

SVO Media Recognition

The press has enthusiastically responded to the excitement of the Mustang SVO, for both its motorsport spawning and development, and its unique array of product features. In the words of Autoweek (1/3/83)..... Ford's "Velvet Hammers".

Automotive News

January 10, 1983

SVO Mustang

Performance pony car due next fall

Ford Motor's Special Vehicle Operations will offer this limited-production (about 8,000 copies), high-performance SVO Mustang model next fall. The SVO Mustang will be powered by Ford's 2.3-liter turbocharged and fuel-injected four-cylinder engine, tweaked even further with the addition of an intercooler and aluminum pistons. Note unique wheels and body work, including twin-tiered rear spoiler. Target price is said to be about \$16,000.

AutoWeek

January 3, 1993

First look at the SVO Mustang

Stalking a very limited market, Ford's Special Vehicles Operation has created a state-of-the-art performance vehicle for the absolutely no-compromises performance buyer. Marked by nearly race-car chassis and engine technologies, the body of the new SVO Mustang that goes on sale this fall receives only subtle changes in styling and sheet metal. According to Glen Lyall, SVO's engineering manager, this new car brings to the U.S. market the best of European handling, as well it should. Fitted with new Koni gas-filled adjustable shocks, chassis design alone is the result of two years study. Competition tested at The Longest Day of Nelson Ledges this past June, Koni's new shocks, specially developed for this car, are adjustable with the turn of thumb screws inside the engine and trunk compartments,

Powertrain selection was critical to the balance and handling of the new street racer. Some thought was given to the 5-liter V-8, but the nod finally went to the company's revised 2.3 liter turbo four.

Lyll explained: "It's a GT car. The handling and weight balance had to be better. With a V-8 up there, the car would have been nose heavy - a drag racer. This way, handling is greatly improved, fuel economy is somewhat better and the power is nearly equal."

Power nearly equal?

What hath SVO wrought?

Simply a turbocharged and inter cooled Mustang street racer, tuned a little tighter than plans currently exist for Ford's new T-Bird Turbo Coupe and Mustang Turbo. The same Garrett AiResearch T03 is used, along with the same multiple-port fuel injection, and the same 10psi boost is possible with the unchanged 8:1 compression ratio. The new ingredients are a Blackstone air-to-air intercooler and TRW forged aluminum pistons.

The transmission, a Borg-Warner T-5 five-speed, strongly resembles the performance characteristics and feel of BMW's new Getrag five-speed. Final drive is 3.45:1.

All in all, it's a no-nonsense package for the Mulholland Drive runner.

Stylistically, a couple of changes mark the car most obviously from its regular-production, and less mechanically exciting cousin.

The SVO car sits a bit lower. The regular-production Mustang grille is replaced by a smaller aero-type nose. Where an egg crate sits on the others, the roughly 8,000-plus SVO editions will fit a slit.

Alongside the slit are very appealing Plexiglas headlight covers. Another not toward aerodynamics. SVO is yet another part of the Ford family hoping for U.S. government approval of faired-in head lamps.

At the back are twin ducktail spoilers, a nearly carbon copy of Ford of Europe's current rocket sled, the Sierra XR-4. Made of hard rubber, the top spoiler sits above and well inboard of the lower one. There is roughly three inches separation from the rear window, channeling both boundary layer air and outer, more turbulent air back up and off the rear deck.

Inside, the instrument panel bears close resemblance to stock Mustang fare, though one improvement talked about is a 140-MPH speedometer. Seats are the European Escort RS versions, comfortable, cloth covered and very attractive.

In all, it's a package designed for visual subtlety with unobtrusive performance. Four exterior colors are to be offered - silver, pewter, black and red. Interiors will be gray or black cloth, with optional leather.

The price? Targeted around \$16,000 Lyll explained the Philosophy: "The car was conceived to do a job. We put the hardware on it to do that job without regard to cost. We actually no target

price, but only the desire to do the car right. It boils down simply to this. We wanted to do something subtle to show that Detroit can do something without being gaudy."

Car and Driver

September 1991

For Your Information

Ford's Special Vehicles Operations in developing a serious street Mustang specially for the hard-core enthusiast fringe. The SVO car will debut as a special-order option in 1983 and will feature a host of no-nonsense modifications. The front suspension is reworked with 1982 Lincoln Continental forged lower control arms-which add an inch or so of travel, create a negative scrub radius, and widen the track. (All of this should improve steering feel and response.) All four corners will be treated to specially valved Koni shocks, ventilated disc brakes, and extra-wide tires. Power will come from a freshly engineered 2.3-liter turbo with electronic fuel injection. Recaro seats and a tasteful lack of ornamentation will give the SVO Mustang a purposeful European look.

Motor Trend

Los Angeles, Ca.

March, 1993

SVO Mustang spy photos

It seems that Ford's durability test drivers have settled into a rut, using the same roads through the center of Florida every time they take a new car out from Dearborn for evaluation. This, of course, gives guys like Ed Dooley plenty of opportunity to shoot photos and send them to magazines in exchange for big money. Herewithin, then, Dooley's shots of the SVO Mustang with it's bi-plane rear spoiler, off-center hood scoop, deep chin spoiler, and essentially grille-less front end. This "mule" is actually a converted Capri hatchback, representative of final production, but not entirely accurate. The real thing, with turbo four, 5-speed, and 16 in. tires and wheels, will arrive in the fall as an "'84 model.