

GMH News Release

CORPORATE RELATIONS, GENERAL MOTORS-HOLDEN'S LIMITED
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EXPANDED GEMINI RANGE WITH R.T.S.

NO PRICE RISE

Release of the expanded TD Gemini range with Radial Tuned Suspension, marks a further significant shift toward lighter cars in GMH's passenger vehicle line-up.

The 'TD' range has been diversified to give GMH seven individual entrants in the small car market.

Introduction of two luxury SLE models and completely new station wagon and panel van add depth and breadth to the range.

Incorporation of Radial Tuned Suspension - now included in all GMH passenger vehicles - is the single most significant engineering change in 'TD'.

Individual models also benefit from other important developments, including in particular the five speed manual transmission, standard on SLE models.

PRICES UNCHANGED

TD's engineering improvements are complemented by distinctive exterior styling changes, much improved interior comfort, appointments and roominess.

Prices of the base Gemini, and Gemini SL sedan and SL coupe are unchanged.

Prices of the four new models have been pegged back hard to ensure that they are fully competitive in the crowded light car market.

Commenting on TD range, GMH Managing Director "Chuck" Chapman said:

"Diversification of the Gemini range was a logical follow-on from the rationalisation of the HZ and UC line-ups.

"The combined effect has been a dramatic restructuring of our passenger car offerings in less than six months.

"We now have thirteen passenger models in the mid size and small car segments, compared with seven regular Holden and Statesman models.

"This restructuring has been accompanied by very significant engineering improvements, and upgrading of standard specifications - placing GMH in its strongest competitive position for many years.

"Introduction of Radial Tuned Suspension on Gemini completes a program started only seventeen months ago. All of our cars, from Gemini to Caprice and light commercials, are now engineered for RTS.

"The company's product line-up is very much in tune with overall trends in the Australian passenger market - in terms of mix, specifications and price - and is tangible evidence of our determination to tackle competition on all fronts."

HIGHLIGHTS

The highlights of the new Gemini series are the SLE sedan and coupe and the station wagon and panel van.

All four models have been designed to compete as new entrants in areas of the market in which GMH has not previously been represented.

The SLE models offer a new level of luxury in the small car market. Features such as cast alloy wheels, five speed transmission, stereo tape player, cut pile carpet, velour seats and woodgrain trim, give small car buyers the opportunity to enjoy a very high level of luxury.

The Gemini wagon is especially designed to appeal to price sensitive young families. It offers the convenience of a wagon plus the child-proof safety of two-door configuration.

The wide, swing-up counterbalanced rear door provides excellent access to the load space. Opening and closing are 'one hand' operations. Load capacity is 1.6 cubic metres, which is one of the largest in its class.

The wagon has had thousands of kilometres of testing, both at GMH's Lang Lang Proving Ground and in the rugged Australian outback.

The Gemini van has been designed to meet the requirements of the fastest growing section of the light commercial market. Offering all the ease of access of the station wagon, the van has a pay load rating of 450 kg. It will also appeal to the van-set who don't want or need to go up to the full size Sandman Van.

PRICING

Prices of the base Gemini and Gemini SL sedan and SL coupe are unchanged:

	TC Price \$	TD Price \$	
GEMINI SEDAN	4616	4616	NO CHANGE
GEMINI SL SEDAN	4905	4905	NO CHANGE
GEMINI SL COUPE	5149	5149	NO CHANGE

Prices of the four new models have been pegged back hard to ensure that they are fully competitive in the crowded light car market:

	TD Price \$
GEMINI SLE SEDAN	5956
GEMINI SLE COUPE	6060
GEMINI STATION WAGON	5259
GEMINI PANEL VAN	4565

GEMINI SLE SEDAN AND COUPE

The Gemini SLE introduces a new level of luxury to the small car market.

With a fully equipped interior, distinctive exterior styling, lively performance, economy and impeccable RTS road manners, the SLE is a significant new force in this market segment.

The SLE, in sedan and coupe body styles, gives economy and price conscious small car buyers the opportunity to enjoy a high level of luxury.

The new model brings new standard features, such as cast alloy wheels, five speed transmission, velour seat covering, stereo tape player, cut pile carpet and woodgrain trim to the Gemini range for the first time. Most of these items are not available in competitive models.

The SLE shares the 1600 cc OHC engine with the other models in the expanded TD range but has the new five speed manual transmission with overdrive as standard. The Gemini T-bar Trimatic automatic transmission is optional.

