

1958 Chrysler 300 ‘D’

This very high-performance 8 cyl. 392 HEMI, with dual four barrel Carter AFB carburetors, was destined to be the last of the Chrysler Hemi production model of this era. Small sales demand (hindered by lack of a new body style) saw production of the 300D hardtop peak at only 618 examples. Like its convertible brother, the small production coupled with a general economic recession, doomed any chance Chrysler might have hoped for of profitability from its flagship 300 letter series. The styling was considered to be clean and did not contain the excess chrome common to other cars of this era.

This example has the standard all leather interior and power options in addition to a Benrus selfwinding steering wheel clock. A hefty price tag (in 1958 dollars) of \$5173.00 plus dealer add-ons likely added to Chrysler dealer sales problems! The basic model cost exceeded the top of the line GM Cadillac, its chief competition of its day.



All Chrysler 300's came equipped with power steering, power brakes, power windows, and automatic transmission.

We have often wondered if Chrysler had a special vendor arrangement (a cheap price perhaps?) for buying white exterior paint! Well over 80% of all 300 letter cars built between 1957 and 1961 left the factory with a standard white exterior paint and natural leather interiors. It is interesting to note that a potential buyer could have ordered several color combinations of both the exterior paint and interior leather, but like this example, most buyers didn't...



The Lawrence Welk Show was Chrysler's TV advertising bubble spokesman. It is questionable if it really helped sales, but Mr. Welk got to drive very fine automobiles!