

# Dodge Colt

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **Dodge Colt** and the similar **Plymouth Champ** and **Plymouth Colt**, were subcompact cars sold by Dodge and Plymouth from 1970 (MY1971) to 1994. They were captive imports from Mitsubishi Motors, initially twins of the rear-wheel drive Galant and Lancer families before shifting to the smaller front-wheel drive Mitsubishi Mirage subcompacts in 1979. With the 1994 introduction of the Dodge/Plymouth Neon, Chrysler felt no need to continue selling captive imports under these badges, although the Eagle Summit (also a Mirage clone) continued to be available until 1996.

## Contents

- 1 First generation
- 2 Second generation
- 3 Third generation
- 4 Fourth generation
- 5 Fifth generation
- 6 Sixth generation
- 7 Seventh generation
- 8 Sports
- 9 Related versions
- 10 References
- 11 External links

## First generation

Introduced in 1970 as model year 71, the first generation Dodge Colt was a federalized first generation Mitsubishi Colt Galant. Available as a two-door pillared coupé, 2-door hardtop, 4-door sedan, and 5-door wagon, the Colt had a 1,597 cc (97.5 cu in) four-cylinder engine. The unibody layout was traditional, front engine

## Dodge Colt



<b>Manufacturer</b>	Mitsubishi Motors
<b>Also called</b>	Plymouth Champ Plymouth Colt Eagle Summit Plymouth Cricket
<b>Model years</b>	1971–1994
<b>Assembly</b>	Kurashiki, Okayama, Japan
<b>Successor</b>	Dodge/Plymouth Neon Eagle Summit (For sedan, U.S. only)
<b>Class</b>	Compact (1971–1979) Subcompact (1979–1994)

## First generation

<b>Also called</b>	Mitsubishi Colt Galant Mitsubishi Galant Plymouth Cricket (CDN)
<b>Production</b>	1971–1973



1973 Dodge Colt HT Coupé

and rear  
wheel  
drive  
with

<b>Body style</b>	2-door coupé 4-door sedan 5-door station wagon
<b>Layout</b>	FR layout
<b>Engine</b>	4G32: 1.6 L I4
<b>Wheelbase</b>	2,420 mm (95 in)

MacPherson struts in front and a live rear axle. Standard transmission was a 4-speed manual, with a 3-speed automatic being an option. The engine initially produced 100 hp, but this dropped to 83 in 1972 when stricter emissions standards took effect. For 1973 a sporty GT hardtop coupé was added, featuring rally stripes, sport wheels and a center console amongst other features.<sup>[1]</sup> The Dodge Colt was originally intended to be Chrysler's answer to the AMC Gremlin, Ford Pinto and Chevrolet Vega<sup>[2]</sup> but because it came from Mitsubishi Motors and was not a true Chrysler product, the first Colts actually competed more directly with Japanese imports, such as the Toyota Corolla and Datsun 510.<sup>[3]</sup>

## Second generation



Lightly modified Dodge Colt wagon with post-1975 larger bumpers

Based on the

### Second generation



<b>Also called</b>	Mitsubishi Galant Chrysler Galant/Valiant Galant (AUS) Plymouth Colt (CDN) Plymouth Cricket (CDN)
<b>Production</b>	1974–1977
<b>Body style</b>	2-door coupé 4-door sedan 5-door station wagon
<b>Layout</b>	FR layout

underpinnings of the first generation model, Galant sedans and coupes received a new, somewhat rounder body in 1973, while wagons continued with the old body and new nose. The new version, with single headlights rather than the doubles of the previous generation, became the 1974 Dodge Colt in the US, available in the same bodystyles as the first one. The base engine also remained the same, but a larger

G52B "Astron" engine became optionally available (standard in the GT coupé). This one developed 96 hp at 5,500 rpm. Ratings varied from 79-83 hp for the smaller one and 89-96 hp for the larger engine in different publications.<sup>[4]</sup>

<b>Engine</b>	<i>4G32</i> : 1.6 L I4 <i>G52B</i> : 2.0 L I4
<b>Wheelbase</b>	2,420 mm (95 in)

