

# AUTOMOBILE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION CONSOLIDATED SPECIFICATION QUESTIONNAIRE

<b>MAKE OF CAR:</b>	DESOTO	<b>MODEL NAME</b>	<b>SYMBOL</b>
<b>COMPANY:</b>	DeSoto Division Chrysler Corporation Detroit 31, Michigan	Firedome .....	S-22
		Fireflite .....	S-21
<b>MODEL YEAR:</b>	1955	<b>DATE</b>	10-1-54

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

General Specifications.....	1	Frame.....	16
Engine.....	2	Front Suspension.....	16
Electrical.....	8	Steering.....	17
Drive Units.....	12	Rear Suspension.....	18
Brakes.....	15	Body.....	19
Index.....	24		

- NOTES: 1. The specifications set forth herein are those in effect at the date of compilation and are subject to change without notice.  
 2. All specifications are standard for the models under which they are listed unless otherwise indicated.  
 3. All dimensions are nominal engineering dimensions unless otherwise indicated.  
 4. Unless otherwise indicated, specifications apply to 5 or 6 passenger, 4-door sedan or equivalent.

## GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS

Model	S-22	S-21
Wheelbase	126.0	
Tread	Front	60.2
	Rear	59.6
Maximum Overall Dimensions	Length (L-103)	217.9
	Width (W-103)	78.3
	Height (H-101)	60.6
Steering ratio—overall	N/A	
Turning diameter (curb to curb)	43' 9"	
Shipping weight*	3890 (a)	3960 (a)
Transmission— (Specify standard, optional, not avail.)	Conventional	Standard
	Overdrive	Optional
	Automatic	Optional
Axle ratio	Conventional	3.9
	Overdrive	4.3
	Automatic	3.73
Tire size	Tubeless 7.60 x 15	
	Type	90° V
Engine	No. of cylinders	8
	Valve arrangement	Overhead, Laterally Inclined
	Bore and stroke	3.720 x 3.344
	Piston displacement, cu. in.	291
	Standard compression ratio	7.5
	Maximum bhp at engine rpm	185 at 4400
	Maximum torque at rpm	245 at 2800
		200 at 4400 274 at 2800

\*Standard car weight, not including gas and water.

(a) With PowerFlite, transmission.

# AMA Consolidated Specification Questionnaire

**MAKE OF CAR** DESOTO **MODEL YEAR** 1955

**MODEL** S-22 S-21

## ENGINE—GENERAL

Type	V, In-line, other		V
	Angle of V		90°
No. of cylinders			8
Valve arrangement			OHV - Laterally Inclined
Bore and stroke			3.720 x 3.344
Piston displacement, cu. in.			291
Numbering system (front to rear)	L. Bank		1-3-5-7
	R. Bank		2-4-6-8
Firing order			1-8-4-3-6-5-7-2
Compression ratio	Standard Head		7.5 to 1
	Optional Head		---
Cylinders	Head	Standard	Cast Iron
	Material	Optional	---
	Sleeve—Wet, dry, other, none		None
Number of mounting points	Front		2
	Rear		1
Taxable horsepower	(Dia. <sup>2</sup> x No. Cyl.) 2.5		44.3
Advertised max. brake horsepower at engine RPM*	Standard head		185 at 4400
	Optional head		---
	With fuel (Octane and method)	Standard Head	85 Motor
		Optional Head	---
Max. torque (lb. ft. @ RPM)	Standard head		245 at 2800
	Optional head		---
Recommended idle speed (neutral)			450-500

## ENGINE—PISTONS

Material			Aluminum Alloy
Description and finish			Thermally Controlled by Steel Belt, Elliptically Turned, Tin-Plated
Weight (piston only) oz.			18.2
Clearance	Top land		.032
	Skirt	Top	.001
		Bottom	---
Ring groove depth	No. 1 ring		.192
	No. 2 ring		.192
	No. 3 ring		.192
	No. 4 ring		---

\*Corrected as defined by SAE Engine Test Code, with the following standard power consuming accessories: Generator, Water Pump, Manifolds, Fuel Pump, Manual Spark Advance, Manifold Heat Off.

# AMA Consolidated Specification Questionnaire

MAKE OF CAR DESOTO MODEL YEAR 1955

MODEL S-22 S-21

## ENGINE—RINGS

Type (top to bottom)	No. 1 oil or comp.	Compression
	No. 2 oil or comp.	Compression
	No. 3 oil or comp.	Oil
	No. 4 oil or comp.	---
No. rings above piston pin		3
Compression	Material	Piston Ring Iron
	Coating	Tin
	Width	.078
	Gap	.015
	Maximum wall thickness	.184
Oil	Material	Piston Ring Iron
	Coating	None
	Width	.186
	Gap	.015
	Maximum wall thickness	.150
Location of expanders		Oil Ring

## ENGINE—PISTON PINS

Material		High Manganese Steel
Length		3.065
Diameter		.922
Type	Locked in rod, in piston, floating, etc.	Floating
	Bushing	Rod
		Material
Clearance	In piston	0 to .0005
	In rod	.0001 to .0004 (Selective)
Direction offset in piston		Right - 1/16"

## ENGINE—CONNECTING RODS

Material		High Manganese Forging Steel
Weight (oz.)		22.8
Length (center to center)		6.06
Bearing	Material	Thin Babbitt on Steel
	Type (cast-in or removable)	Removable
	Effective length	.812
	Clearance	.0005 to .0015 (Desired)
	End play	.006 to .014 (2-Rods)

## ENGINE—CRANKSHAFT

Material	Drop Forged Steel
Weight (lb.)	N/A

# AMA Consolidated Specification Questionnaire

**MAKE OF CAR** DESOTO **MODEL YEAR** 1955

**MODEL** S-22 S-21

## ENGINE—CRANKSHAFT (cont.)

Vibration damper type		Damped Dynamic Torsional Vibration Absorber		
End thrust taken by bearing (No.)		Three		
Crankshaft end play		.002 to .007		
Main bearing	Material	Lead Base Babbitt on Steel		
	Type (cast-in or removable)	Removable		
	Clearance	.0005 to .0015		
	Journal dia. and bearing effective length	No. 1	2.38 x .81	
		No. 2	2.38 x .81	
		No. 3	2.38 x .81	
		No. 4	2.38 x .81	
		No. 5	2.38 x 1.53	
No. 6		---		
No. 7		---		
Direction offset from cyl. bore		None		
Connecting rod crankpin journal diameter		2.062		

