



Marvels in Automotive Design

1941 Plymouth

Special Deluxe

The Plymouth Special Deluxe was full-sized and produced by American manufacturer Plymouth, a division of the Chrysler Corporation, during the 1933-42 and 1946-50 model years.

Numerous styling changes occurred for the 1941 Plymouth, including a new grille under a one-piece alligator hood, hinged at the rear. The grille was vertically divided into two panels with horizontal bars, with a chrome surround. Front and rear fenders gained three pressed ribs on their trailing edges. The battery moved from under the seat into the engine compartment. Front parking lights were raised above the headlight and were designed to be visible from the side.

The trunk now had spring-loaded hinges and a third brake light was mounted high on the trunk lid, along with the license plate. Predating Federal law by 46 years, Plymouth pioneered the center-mounted third brake light in its own housing on the deck lid. It wasn't until 1986 that all new cars were required by federal law to have a third brake light.

This Special Deluxe model is fitted with "winged" bumper ends and a central grille guard. A rear guard could be fitted that swiveled downwards if needed to slide items in and out of the trunk easier. Running boards could be replaced with a chrome strip. Rear fender skirts were increasingly common. The Fulton Sun Shield Exterior Sun Visor is an after-market add-on, usually installed at the car dealership.

1941 would mark the last year for the 201-cubic-inch six-cylinder engine. Horsepower had increased slightly, up three from the previous year to 87, with 92 possible with the optional high-compression aluminum cylinder head.

Special Deluxe came in two- or four-door sedans, business coupes, auxiliary seat coupes, convertible coupes with full rear seats (but the passengers had better have been friendly!), station wagons, two long-wheelbase sedans, and in seven-passenger and limousine form. The base cost for this coupe was \$765 at a time when the average price of a car was \$850. Average annual house income in 1941 was \$1,750 and gasoline was \$.19 per gallon.

"The One for '41" – Plymouth Marketing Tag