A four-speed manual or three-speed automatic remained available, but for 1977 a five-speed became available (standard in the GT and Carousel coupés). The Carousel, introduced in 1975 along with larger bumpers, was more luxurious and carried a blue and white paintjob. For 1977, the "Silent Shaft" version of the smaller engine became available, and was fitted as standard equipment in GT and Carousels. The introduction of the new Dodge Colt "Mileage Maker" meant that there was no second generation four-doors for 1977. The wagon was also available with an "Estate" package, including wood grain applique and adjustable reclining seats.

## Third generation

**1978 Plymouth Colt (Canada)**



Front view



Rear view

The third generation Dodge Colt was effectively made up of two lines: coupés and sedans were of a smaller, Lancer-based series, while the Wagons were based on the new Mitsubishi Galant Sigma. In late 1976, for the 1977 model year, the

### Third generation "Mileage Maker"



<b>Also called</b>	Mitsubishi Lancer Plymouth Colt
<b>Production</b>	1977–1979
<b>Body style</b>	2-door coupé 4-door sedan
<b>Layout</b>	FR layout
<b>Engine</b>	<i>4G32</i> : 1.6 L I4
<b>Wheelbase</b>	2,340 mm (92 in)

smaller A70-series Mitsubishi Lancer became the Dodge Colt, with two-door coupé and four-door sedan bodies. While the wheelbase was only slightly shorter than that of the second generation Colt, overall length was down from 171.1 to 162.6 inches (4,346 to 4,130 mm). The new Colt was also referred to as the Dodge Colt "Mileage Maker" to mark it as different from its larger predecessor. Second generation Coupé and Wagon versions remained for the 1977 model year.<sup>[4]</sup>

The engine was the familiar **4G32** iteration of Mitsubishi's Saturn engine family, of 1,597 cc and still with 83 hp at 5,500 rpm. A "Silent Shaft" (balance shaft) version of this engine along with a five-speed manual transmission (instead of the standard four speeds) were part of a "Freeway Cruise" package, which also included a maroon/white paintjob. For '78 power dropped to 77 hp with the introduction of the "MCA-Jet" lean burn system.<sup>[5]</sup>

For 1978 a new, larger Dodge Colt Wagon arrived, a rebadged Mitsubishi Galant Sigma. It came with the same 1.6-litre MCA-Jet four as the smaller sedans and coupés, but a 2.6-litre, 105 hp Astron engine was an option. While the last year for the Lancer-based Colts was 1979, the wagon lingered on alongside the front-wheel drive Mirage-based fourth generation until 1981 when it was effectively replaced by the domestic Dodge Aries K wagon.

### Third generation wagon

<b>Also called</b>	Mitsubishi Galant Sigma Chrysler Sigma Mitsubishi Sigma, Colt Sigma
<b>Production</b>	1978–1981
<b>Body style</b>	5-door station wagon
<b>Layout</b>	FR layout
<b>Engine</b>	<i>4G32</i> : 1.6 L I4 <i>4G54</i> : 2.6 L I4
<b>Wheelbase</b>	2,515 mm (99 in)
<b>Related</b>	Mitsubishi Galant Lambda Dodge Challenger

## Fourth generation

From 1979, the Dodge Colt and Plymouth Champ nameplates were applied to the front wheel drive Mitsubishi Mirage imports into North America. The Colt and Champ (Plymouth Colt after 1982<sup>[6]</sup>) was a 3-door hatchback, and came in Standard or Custom equipment levels. These imports used a 70 hp Mitsubishi Orion 4G33 1.4-litre overhead-cam, four cylinder engine at first, but it was joined by the 1.6-litre 4G32 Saturn engine (80 hp) at the end of the year.<sup>[5]</sup> There were three manual transmissions and one automatic transmission available. There was a KM110 4-speed manual transmission, or a novel "Twin Stick" version of the transmission that used a 2-speed transfer case to give 8 forward and 2 reverse speeds. There was also the option of a KM119 5-speed manual transmission or a TorqueFlite 3-speed automatic transmission.