## ENGINE—CAMSHAFT

Material		Special Cast Iron with Cams, Distributor and Oil Pump Drive Gear Cast Integrally		
Bearings	Material	Lead Base Babbitt on Steel		
	Number	Five		
Type of drive	Gear or chain	Chain		
	Crankshaft gear or sprocket material	High Manganese Steel		
	Camshaft gear or sprocket material	Cast Iron		
	Timing chain	Make	Morse Silent	
		No. of links	68	
		Width	1.125	
Pitch		.375		

## ENGINE—VALVE SYSTEM

Hydraulic lifters (yes, no)		Yes
Special provision for valve rotation (intake, exhaust)		No
Rocker ratio		1.5
Operating tappet clearance (indicate hot or cold)	Intake	0
	Exhaust	0
Tappet clearance for timing	Intake	Valve Train Solid
	Exhaust	Valve Train Solid
Timing marks on fly-wheel, damper, other		Crankshaft Vibration Damper

# AMA Consolidated Specification Questionnaire

MAKE OF CAR DESOTO MODEL YEAR 1955

MODEL S-22 S-21

## ENGINE—VALVE SYSTEM (cont.)

Timing	Intake	Opens (°BTC)	4 ATC	12 BTC	
		Closes (°ABC)	76 ABC	52 ABC	
	Exhaust	Opens (°BBC)	54 BBC	50 BBC	
		Closes (°ATC)	10 ATC	14 ATC	
Intake	Material		Silicon-Chromium Steel		
	Overall length		4.81		
	Actual overall head dia.		1.84		
	Angle of seat		45°		
	Seat insert material		None		
	Stem diameter		.372		
	Stem to guide clearance		.002		
	Lift		.360		
	Outer spring press. and length	Valve closed (lb. @ in.)	28 at 1.69		
		Valve open (lb. @ in.)	92 at 1.31		
	Inner spring press. and length	Valve closed (lb. @ in.)	22 at 1.56		
		Valve open (lb. @ in.)	42 at 1.19		
	Exhaust	Material		XCR Chromium Nickel Steel	
		Overall length		4.80	
Actual overall head dia.		1.50			
Angle of seat		45°			
Seat insert material		Alloy Cast Iron			
Stem diameter		.372			
Stem to guide clearance		.003			
Lift		.360			
Outer spring press. and length		Valve closed (lb. @ in.)	28 at 1.69		
		Valve open (lb. @ in.)	92 at 1.31		
Inner spring press. and length		Valve closed (lb. @ in.)	22 at 1.56		
		Valve open (lb. @ in.)	42 at 1.19		

## ENGINE—LUBRICATION SYSTEM

Type of lubrication (splash, pressure, nozzle)	Main bearings	Pressure
	Connecting rods	Pressure
	Piston pins	Metered Jet Spray
	Camshaft bearings	Pressure
	Tappets	Metered Pressure
	Timing gear or chain	Metered Flow
	Cylinder walls	Metered Jet Spray

# AMA Consolidated Specification Questionnaire

MAKE OF CAR DESOTO MODEL YEAR 1955

MODEL S-22 S-21

## ENGINE—LUBRICATION SYSTEM (cont.)

Oil pump type	Rotary
Normal oil pressure (lb. @ rpm)	50 to 65 at 1500
Oil pressure gage type (electric or mechanical)	Mechanical
Type oil intake (floating, stationary)	Floating
Oil filter type (full flow, partial flow)	Shunt Type Replaceable Element
Capacity of crankcase, less filter—refill (qt.)	5
Oil grade recommended (SAE viscosity and temperature range)	Not Lower Than +32° F ..... SAE 30 As Low As +10° F ..... SAE 20W As Low As -10° F ..... SAE 10W Below -10° F ..... SAE 5W
Oil type recommended	None

## ENGINE—FUEL SYSTEM

Recommended fuel	Standard head	Regular	
	Optional head	---	
Fuel Tank	Capacity (gals.)	20	
	Filler Location	Right Rear Fender	
Fuel Filter	Type	Oilite	
	Location	Fuel Tank	
Fuel pump	Type (elec. or mech.)	Mechanical	
	Location	Right Front of Engine	
	Pressure range	5.0 to 6.5	
	Vacuum booster (std., optl., none)	None	
Carburetor	Make	Ball and Ball	
	Model number	BBD-2117S	
	Number used	One	
	Type	Downdraft, side inlet, other	Downdraft
		Single or dual	Dual
	Intake manifold heat control (manual, auto., none)	Automatic	
	Automatic choke type (integral, other)	Integral	
	Air cleaner type	Standard	Oil Bath
Optional		---	

## ENGINE—EXHAUST SYSTEM

Type (single, single with cross-over, dual, other)	Single with Cross-Over
Muffler type (rev. flow, str. thru, sep. resonator)	Reverse Flow
Exhaust pipe dia.	Branch
	Main
Tail pipe diameter	2

# AMA Consolidated Specification Questionnaire

MAKE OF CAR DESOTO MODEL YEAR 1955

MODEL S-22 S-21

## ENGINE—COOLING SYSTEM

Type (pressure system, atmospheric, other)		Pressure-Vent	
Radiator cap relief valve press.		7 psi (a)	
Circulation thermostat	Type (choke, bypass)	By-Pass	
	Starts to open at	160° to 165° F	
Water pump	Type (centrifugal, other)	Centrifugal	
	Number of pumps	One	
	Drive (V-belt, other)	V-Belt	
	Bearing type	Bushings	
By-pass recirculation type (internal, external)		External	
Radiator core type (cellular, tube and fin)		Cellular (a)	Fin and Tube
Cooling system capacity	With heater (qt.)	24	
	Without heater (qt.)	23	
Water jackets full length of cylinder (yes, no)		Yes	
Water all around cylinder (yes, no)		Yes	
Radiator hose	Lower	Number and type (molded, straight)	One, Molded
		Inside diameter and length	1.8, Curved
	Upper	Number and type (molded, straight)	One, Molded
		Inside diameter and length	1.8, Curved
	By-pass	Number and type (molded, straight)	One, Molded
		Inside diameter and length	1.2, Curved
Drive belts	Fan	Number used	Two (a)
		Angle of V	36°
		Outside length	37.2   38
		Width	.38
	Generator	Angle of V	36°
		Outside length	41
		Width	.38
Fan	Number of blades and spacing	Four - 76° and 104° (a)	
	Diameter	18	
	Ratio—fan to crankshaft revolutions	.95 to 1	.85 to 1 (a)
	Bearing type	See Water Pump	

