

FROM: DE SOTO NEWS BUREAU
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1957 DE SOTO SPECIFICATIONS

BODY STYLES

Fireflite - 4-Dr. Sedan, Sportsman Coupe (Hard Top), Sportsman Sedan (Hard Top), Convertible Coupe, Explorer Station Wagon (3 seat), Shopper Station Wagon (2 seat).

Firedome - 4-Dr. Sedan, Sportsman Coupe (Hard Top), Sportsman Sedan (Hard Top), Convertible Coupe.

Firesweep - 4-Dr. Sedan, Sportsman Coupe (Hard Top), Sportsman Sedan (Hard Top), Explorer Station Wagon (3 seat), Shopper Station Wagon (2 seat).

ENGINES

Fireflite - Model S26 - 90° V-8 - valves inclined lateral overhead; intake valve dia. - 1.94"; exhaust valve dia. - 1.75"; bore and stroke 3.78" x 3.80"; compression ratio - 9.25-1; displacement 341 cu. in.; 4 bbl. carburetor; brake horsepower 295 at 4600 r.p.m.; max. torque 375 ft. lbs. at 2800 r.p.m. taxable H.P. - 45.7.

Firedome - Model S25 - Same as above except 2 bbl. carburetor and max. torque 350 ft. lbs. at 2400 r.p.m., with brake horsepower 270 at 4600 r.p.m.

Firesweep - Model S27 - 90° V-8 - valves inclined, lateral overhead; intake valve dia. - 1.84"; exhaust valve dia. - 1.47"; bore and stroke 3.69" x 3.80"; compression ratio 8.5-1; displacement 325 cu. in.; 2 bbl. carburetor; brake horsepower 245 at 4400 r.p.m.; max. torque 320 ft. lbs. at 2400 r.p.m., taxable H.P. - 42.2; with optional 4 bbl. carburetor; brake horsepower 260 at 4400 r.p.m.; max. torque 335 ft. lbs. at 2400 r.p.m.

ENGINEERING FEATURES

Engine- Cast iron cyl. block; 3 mounting points; Hemispherical combustion chamber on Fireflite and Firedome, Polyspherical on Firesweep. Laterally inclined valves. Cast iron cyl. heads. Aluminum alloy pistons with steel belt insert for thermal control; modified slipper type design with elliptical turned skirts, tin plated finish; 3 iron piston rings, compression rings tin plated to increase life; high manganese steel piston pins; high manganese forging steel conn. rods with Babbitt on steel high precision bearings; drop forged steel crankshaft shot peened for additional strength, with dynamic torsional vibration damper; Silicon-Chromium steel valves.

FUEL AND LUBRICATION SYSTEM

Down draft carburetor (dual on Firedome & Firesweep, 4bbl. on Fireflite); Integral automatic choke; Automatically controlled secondary draft system on Fireflite. Automatic intake manifold heat control, mechanical fuel pump, full pressure lubrication to all moving parts; Shunt type replaceable cartridge oil filter, cartridge type air cleaner; Fuel filters in gas tank and additional ceramic filter at carburetor on all models; Gas tank capacity 23 gals. on Firedome and Fireflite; 20 gals. on Firesweep; 22 gals. on Station Wagons. Crankcase capacity 5 qts.

COOLING SYSTEM

Thermostatic by pass. temp. control; 14 psi Rad. cap; 6 blade fan on Fireflite and Firedome, 4 blade fan on Firesweep. Full length water jacket cooling - Water capacity 20 qts. (with water heater 21 qts.); Ball bearing in water pump drive shaft.

ELECTRICAL SYSTEM

Twelve volt electrical system, 30 amp. generator; 17 plate, 12 volt battery, 60 amp. hour capacity. Spark plugs - 14 MM extended reach electrodes.

DISTRIBUTOR

Single breaker type; mechanical and vacuum-controlled automatic advance.

CHASSIS

Heavy, box-section side rails. Five heavy cross members - front cross member of the double construction type. New Torsion-Aire ride combining heavy torsion bar front springs and super soft cushion low pressure tires and rubber-isolated front suspension - torsion bar type stabilizer and safety sphere ball joints. Tapered leaf wide-spaced paralld-mounted, semi-elliptic rear springs, (5 1/2 leaves on Fireflite and Firedome - 4 1/2 on the Firesweep). New Oriflite front shock absorbers and new Oriflow sea-leg mounted rear shock absorbers for maximum ride control.