Colt US Sales <sup>[5]</sup>		
Year	3-door	5-door
1979	60,521	—
1980	83,711	—
1981	84,144	—
1982	52,355	22,675
1983	46,479	27,192
1984	44,724	19,657

For 1982 a five-door hatchback joined the lineup. The names of the equipment levels changed to "E" and "DL". At some point claimed power dropped to 64 and 72 hp respectively for the small and large engines. In 1984, which was to be the last year of this model of Colt, the GTS Turbo model arrived. Unique for North America (the turbocharged Colt/Mirages sold elsewhere had a 1.4-litre engine), this used the fuel injected 1.6-litre 4G32BT engine also seen in the next-generation Colt, providing 102 hp and considerable performance. It, too, featured the eight speed Twin Stick transmission.<sup>[3]</sup>

## Fifth generation

In 1984, the fifth generation Dodge/Plymouth Colt appeared (model year 1985). A carbureted 68 hp 1,468 cc four was the base engine, while the upscale Premier four-door sedan and GTS Turbo models received the 4G32BT turbocharged 1.6-litre already seen in the last model year of the previous Colts. A first for FWD Colts was the availability of a three-box sedan body, though this was no longer available after 1986. From 1988 (and lasting until 1991), this car was also marketed as the **Eagle Vista** in Canada.

### Fourth generation



<b>Also called</b>	Mitsubishi Mirage/Colt Mitsubishi Lancer Fiore Plymouth Colt Plymouth Champ
<b>Production</b>	1979–1984
<b>Body style</b>	3-door hatchback 5-door hatchback
<b>Layout</b>	FF layout
<b>Engine</b>	1.4 L 4G12 I4 1.6 L 4G32 I4



Dodge Colt 3-Door (US)

The  
Colt  
Wagon,  
while  
never

available with the turbocharged engine, did receive a more powerful 1,755 cc engine in the four-wheel drive version. Unlike the FWD version, the DL 4x4 was not available with an automatic transmission.<sup>[7]</sup> While the Hatchback Colts were replaced for 1989, the Colt Wagon continued to be available until the 1991 introduction of the Mitsubishi RVR-based Colt Wagon, which also replaced the Colt Vista. This car was also marketed as the Eagle Vista Wagon in Canada.

## Fifth generation

<b>Also called</b>	Mitsubishi Mirage Mitsubishi Colt Mitsubishi Lancer Eagle Vista (CDN) Plymouth Colt
<b>Production</b>	1984–1988
<b>Body style</b>	3-dr hatchback 4-dr sedan
<b>Layout</b>	Front engine, front-wheel drive / four-wheel drive
<b>Engine</b>	<i>4G15</i> : 1.5 L I4 <i>4G32</i> : 1.6 L turbo I4 1.8 L <i>4G37</i> I4 (4x4 Wagon) <sup>[7]</sup>
<b>Transmission</b>	3-speed automatic 4/5-speed manual
<b>Wheelbase</b>	93.7 in (2,380 mm)
<b>Length</b>	Hatch: 157.3 in (3,995 mm) Sedan: 157.3 in (3,995 mm)
<b>Width</b>	63.8 in (1,621 mm)
<b>Height</b>	50.8 in (1,290 mm)

## Sixth generation

In 1989, the **Eagle Summit** joined the array of nameplates describing the Mitsubishi Mirage.

Since the demise of the Dodge Omni/Plymouth Horizon in 1990, the Colt was the only subcompact in the Dodge and Plymouth lineups. The Colt sedan was not sold in the United States for the sixth generation (though it was sold in Canada), as it would be replaced by the Dodge Shadow/Plymouth Sundance liftbacks for 1989 (along with the Canada-only Eagle Vista, a carover model that replaced the Colt sedan), when the Colt underwent a redesign. The Dodge/Plymouth Colt sedans returned for 1993-94 as a variant of the Eagle Summit. The Dodge/Plymouth Colt, Eagle Summit, and Mitsubishi Mirage of this generation used a 1.5 or 1.6-litre inline-four engine.