(a) With Air Conditioning, the following data apply to both S-22 and S-21:  
 Radiator Cap Relief Valve Pressure: 14 psi  
 Radiator Core Type: Fin and Tube  
 Fan: Six Blades - 18" Diameter  
 Fan Ratio: .95:1  
 Drive Belts - Number Used: Three

# AMA Consolidated Specification Questionnaire

MAKE OF CAR	DESOTO	MODEL YEAR	1955
MODEL	S-22	S-21	

## ELECTRICAL—SUPPLY SYSTEM

Battery	Make and Model		Auto-Lite, 2H-120-B (a)
	Voltage Rtg. & Plates/cell		6V, 17
	SAE Designation & Amp Hr. Rtg		2H, 120
	Location		Under Hood, Left Side
Generator	Terminal grounded		Positive
	Make		Auto-Lite
	Model		GCW-600L
	Type		Shunt Wound
	Ratio—Gen. to Cr/s rev.		2.02
Regulator	Make		Auto-Lite
	Model		VBE-600L-A
	Type		Current and Voltage Control
	Cutout relay	Closing voltage @ generator rpm	6.3 - 6.8 at 1000
		Reverse current to open	4.1 - 4.8
	Regulated	Voltage	7.1 - 7.4
		Current	45 - 57 (b)
	Min. Gen. rpm required		1000
	Voltage test conditions	Temperature	70°
		Load	Run 15 Min at 10 Amp
Other		---	

## ELECTRICAL—STARTING SYSTEM

Starting motor	Make		Auto-Lite
	Model		MCH-6113-A
	Rotation (drive end view)		Clockwise
	Engine cranking speed		35-110 rpm
	Test conditions		SAE 5W at -20° F and SAE 30 with completely warmed engine
	Lock test	Amps	410
		Volts	2.0
		Torque (lb. ft.)	8.0
	No load test	Amps	65
		Volts	5.0
RPM (min.)		4300	
Motor control	Switch (solenoid, manual)		Solenoid
	Starting procedure		Turn Ignition Key Beyond "Ignition On" Position

(a) Willard HW-2-120-C, Optional Equipment

(b) Higher value denotes initial temporary rating. Bi-Metal hinge reduces output to lower value after warm-up period.

# AMA Consolidated Specification Questionnaire

**MAKE OF CAR** DESOTO **MODEL YEAR** 1955

**MODEL** S-22 S-21

## ELECTRICAL—STARTING SYSTEM (cont.)

<b>Motor drive</b>	Engagement type		Solenoid, Clutch
	Pinion meshes (front, rear)		Front
	Number of teeth	Pinion	9
		Flywheel	11/6
Flywheel tooth face width		3/8	

## ELECTRICAL—IGNITION SYSTEM

<b>Coil</b>	Make		Auto-Lite	
	Model		CR-6015	
	Amps	Engine stopped	5	
Engine idling		2.25		
<b>Distributor</b>	Make		Auto-Lite	
	Model		IAZ-4002-G      IAZ-4002-D	
	Spark advance data (at distributor shaft)	Centr. advance start (rpm)	300 - 400	
		Centr. advance max. deg. @ rpm	7° - 9° at 800	11° - 13° at 1800
		Vacuum advance start (in. Hg.)	1° at 5.5" - 6.5" hg	
		Vac. adv. (max. deg. @ in. Hg.)	6° - 8° at 11" hg	10.5° - 12.5° at 17" hg
	Breaker gap (in.)		.015 to .018	
	Cam angle (deg.)		26° - 28°	
	Breaker arm tension (oz.)		17-20	
	<b>Timing</b>	C/S deg. @ rpm		10° BTC      4° BTC
Mark location		Crankshaft Vibration Damper		
Cylinder numbering system (see page 2)		Left Bank: 1-3-5-7 Right Bank: 2-4-6-8		
Firing order (see page 2)		1-8-4-3-6-5-7-2		
<b>Spark plug</b>	Make and model		Auto-Lite Resistor LS-140      Auto-Lite Resistor LS-165	
	Thread (mm)		14-MM	
	Tightening torque (lb. ft.)		30-32	
	Gap		.035	
<b>Cable</b>	Conductor type		Stranded Copper	
	Insulation type		Rubber with Neoprene Jacket	
	Spark plug protector		Neoprene Cover	

## ELECTRICAL—SUPPRESSION

<b>Description</b>	Spark Plugs - 10,000 ohm Resistor (Integral) Distributor - 10,000 ohm Resistor (Integral)
--------------------	--

