

1957 Dodge Custom Royal Lancer D-500 Convertible

Virgil Exner's totally new "swept wing" Forward Look 1957 Dodge models provided one of the most memorable sales years in division history. Our example, a top of the line convertible, is equipped with the exceedingly rare D-500 option package 325 cubic inch, 310 horsepower V-8 Super Red Ram HEMI engine, Carter 4 barrel AFB, and three on the tree (manual transmission option).



This car does NOT have power steering or power brakes as these options robbed torque at the starting line. In fact, you only knew that you were up against a big HEMI brute when you spied the special D-500 emblem on the trunk as it passed you in a cloud of dust!



The 1957 Dodge introduced torsion bar front suspension. It replaced the old coil springs and shocks and proved to be a major performance improvement. The most expensive of the Custom Royal models, the convertible sold for \$3,146.00 plus options. Total Custom Royal convertible production was 2,456 examples.



Very few Custom Royal convertibles were ordered with the special option D-500 HEMI power plant. Only 5% of all 1957 Dodge buyers opted to spend the extra money on performance. Of that, less than 4% were equipped with a 3 speed manual transmission. Simple math indicates that only five cars were built with the rare swept wing high performance D-500 HEMI and manual transmission options. We are unaware of ANY other remaining manual shift D-500 convertibles existent today. But more may still be awaiting your discovery...happy hunting!

This one owner car is NOT restored! It is totally original (less than 15,000 actual miles) right down to the original period correct plastic seat covers and dealer installed search light mirror. We believe it represents one of the very finest Custom Royal Lancers convertibles of its era.