

2005 HYUNDAI ACCENT 5 GL



A new model joins the Accent lineup this year—the Accent 5, a four-door GL with a hatchback instead of a traditional trunk. This front-wheel drive subcompact is powered by a 4-cylinder, 1.6-litre engine that comes with either manual or automatic transmission.

Interior and trunk

Because the car is low to the ground, tall people will find it somewhat difficult to get into. Once seated, they will find the front seats quite comfortable, especially the driver's seat with its two adjustment wheels that make it easy to find just the right driving position.

Getting out of the rear seat is harder than getting into it—foot room is limited and the doors open on a tight angle. Since headroom is limited, it seats two adults comfortably only if they are of no more than medium height. The rear seat splits 60/40.



The trunk offers sufficient storage space, with a wide-opening hatchback that makes access easier.

Convenience and safety



The interior is well finished in quality materials. Soundproofing is sufficient, except when the engine is accelerating. There is plenty of storage space, though the beverage holders up front are awkwardly situated. Slightly larger containers hamper access to the AC/heating and CD controls, forcing you to use the beverage holder behind the center console.

Controls and instruments are conveniently located and lit at night where need be. However, shorter drivers may find the steering wheel hides the radio and AC/heating controls. The air conditioning works fine to cool the interior, but the heating system is a little slow.

Safety-wise, the Accent is equipped with two airbags and two locking head restraints up front. The head restraints, however, are not high enough for taller people. There are no

real head restraints in the rear, nor is there an antilock braking system, even as an option. Headlight brightness is barely adequate and the exterior mirrors should be bigger. Visibility is good, but for many people—especially if they are of medium height or taller—the inside mirror creates a big blind spot diagonally to the right.



Engine and transmission

The 4-cylinder, 1.6-litre engine puts out 104 horses and 106 pound-feet of torque, which makes for straightforward acceleration. However, over 80 km/h, this engine is a little sluggish. The torque is high enough so that the driver doesn't have to gear down for no reason. The engine runs smoothly, but is noisy during acceleration.

The manual five-speed transmission handles effortlessly and is well geared. Lever stroke is a little long, but the clutch is nice and progressive.

On the road

With just the right combination of firmness and compliance, the Accent's suspension offers a comfortable ride in all types of circumstances and on all types of roads. The car handles curves well as long as you don't push it too hard, in which case its limitations quickly become apparent. Its road comportsment gives the impression of true ruggedness.

The nicely calibrated power steering combines precision, stability, and speed and gives the driver some sense of the road. The turning radius is tight and the brakes are extremely efficient in every respect.

Following an inspection of the Accent at a CAA-Quebec Technical Inspection Centre, we concluded it was well built and quite sturdy. Rustproofing is adequate except in the middle underneath, where a lack was noted.

Conclusion

The Accent is unpretentious and manoeuvres very well in all tasks it performs. It is notable for the comfort of its front seats and suspension. With this four-door hatchback model, the line is even more versatile.

PROS: Comfortable front seating, good quality construction, ride, handling, easy steering, versatility of a hatchback

CONS: Noisy during acceleration, inside mirror creates a big blind spot, inconvenient beverage holders, slow heating system, small exterior mirrors, lack of real head restraints in the rear

2005 HYUNDAI ACCENT

Engine: 16-valve, 1.6-litre 4-cylinder
Horsepower: 104 hp @ 5800 RPM
Torque: 106 lb-ft @ 3000 RPM
Transmission: 5-speed manual; 4-speed automatic
Suspension: fully independent
Brakes: disc/drum
Length: 425.7 cm; three-door: 422.2 cm
Width: 167.5 cm
Height: 139.5 cm
Wheelbase: 244 cm
Weight: 992 to 1,024 kg
Tires: P175/70R13; P185/60R14
Towing capacity: Not recommended
Airbags: Standard front

Fuel consumption with manual transmission

- Transport Canada rating: city: 8.1 L/100 km (35 mi./gal.); highway: 6.5 L/100 km (43 mi./gal.)
- Test drive: 7.6 L/100 km (37 mi./gal.) Temperature: 2⁰C to 11⁰C

Fuel tank capacity: 45 litres

Acceleration:

0–100 km/h: 11.3 seconds 60–100 km/h: 7.3 seconds

Competition: Chevrolet Aveo, Kia Rio, Pontiac Wave, Suzuki Aerio, Toyota Echo

Warranty:

- Full basic coverage: 5 years/100,000 km
- Powertrain: 5 years/100,000 km
- Surface corrosion: 3 years/60,000 km
- Perforation damage: 5 years/unlimited km
- Emissions control system: 5 years/100,000 km (full coverage); 8 years/130,000 km (catalytic converter, electronic control module, and onboard diagnostic system)

Factory replacement parts:

Rear bumper: \$444
Front brake disc: \$80
Brake pads: \$80
Muffler: \$258 (with rear tailpipe)
Front fender: \$198

Average insurance premium (Quebec City, replacement cost endorsement, claim-free insurance record, male or female driver 30 to 40 years of age): \$836 to \$1,162

Price according to trim line:

GS: \$12,995

GSi: \$14,720

GL 4-door: \$13,995

GL 5-door: \$14,425

Main options:

Automatic transmission: \$800

Air conditioning: \$1,250

Convenience package: \$1,300 (GL); \$1,525 (GS and GSi)

Price as tested: \$15,545

Freight and preparation: \$1,095

Dealerships: Quebec: 56 Canada: 144

© April 2005. All rights reserved, CAA-Quebec