# AMA Consolidated Specification Questionnaire

<b>MAKE OF CAR</b>	DESOTO	<b>MODEL YEAR</b>	1955
<b>MODEL</b>	S-22		S-21

## ELECTRICAL—INSTRUMENTS AND SWITCHES

<b>Speed-ometer</b>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;"><b>Make</b></td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">Auto-Lite</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Trip odometer (yes, no)</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;">No</td> </tr> </table>	<b>Make</b>	Auto-Lite	<b>Trip odometer (yes, no)</b>	No	
<b>Make</b>	Auto-Lite					
<b>Trip odometer (yes, no)</b>	No					
<b>Charge indicator—type</b>		Ammeter				
<b>Temperature indicator—type</b>		Electric, Magnetic				
<b>Oil pressure indicator—type</b>		Bourdon Tube				
<b>Fuel indicator—type</b>		Electric, Magnetic				
<b>Ignition switch</b>	<b>Identify positions in order and circuits controlled</b>	Center ..... Off 1st Position Clockwise ..... All Circuits On 2nd Position Clockwise ..... Ignition and Starter Circuit Only 1st Position Counterclockwise ..... Accessory Circuit Only				
	<b>Provision for illumination</b>	Yes				
	<b>Location</b>	Right of Steering Column				
	<b>Theft protection type</b>	None				
<b>Main lighting switch</b>	<b>Identify positions and lights controlled</b>	Left Position ..... Off 1st Position Clockwise ..... Instruments, Tail and Parking Lamps, Ignition Switch Light, License and Ignition Lamp 2nd Position Clockwise ..... Instruments, Tail, Head and License Lamps.				
	<b>Locations and lamps controlled</b>	Combination instrument and map light switch: Rotary variable, concentric with main light switch, clockwise, clock and instrument lamps; 1st Position, Counterclockwise, instrument, clock and map lights. Automatic front door switches, right and left, contro map lights. Upper right and left "A" posts auto. door switches (b) Lower right and left "A" posts automatic door switches (c)*				
<b>Other light switches</b>	<b>Locations and devices controlled</b>	Windshield wiper switch, variable speed, right of steering column on instrument panel. Heater motor switch and defroster motor switch, two-speed, concentric, on instrument panel. Stop light switch, in brake line. Directional signal switch, lever on steering column below steering wheel.				
<b>Windshield wiper</b>	<b>Make</b>	Auto-Lite				
	<b>Type</b>	Electric				
	<b>Vacuum booster provision</b>	None				
	<b>Washer provision</b>	None				
<b>Horn</b>	<b>Type</b>	Vibrator, Sea Shell				
	<b>Number used</b>	Two				
	<b>Amp draw (each)</b>	15 Amp				

(a) Automatic rear door switches and toggle switch at left "B" post control dome light.  
 (b) & (c) Special Club Coupe and Convertible Coupe.  
 \* With both doors closed map lamps operate independent of quarter panel lamps.



# AMA Consolidated Specification Questionnaire

**MAKE OF CAR** DESOTO **MODEL YEAR** 1955

**MODEL** S-22 S-21

## DRIVE UNITS—CLUTCH (PEDAL OPERATED)

<b>Make</b>		Borg and Beck		
<b>Type (dry or wet plate)</b>		Dry		
<b>In combination with fluid coupling (yes, no)</b>		No		
<b>Semi-centrifugal (yes, no)</b>		No		
<b>Type pressure plate springs</b>		Coil		
<b>Total plate pressure (lb.)</b>		1639	1384	
<b>No. of clutch driven discs</b>		One		
<b>Clutch facing</b>	<b>Material</b>		Molded, Woven, Asbestos	
	<b>Inside diameter</b>		6	
	<b>Outside diameter</b>		10	
	<b>Total eff. area (sq. in.)</b>		100.5	
	<b>Thickness</b>		.125	
	<b>Number required</b>		Two	
	<b>Engagement cushioning method</b>		Springs, Flat, Crimped	
	<b>Release bearing</b>	<b>Type</b>	Ball	
		<b>Method of lubrication</b>	Sealed	
	<b>Torsional damping</b>	<b>Method (springs, other)</b>	Coil Springs	
<b>Frict. mat.</b>		---		

## DRIVE UNITS—TRANSMISSIONS

<b>Conventional (std. or opt.)</b>	Standard
<b>Conventional with overdrive (std. or opt.)</b>	Optional
<b>Automatic (std. or opt.)</b>	Optional - PowerLite

## DRIVE UNITS—CONVENTIONAL TRANSMISSION

<b>Number of forward speeds</b>		Three
<b>Transmission ratios</b>	<b>In first</b>	2.57
	<b>In second</b>	1.83
	<b>In third</b>	1.00
	<b>In fourth</b>	---
	<b>In reverse</b>	3.48
<b>Constant mesh gears in 2nd (yes, no)</b>		Yes
<b>Spur gear used in (indicate speeds)</b>		None
<b>Helical gears used in (indicate speeds)</b>		All Speeds
<b>Synchronous meshing in 2nd and 3rd gears (yes, no)</b>		Yes

# AMA Consolidated Specification Questionnaire

**MAKE OF CAR** DESOTO **MODEL YEAR** 1955

**MODEL** S-22 S-21

## DRIVE UNITS—CONVENTIONAL TRANSMISSION (cont.)

<b>Lubricant</b>	Capacity (pt.)		2-3/4
	Type recommended		Engine Oil
	SAE viscosity number	Summer	LOW
		Winter	LOW
Extreme cold		LOW	

## DRIVE UNITS—CONVENTIONAL TRANSMISSION WITH OVERDRIVE

For transmission data see conventional transmission section

<b>Overdrive</b>	Type (planetary or other)		Planetary	
	If planetary, No. of pinions		Three	
	Manual lockout (yes, no)		Yes	
	Downshift accelerator control (yes, no)		Yes	
	Minimum cut-in speed		28	
	Gear ratio		0.7	
	<b>Lubricant</b>	Capacity (O.D. only)		.75 pt
		Separate filter (yes, no)		No
		Type recommended		Engine Oil
		SAE viscosity number	Summer	LOW
Winter			LOW	
Ext. cold		LOW		

## DRIVE UNITS—AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION

Trade name	PowerLite				
Type (fluid coupling with gears, torque convertor with gears, other)	Torque Converter with Gears				
Manual selector positions, left to right (show symbols and define, e.g., N- Neutral)	<div style="display: inline-block; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-right: 10px;"> <table style="border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">R</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">D</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">L</td></tr> </table> </div> Reverse Neutral Drive Low	R	N	D	L
R					
N					
D					
L					
List gear ratios in each drive position (range)	R - Reverse ..... 2.39 N - Neutral ..... --- D - Drive ..... 1.72 and 1.00 L - Low ..... 1.72				
Shifting within drive position range, by accelerator control and speed limiting governor (yes, no)	No				
By governor—forced shift (yes, no)	Yes				
Downshift of gears in high range possible up to (mph)	55				