STEERING

Symmetrical idler arm type with equal length tie rods. Mechanical-worm and three-tooth roller bearing mounted, 5 1/2 turns stop-to-stop. Power steering full-time assist, rack and sector with recirculating ball nut, 3 1/2 turns stop-to-stop.

Over-all Steering Ratio:

Firesweep - 26.8:1) Manual Steering
Firedome & Fireflite - 29.9:1)	
All models - Power Steering - 19.8:1	

Turning Circle

Wall to Wall
Curb to Curb

Firesweep

46' - 2"
43' - 9"

Fireflite
Firedome

47' - 11"
45' - 3"

BRAKES

Center plane type for maximum effectiveness and long trouble-free life. 12" x 2 1/2" on Firedome and Fireflite; 11" x 2 1/2" on Firesweep. 251 square inches of lining area on Firedome and Fireflite; 230 square inches on Firesweep. Front brakes equipped with two actuating cylinders. Parking brake on drive shaft; easy-action, self-energizing, internal expanding type on Powerflite or Torqueflite - equipped models; external contracting type on manual transmission on Firedome and Firesweep only.

TORQUEFLITE TRANSMISSIONS

New Torqueflite 3-speed fully automatic transmission, hydraulically actuated, combines torque converter with planetary gears; ratios starting 2.45; drive-range in (low) 2.45; (second) 1.45; (direct) 1.0; (reverse) 2.20. Controlled by 5 manually operated push-buttons. Powerflite 2-speed fully automatic transmission, hydraulically actuated, combines torque converter with planetary gears; ratios starting, drive range (low) 1.72; (direct) 1.00; (reverse) 2.39. Controlled by manually-operated push-buttons (4). Manually-operated 3-speed transmission, synchro-silent all helical gears; ratios: (first) 2.31; (second) 1.55; (third) 1.00; (reverse) 2.96; single plate, heavy duty, dry-ventilated drive clutch. Torqueflite standard on all Fireflite models; optional on Firedome and Firesweep. Manually-operated 3-speed standard equipment on Firedome and Firesweep. Powerflite optional on Firesweep only.

DRIVE AND REAR AXLE

Hotchkiss type through wide-set, parallel-mounted rear springs. Silent-hypoid semi-floating axle with new larger diameter axle shafts. Ratios: Manual transmission (Firesweep & Firedome) 3.91; Powerflite Transmission (Firesweep only) 3.54 (Station Wagon 3.73); Torqueflite transmission, Fireflite and Firedome 3.36; Firesweep 3.54. (Optional ratios available).

WHEELS AND TIRES

Safety rim-wheels - 14 inches in diameter and 6 inch rim on Firedome & Fireflite. Tires are the new super-soft-cushion, extra-low pressure (22 psi) 8.50 x 14. Firesweep 5 1/2 inch rim 8.00 x 14 standard. New tread pattern for greater safety and superior handling and improved ride characteristics. New stainless steel wheel covers standard on Fireflite; optional on Firedome and Firesweep.

WHEEL BASE

Fireflite and Firedome 126 inches all body styles; Firesweep 122 inches all body styles.

OVERALL LENGTH, WIDTH AND HEIGHT

Length: Firedome and Fireflite models; 218.0 (except Station Wagon); Station Wagon 219.5 inches. Firesweep models; 215.8 inches (except Station Wagon); Station Wagon 217.3 inches.

Width: All models - 78.2 inches.

Loaded Height: Firedome and Fireflite models; 4-Dr. Sedan - 57.0 inches; Sportsman Coupe 55.0 inches; Sportsman Sedan 55.0 inches; Convertible 55.5 inches; Station Wagons 57.6 inches. Firesweep models; 4-Dr. Sedan 56.7 inches; Sportsman Coupe 54.7 inches; Sportsman Sedan 54.7 inches; Station Wagons 57.2 inches.

TREAD

Fireflite and Firedome, front 61.0, rear 59.7; Firesweep, 60.9 front, 59.7 rear.