speakers.

Still in the sedan class is the Lancer O-Z Rally which has 15-inch O-Z Racing alloy wheels, side air dams, O-Z Rally Edition badging, carbon-like interior trim, white-faced sport gauge cluster, rear spoiler, special floor mats and sport-touch steering wheels.

### SPORTBACK MODEL

For those who want a station-wagon type vehicle, Lancer offers the Sportback wagon which also is available with the Ralliart package. A full test of this car will follow later in the year.

*The Lancer ES sedan starts at \$15,998. The LS begins at \$20,478, while the O-Z Rally is \$20,098.*

*The Lancer Ralliart starts at \$21,998. As tested, \$23,963 plus destination charges.*

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