# AMA Consolidated Specification Questionnaire

**MAKE OF CAR** DESOTO **MODEL YEAR** 1955

**MODEL** S-22 S-21

## DRIVE UNITS—AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION (cont.)

<b>Torque convertor</b>	Number of elements		Three	
	Max. ratio at stall at engine rpm		Stalled Ratio - 2.6	
	Mechanical lockup	Provided (yes, no)	No	
		Speed range	---	
		Releases at (speed range, mph)	---	
	Type of cooling (forced air, oil cooler and type, other)		Forced Air	
Anti-creep device (yes, no)		No		
<b>Lubricant</b>	Capacity—refill (pt.)		22	
	Type recommended		Automatic Transmission Fluid, Type "A"	
	Grade	Summer	---	
		Winter	---	
		Extreme cold	---	

## DRIVE UNITS—PROPELLER SHAFT

Number used			One		
Type (exposed, torque tube)			Exposed		
<b>Outer diameter x length* x wall thickness</b>	Conventional trans.		3.5 x 60 x .065	3.5 x 59.41 x .065	
	Overdrive trans.		3.5 x 60 x .065	3.5 x 59.41 x .065	
	Automatic trans.		3.0 x 60 x .065	3.0 x 59.41 x .065	
<b>Intermediate bearing</b>	Type (plain, anti-friction)		---		
	Lubri. (fitting, prepack)		---		
<b>Universal joints</b>	Make		N/A		
	Number used		Two		
	Type (ball and trunnion, cross, other)		Cross		
	Bearing	Type (plain, anti-friction)		Anti-Friction	
		Lubric. (fitting, prepack)		Prepack	
Drive taken through (torque tube or arms, spring)			Rear Springs		
Torque taken through (torque tube or arms, springs)			Rear Springs		

\*Centerline to centerline of joints or centerline of rear attachment point.

# AMA Consolidated Specification Questionnaire

MAKE OF CAR DESOTO MODEL YEAR 1955

MODEL S-22 S-21

### DRIVE UNITS—REAR AXLE

Type (semi-floating, other)		Semi-Floating	
Gear type (hypoid, other)		Hypoid	
Gear ratio and No. of teeth	Conventional trans.	3.9 (39-10)	3.73 (41-11)
	Overdrive trans.	4.3 (43-10)	4.1 (41-10)
	Automatic trans.	3.73 (41-11)	3.54 (39-11)
Pinion adjustment (shim, other)		Solid Shim	
Pinion bearing adj. (shim, other)		Shims	Solid Shims
Capacity (pt.)		3.25	3.5
Type recommended		Multi-Purpose Hypoid Gear Lubricant	
Lubricant	SAE viscosity number	Summer	SAE 90
		Winter	SAE 90
		Extreme cold	SAE 80

### DRIVE UNITS—WHEELS

Type (disc, other)		Disc
Rim (size and flange type)		15 x 5.5 K
Attachment	Type (bolt or stud)	Bolt
	Circle diameter	4.5
	Number and size	5, 1/2 - 20 Am Nat Thd

### DRIVE UNITS—TIRES

Size and ply rating	Standard	7.60 x 15 - 4 (Tubeless)
	Optional	7.60 x 15 - 6
Rev/mile at 30 mph		722
Inflation press. (cold)	Front	24
	Rear	24

### BRAKES—SERVICE

Type		Hydraulic, Internal Expanding Drum	
Booster type		Available at Extra Cost	
Effective area (sq. in.)		201	
Percent brake effectiveness—rear		40	
Drum	Diameter	Front	12
		Rear	12
	Type and material		Cast Iron

# AMA Consolidated Specification Questionnaire

MAKE OF CAR DESOTO MODEL YEAR 1955

MODEL S-22 S-21

## BRAKES—SERVICE (cont.)

Brake lining	Bonded or riveted		Bonded		
	Primary	Material		Molded Asbestos	
		Size (length x width x thickness)	Front wheel	12.57 x 2 x .20	
			Rear wheel	12.57 x 2 x .20	
		Segments per shoe		One	
	Secondary	Material		Molded Asbestos	
		Size (length x width x thickness)	Front wheel	12.57 x 2 x .20	
			Rear wheel	12.57 x 2 x .20	
		Segments per shoe		One	
	Wheel cylinder bore	Front	1.12		
Rear		1.12			
Master cylinder bore		1			
Available pedal travel		7			
Line pressure at 100 lb. pedal load		918			
Shoe clearance adjustment		.006, Heel & Toe			

## BRAKES—PARKING

Type of control		Mechanical, T-Handle, Multiple Pawl Ratchet	
Location of control		Left of Steering Column	
Operates on		Rear of Transmission	
If separate from service brakes	Type (internal or external)	External	(a)
	Drum diameter	6	(a)
	Lining size (length x width x thickness)	15.38 x 2 x .16	(a)

## FRAME

Type and description	Welded, Double-Channel, Box Section Side Rails, Lateral Cross Members
----------------------	--

## FRONT SUSPENSION

Type and description	Independent, Lateral Control, With Coil Springs
----------------------	--

(a) When equipped with PowerLite, an internal type parking brake is used with a 7" diameter drum; lining size: 13.06 x 2 x .16

# AMA Consolidated Specification Questionnaire

MAKE OF CAR DESOTO MODEL YEAR 1955

MODEL S-22 S-21

## FRONT SUSPENSION (cont.)

Spring	Type	Coil
	Material	Amola Steel (a)
	Size (length x width x No. leaves or coil I.D.)	4 I.D.
	Spring rate (lb. per in.)	480
	Rate at wheel (lb. per in.)	N/A
	Normal load (lb. @ rated length)	Right 2190 at 11" Left 2285 at 11"
	Manufacturer	Own
Shock absorbers	Type (direct or lever)	Direct
	Piston diameter	1
Stabilizer	Type (link, linkless, frameless)	Linkless
	Material	Amola

## STEERING

Type used (Standard or optional)	Mechanical	Standard	
	Power	Optional	
Wheel diameter		18	
Turning diameter	Outside front	Wall to wall (r. & l.)	46' 4"
		Curb to curb (r. & l.)	43' 9"
	Inside rear	Wall to wall (r. & l.)	25' 9"
		Curb to curb (r. & l.)	26' 8"