The five speed manual transmission has an overdrive ratio of .85:1 which provides quieter running at cruising speeds.

EXTERIOR

New Gemini front styling, including high intensity rectangular headlamps and new grille, is accentuated on the SLE by a stainless steel moulding surround. Profile of the SLE is highlighted by stainless steel mouldings on the wheel openings, rocker panel and window pillars.

Perhaps the most striking features of the SLE are the GMH-designed cast alloy wheels.

Dual sports style door mounted exterior mirrors in the body colour complete the luxury exterior styling.

INTERIOR

Refinement, comfort, convenience and attention to detail best describe the styling and layout of the SLE interior.

Colour-keyed dash, console, seating, door trims and carpeting result in a luxurious but subdued finish.

Woodgrain inserts have been introduced on the padded dash and to the full height vinyl door trims.

The seating, revised across the range for increased comfort and room, is covered in soft, cut pile velour. The full

width carpet front and rear is thick, cut pile, similar to that used in the Statesman Caprice.

There is an exclusive sporty, four-spoke steering wheel, including dual horn buttons. Another exclusive feature is the prismatic day/night mirror.

A tinted, banded laminated windshield is standard.

The SLE's sound system consists of a high output push-button AM radio and integrated stereo tape player, situated in the dashboard, above the centre console, in easy reach of both driver and front seat passenger.

A rear speaker mounted in the centre of the rear parcel shelf supplies radio sound. Separate angled stereo speakers on the parcel shelf provide full and balanced sound from the tape deck.

These exclusive SLE features complement those standard on the SL, such as:

- full centre console with two storage trays
- reclining front bucket seats
- front and rear armrests
- passenger assist handles
- lockable glovebox
- clock
- trip odometer
- cigar lighter
- rear passenger ashtrays
- left hand controls stalk
- hazard flasher
- three speed power boosted heater/demister
- adjustable fresh air vents
- heated rear window

This combination makes Gemini SLE one of the most fully equipped in its class.

SL SEDAN AND COUPE

The Gemini, first launched in March 1975, was an instant sales success in the price sensitive small car market. The further comfort, performance and convenience features included in the TD Gemini make it an even stronger contender in this segment.

Exterior styling features a new grille, powerful rectangular hi-intensity tungsten filament headlamps, distinctive new wheel trims and side protection moulding strips.

The TD Gemini marks the final stage in the introduction of Radial Tuned Suspension to the GMH product range. The resultant upgrading of ride and handling is as dramatic as was achieved with the HZ and UC series.

The TD RTS is a complete suspension and steering system, designed to make the most of the Gemini's steel belted radial tyres.

RTS provides a high level of comfort through a stiffer and flatter ride, precise handling on all road surfaces under all road conditions, constant straight ahead stability and ensures good steering response and on-centre feel.

The front and rear springs have been re-developed as a progressive rate design with increased length for sedan and coupe under kerb load, individual rates have been established for sedan, coupe and station wagon.

The result is improved comfort under all driving and load conditions while providing excellent ride performance from light loading through to the highest load. Bump resistance has been increased as has dynamic ground clearance.

The shock absorber calibration has been altered and while the front shock absorbers are identical across the range, the rear shock absorbers have been altered to suit the load characteristics of the particular vehicle. This results in a flatter ride with more positive road holding and decreased shock absorber fade.

Front and rear stabiliser bars are now standard on all models. The rear bar is of the decoupled type, similar to those used on the other GMH models. They minimise body roll and contribute to more positive handling and improved steering response. Noise transmission to the passenger compartment is minimised by the decoupled design.

The GMH Salisbury rear axle has been adapted to suit the Gemini torque tube rear suspension. This design reduces transmission noise and its greater rigidity increases gear life.

The standard axle ratio is now 3.9:1.

New badging includes "Radial Tuned Suspension" on the rear deck lid, 'Gemini SL' on the rear quarter panel. Rear styling features horizontal tail lamp clusters with the number plate re-located on the sill panel.

Further styling and comfort refinements have been made to the SL interior. The seating has been redesigned, the front full length reclining buckets have been modified to provide a smoother ride, new side wings provide more lateral support. The integral front seat headrests have been reduced in size.

Legroom has been increased in the rear compartment by re-curving the back of the front seat and altering the rear seat cushion to give a deeper seating position.

Relocation of the seat belt retractor on the door pillar of the sedan puts it up out of the way of rear passengers' feet.

Assist handles are provided above all passenger doors.

A new console has been provided between the front seats. It holds compartments for small change and the parking brake lever.