Inside wheel angle with outside wheel at 20°

Mechanical	Gear	Type	Worm and Three-Tooth Roller	
		Make	Gemmer	
		Ratios	Gear	20.4
			Overall	N/A
No. wheel turns		5.5		
Power	Gear	Type	Integral - "Coaxial"	
		Make	Chrysler	
		Trade name	Full-Time Power Steering	
	Gear	Type	Rack and Sector and Recirculating Ball Nut	
		Ratios	Gear	16.2
			Overall	N/A
	Pump driven by		Generator	
	Overall torque ratio		N/A	
	Number wheel turns		3.5	
	Linkage	Type		Center, Equal Length Tie Rods
Location (front or rear of wheels)		Rear		
Drag link (trans. or long)		Longitudinal		
Tie rods (one or two)		Two		

(a) Temporary Substitution: Chromium-Carbon Steel

# AMA Consolidated Specification Questionnaire

MAKE OF CAR DESOTO MODEL YEAR 1955

MODEL S-22 S-21

## STEERING (cont.)

Kingpin	Inclination at camber (deg.)		5.5° at 0°
	Diameter		.795
	Bearings (type)	Upper	Straight Roller
		Lower	Lead Bronze
		Ball	
Wheel alignment (range and preferred)	Caster (deg.)		-2° to 0°, -2° Preferred with Manual Steering 0° Preferred with Power Steering (a)
	Camber (deg.)		1/4° ± 3/8° (b)
	Toe-in (outside tread-inches)		0 to 1/16, 0 Preferred
Steering knuckle type			Reverse Elliott
Wheel spindle	Diameter	Inner bearing	1.25
		Outer bearing	.75
	Thread size		3/4 - 16 Am Nat Thd
	Bearing type		Tapered Roller

## REAR SUSPENSION

Type			Parallel, Longitudinal Leaf		
Drive and torq. taken through (see page 14)			Rear Springs		
Spring	Type		Semi-Elliptic		
	Material		Steel		
	Size (length x width x No. leaves or coil I.D.)		55 x 2.5 x 4	55 x 2.5 x 5	
	Spring rate (lb. per in.)		93	90	
	Rate at wheel (lb. per in.)		N/A		
	Normal load (lb. at rated length)		840		
	Mounting insulation type		Rubber Bushing		
	If leaf	No. of leaves		4	5
		Covers (yes, no)		No	
		Lubricated (yes, no)		No	
Inserts		Type and size		2.5 x 3.5	
		Material		Wax Impregnated Fabric	
Shackle (comp. or tens.)		Compression			
Shock absorbers	Manufacturer		Own		
	Type (direct or lever)		Direct		
	Piston diameter		1		
Stabilizer	Type (link, linkless, frameless)		None		
	Material		---		
Track bar type			None		

(a) Within these limits, it is recommended that the left side caster be between 0° and 3/4° more negative than the right side caster.  
 (b) Preferred Setting: Left Side, +1/2°  
 Right Side, 0°

# AMA Consolidated Specification Questionnaire

MAKE OF CAR DESOTO MODEL YEAR 1955

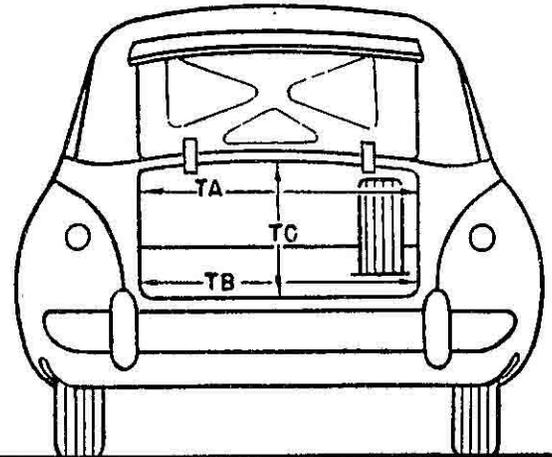
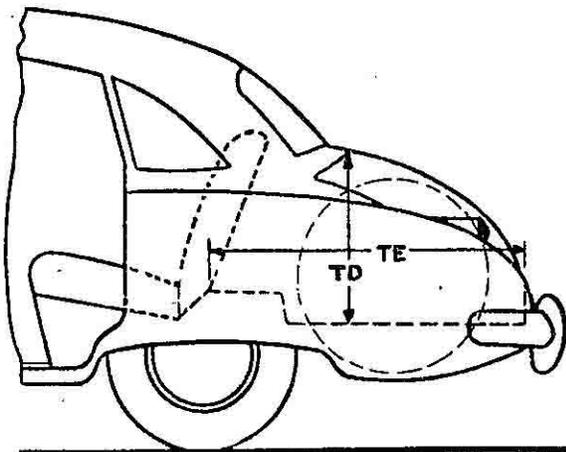
## BODY—GENERAL DEFINITIONS

NOTE: Included in the dimension definitions listed on this and the following pages are those which have been proposed for adoption by the SAE. These are indicated by a number following the type of dimension, e.g., L 3. Additional dimensions have been added by the AMA Specifications Body Sub-Committee for inclusion in the Questionnaire. These are shown by an additional letter, e.g., HA. The dimensions are developed from the following basic points:

1. Front and rear seat "A" points are taken 5" forward of vertical tangent to seat back 15" from center of body.
2. Front seat is in the rear position.
3. Loaded position—5 passengers, front 300 lb., rear 450 lb., includes spare wheel, tire and tools, and full complement of gas, oil, water, etc. and tires to recommended pressure, etc.
4. C. L. (centerline).
5. D. L. O. (daylight opening, exposed glass dimension).
6. Ramp breakover angle (page 20-A) is the supplement of the included ramp angle (180° minus the included ramp angle) over which a car can pass without hanging up.

MODEL	S-22	S-21
-------	------	------

## BODY—TRUNK OPENING DIMENSIONS



TA—Width across the top	60.3
TB—Width across the bottom	55.0
TC—Diagonal dimension at CL from top of opening to bottom	32.5
TD—Vertical height of opening (floor to top, inside edge of opening)	22.0
TE—Max. horizontal depth (forward from vertical projection of inside edge of opening)	54.0
Position of spare tire stowage	Right Hand Side - Inclined
Method of holding lid open	Torsion Bar

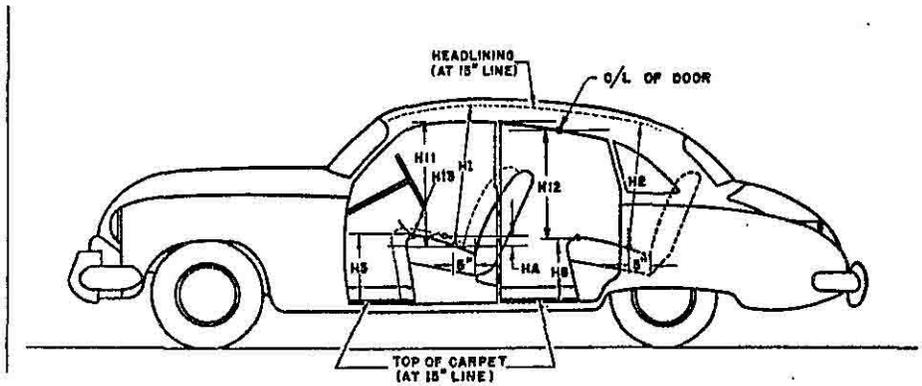
# AMA Consolidated Specification Questionnaire

Page 20  
Rev. 8-53

MAKE OF CAR DESOTO MODEL YEAR 1955

MODEL S-22 S-21

## BODY—HEIGHT DIMENSIONS—INTERIOR



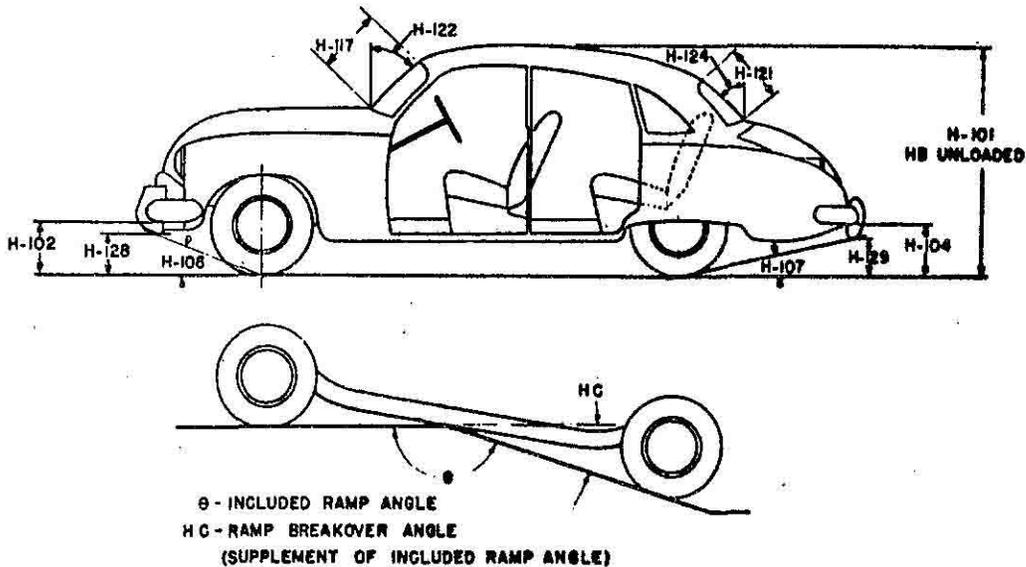
H1. Front headroom—from "A" pt. to headlining at 8° back of vertical on 15" line. (For "A" pt. see note 1, page 19)	35.0
H2. Rear headroom—from "A" pt. to headlining at 8° back of vertical on 15" line.	34.5
H3. Front seat height to floor carpet on 15" line (front edge of cushion).	13.3
H8. Rear seat height to floor carpet on 15" line (front edge of cushion).	13.5
H11. Entrance—front—cushion "A" point to bottom windcord vertical.	29.3
H12. Entrance—rear—top of cushion to bottom windcord vertical at C/L of rear door.	27.3
H13. Steering wheel clearance to seat cushion taken on arc.	5.4
HA. Front seat vertical rise at "A" pt. (inches).	1.1

# AMA Consolidated Specification Questionnaire

MAKE OF CAR DESOTO MODEL YEAR 1955

MODEL S-22 S-21

## BODY—HEIGHT DIMENSIONS—EXTERIOR



H101. Overall height.	60.6	
HB. Overall height—unloaded.	62.7	
H102. Front bumper bottom to ground at normal section.	12.8	
H104. Rear bumper bottom to ground at normal section.	11.4	
H106. Angle of approach—from the tire rolling radius to lowest point on front bumper or guard.	21°	
H107. Angle of departure—from the tire rolling radius to lowest point on rear bumper or guard.	12°	
HC. Ramp breakover angle.*	11°	
H117. Windshield DLO—slant height.	16.8	
H121. Backlight DLO*—Max., slant height.	117.6	
H122. Windshield slope angle to vertical line on car axis.	47°	
H124. Backlight slope angle to vertical line on car axis.	51°	
H128. Ground to bottom of front bumper guard.	17.5	
H129. Ground to bottom of rear bumper guard.	12.7	
HD. Min. road clearance (location and dimension).	6.3" at Frame Side Member	6.2" at Frame Side Member
HE. Min. road clearance at rear axle.	8.4	8.2

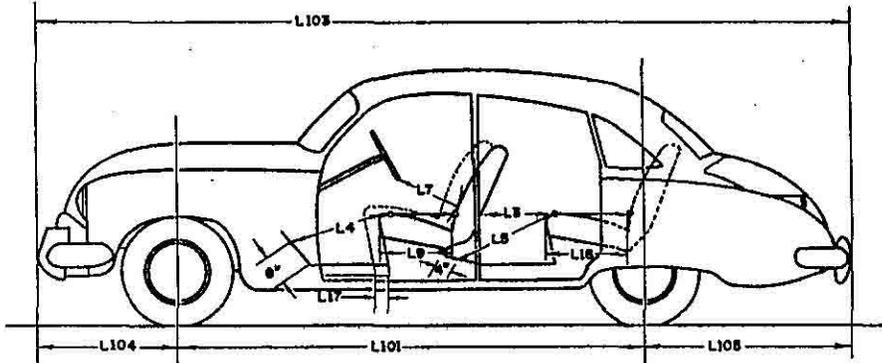
\*See Notes, page 19.