A hazard warning system has been incorporated into the lighting system. This actuates the front and rear flashers, should an emergency arise. The flasher is controlled by a switch on the left of the steering column.

A heated rear window demister is a standard fitting on the SL sedan and coupe.

A new high performance, press button radio has been fitted, it is centrally mounted in a comfort console with the heater demister controls, ashtray and cigar lighter. These controls are softly illuminated at night: power for the sedan and coupe comes from the proven 1600 cc Isuzu engine.

It is of a single overhead crossflow design and produces 61 kw at 5200 rpm with a maximum torque of 127 mm at 3600 rpm.

Standard transmission is the four speed all synchromesh unit with the Trimatic with T-bar shift available as an option.

An optional five speed transmission is also available. This unit has the same ratios on the first four gears but uses .85:1 overdrive top gear. This provides smooth, quieter running at cruising speeds with a fuel economy of about 6%.

Other popular options available on SL Gemini sedan and coupe include laminated, tinted windscreen, air conditioning, quartz halogen driving lights, cast alloy wheels and fashion pack.

GEMINI STATION WAGON

An eye-catching newcomer to the TD model range is the Gemini two-door station wagon.

The wagon has had thousands of kilometres of local testing, both at the Lang Lang Proving Ground and in the rugged Australian outback.

The wagon will have particular appeal as a second car for the young family.

The wide, swing up counterbalanced rear door provides excellent access to the load space. Opening and closing are 'one hand' operations.

The door is supported in the open position by a gas-filled strut which also acts as a damper when opening and closing the door.

The rear compartment is fully carpeted and the spare wheel which sits upright on the right side has a colour keyed vinyl cover.

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A cargo barrier for the occupants' protection is formed by the back of the rear seat in the upright position and by a steel plate fitted under the cushion of the rear seat, when converted to a wagon.

The seat back locks into this plate on four pins to make a rigid barrier. The rear seat provides comfortable seating and excellent headroom. Two lap sash and a centre lap seat belt are fitted. Rear passenger windows are side opening, hinged at the front.

Load capacity is 1.6 cubic metres, which is one of the largest in the class.

Front seats are fully reclining buckets, foam filled as used in the SL sedan and coupe.

Instruments include speedo with tripmeter, petrol and water temperature gauge, warning lights for parking brake/brake pressure, alternator, oil pressure and high beam.

The station wagon has powerful square 60/70 watt headlamps with tungsten filaments.

The wagon is powered by the proven 1600 Isuzu engine, which features an overhead cam alloy head for top performance and fuel economy.

A four speed all synchro manual transmission is standard and the Trimatic and five speed (overdrive) gearbox are available as options.

The wagon uses the new GMH Salisbury axle which gives longer life and quieter operation.

Options include tinted laminated windscreen, air conditioner, radio/cassette player, cast alloy wheels, fashion pack and quartz halogen driving lights.

GEMINI VAN

Designed for the fast growing section of the light commercial market, the Gemini TD van will be a popular entrant in the field.

Combining the rugged construction of the Gemini station wagon with a big 1.6 cubic metre load space, the van has plenty to offer the light commercial operator. Pay load is 450 kg.

A ribbed steel loading deck features a cargo barrier to protect front seat passengers in an emergency.

Cargo floor dimensions are:

Length	1603 mm
Width between wheelhouses	1028 mm
Maximum width	1259 mm
Maximum height of loading area	813 mm

The wide opening rear door swings up to allow easy access to the load space.

The rear door is counterbalanced and supported by a gas filled strut. Only light pressure is needed to raise and lower the door and the hinge design hold the door well

clear of loading operations - an important feature for commercial operators.

The large rear window provides excellent rear vision and left and right external rear vision mirrors are fitted as standard.

The van shares the same mechanical specifications and option list as the station wagon.

GEMINI SEDAN

The Gemini sedan is a practical alternative in the TD range for the price conscious small car buyer and fleet operator.

Standard equipment includes 1600 OHC engine, four speed floor shift, reclining bucket seats, steel belted radials and front disc brakes.

The base model sedan is the lowest priced sedan of the range, but is equipped with many of the features of the popular SL.

The sedan shares the Radial Tuned Suspension system with the other models in the range to provide an exceptional degree of ride, handling and comfort for its class.

With RTS, the Gemini sedan is precise and predictable under all conditions and with all loads.

Ride is more comfortable, smoother and flatter than on the preceeding model series.

The comprehensive Gemini option list applies to the sedan, enabling each buyer to fit it out to his individual specification.