# AMA Consolidated Specification Questionnaire

MAKE OF CAR DESOTO MODEL YEAR 1955

MODEL S-22 S-21

## BODY—LENGTH DIMENSIONS



	L3. Rear compartment back of front seat back to rear seat back.	34
	L4. Leg room—front—diagonal—ball of foot to top of seat to front seat back—15" line.	44.6
	L5. Leg room—rear—diagonal—from ball of foot to top of rear seat cushion and to seat back.	44.8
Interior	L7. Steering wheel clearance to seat back taken on arc.	14.6
	L9. Front seat depth (front edge to vert. tan. to seat back on 15" line).	18.1
	L16. Depth of rear seat (front edge to seat back).	17.8
	L17. Total adjustment of front seat at floor.	5.0
	L101. Wheel base.	126.0
	L103. Overall length (bumper to bumper inc. guards).	217.9
Exterior	L104. Overhang—front including bumper guards.	36.6
	L105. Overhang—rear including bumper guards.	55.3



# AMA Consolidated Specification Questionnaire

MAKE OF CAR DESOTO MODEL YEAR 1955

MODEL S-22 S-21

## BODY—MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

Doors hinged (front, rear)	Front	Front
	Rear	Front
Type of finish (lacquer, enamel)		Synthetic Enamel
Hood opening (front, side; semi-full, full, half)		Front, Full
Hood counterbalanced (yes, no)		Yes
Hood release control (internal, external)		External
Vent window control method (crank, friction, pivot)		Pivot
Windshield (one piece, two piece; curved, flat)		One Piece, Curved - Double Wrap-Around
Rear window type (one piece, two piece, three piece; curved, flat)		One Piece, Curved
Windshield glass area		1094
Backlight glass area		1091
Total glass area		3398

## BODY—TYPES AND STYLE NAMES

Body type, number of passengers, and style names (use letter code shown below followed by passenger capacity and style name e.g., N-6 Ranchwagon)	G-6	
	Four-Door Sedan	
	J-6	J-6
	Special Coupe (S-22-1)	Sportsman
	L-6	
	Convertible Coupe	
	J-6	
Sportsman (S-22-2)		
P-6		
Station Wagon		

### Body type code

- A—Coupe—2 door flatback
- B—Coupe—2 door notchback
- C—Sedan—2 door flatback
- D—Sedan—2 door notchback
- E—Sedan—4 door flatback (4 windows)
- F—Sedan—4 door flatback (6 windows)
- G—Sedan—4 door notchback (4 windows)
- H—Sedan—4 door notchback (6 windows)
- J—Hardtop—2 door
- K—Hardtop—4 door

- L—Convertible—2 door
- M—Convertible—4 door
- N—Station wagon—2 door
- P—Station wagon—4 door
- Q—Combined passenger and utility—2 door
- R—Combined passenger and utility—4 door
- S—Sedan delivery
- T—Limousine

---



---



---

## INDEX

SUBJECT	PAGE	SUBJECT	PAGE
Battery.....	8	Kingpin.....	18
Belts, drive.....	7	Lamp bulbs.....	11
Body		Linings—clutch, brake.....	12, 16
General Body Information.....	19, 23	Lubrication.....	5, 6, 13, 14, 15
Height dimensions.....	20	Muffler.....	6
Length dimensions.....	21	Overdrive.....	13
Overall dimensions.....	1	Piston pins.....	3
Trunk opening dimensions.....	19	Pistons.....	2
Width dimensions.....	22	Propeller shaft.....	14
Types.....	23	Radiator, radiator hoses.....	7
Brakes		Rear axle.....	1, 15
Parking.....	16	Rims.....	15
Service.....	15, 16	Rings.....	3
Camber.....	18	Shock absorbers	
Camshaft.....	4	Front.....	17
Capacities		Rear.....	18
Cooling system.....	7	Spark plugs.....	9
Fuel tank.....	6	Springs	
Lubricants		Front.....	17
Crankcase.....	6	Rear.....	18
Overdrive.....	13	Valve.....	5
Transmissions.....	13, 14	Stabilizer	
Rear axle.....	15	Front.....	17
Carburetor.....	6	Rear.....	18
Caster.....	18	Valve.....	5
Choke, automatic.....	6	Starting motor.....	8
Circuit breakers.....	11	Steering.....	1, 17, 18
Clutch (pedal operated).....	12	Suppression.....	9
Coil, ignition.....	9	Suspension:	
Connecting rods.....	3	Front.....	16, 17
Cooling system.....	7	Rear.....	18
Crankshaft.....	3, 4	Switches.....	10
Cylinders, cylinder head.....	2	Tailpipe.....	6
Distributor.....	9	Timing, engine.....	4, 5, 9
Electrical System.....	8, 9, 10, 11	Tires.....	1, 15
Engine		Toe-in.....	18
Bore and stroke, displacement.....	1, 2	Torque converter.....	14
Compression ratio.....	1, 2	Torque, maximum.....	1, 2
Firing order, cylinder numbering.....	2, 9	Transmission	
General information.....	1, 2	Automatic.....	13, 14
Lubrication.....	5, 6	Conventional.....	12, 13
Type.....	1, 2	Conventional with overdrive.....	13
Exhaust system.....	6	Ratios.....	12
Fan.....	7	Types.....	1, 12, 13
Frame.....	16	Tread.....	1, 22
Fuel.....	6	Turning diameter.....	1, 17
Fuel pump.....	6	Universal joints.....	14
Fuel system.....	6	Valves, intake and exhaust.....	4, 5
Fuses.....	11	Voltage regulator.....	8
Generator.....	8	Water pump.....	7
Horns.....	10	Weight, shipping.....	1
Horsepower		Wheel alignment.....	18
Maximum brake.....	1, 2	Wheelbase.....	1, 21
Taxable.....	2	Wheels.....	15
Ignition system.....	9	Wheel spindle.....	18
Instruments.....	10	Windshield wiper.....	10