A model powered by the 1.6-litre 4G61T 135 hp (101 kW) turbocharged four-cylinder was produced for the 1989 model year only. There are a rumored 1500 of these special editions to have been produced. The engine was only offered in the Mirage and the Colt GT Turbo, which were distinguished by their ground effects and spoilers (although these parts were also available for a price as add-ons to other model ranges) and by their extra features not normally found on base model ranges such as power seats, power windows, power locks, and power mirrors, special colored interior and seats, as well as a 150 mph/9000 rpm gauge cluster. The Turbo Colt/Mirage Turbo was one of *Car and Driver* magazine's Ten Best for 1989. A naturally aspirated version of this engine was available for the following years Colt GT, with power down to 113 hp.

Power of the 1.5-litre 4G15 was up to 82 hp (61 kW) thanks to multi-point fuel injection. Top speed was 160 km/h (99 mph).<sup>[8]</sup>

### Sixth generation



<b>Also called</b>	Mitsubishi Mirage/Lancer Plymouth Colt Eagle Summit
<b>Production</b>	1989–1992
<b>Assembly</b>	Kurashiki, Okayama, Japan (Hatchback) Normal, Illinois (Sedans)
<b>Body style</b>	3-door hatchback 4-door sedan
<b>Layout</b>	FF layout
<b>Engine</b>	1.5 L 4G15 I4 1.6 L 4G61 I4 1.6 L 4G61T turbo I4
<b>Transmission</b>	3-speed automatic 4-speed manual 5-speed manual
<b>Wheelbase</b>	93.9 in (2,385 mm)
<b>Length</b>	158.7 in (4,031 mm)
<b>Width</b>	65.5 in (1,664 mm)
<b>Height</b>	52.0 in (1,321 mm)



Sixth generation Plymouth Colt  
3-door

The Colt Wagon was redesigned in 1991, now based on the RVR, and continued in production until the 1996 model year.

## Seventh generation

### Sports

Not unlike the related Mirage, the Colt and other similar vehicles were well utilized in rallying, both in the United States and abroad. The Colt was the most widely utilized of these variants, appearing in events through the 1970s and 1980s. A Colt was run to a third-place finish in the first ever Sno\*Drift rally in 1973, and repeated the feat the following year, as well as a third time in 1982.

### Related versions

The **Plymouth Cricket** nameplate was used (rather than Dodge Colt) on Galants sold in Canada between 1973 and 1975, after Chrysler stopped using the Plymouth Cricket name for a rebadged Hillman Avenger-based model sourced from the United Kingdom (and sold across North America between 1971 and 1973).

The **Plymouth Arrow** was offered from 1976 to 1980 as a rebadged version of the Mitsubishi Lancer Celeste, not to be confused with the rebadged Mitsubishi truck sold as the Plymouth Arrow starting in 1979.

## References

- ↑ James M. Flammang (1994). *Standard Catalog of Imported Cars, 1946-1990*. Iola, WI: Krause Publications, Inc.. p. 192. ISBN 0-87341-158-7.
- ↑ www.allpar.com
- ↑ <sup>*a*</sup> <sup>*b*</sup> Lilienthal, Andy (2009-08-17). "Nostalgic Subcompact: Dodge Colt, Mitsubishi Mirage, and its other Eagle and Plymouth cousins" (<http://www.subcompactculture.com/2009/08/nostalgic-subcompact-dodge-colt.html>) . Subcompact Culture. <http://www.subcompactculture.com/2009/08/nostalgic-subcompact-dodge-colt.html>. Retrieved 2011-05-19.
- ↑ <sup>*a*</sup> <sup>*b*</sup> Flammang, *Standard Catalog of Imported Cars*, p. 193
- ↑ <sup>*a*</sup> <sup>*b*</sup> <sup>*c*</sup> Flammang, *Standard Catalog of Imported Cars*, pp. 194-195
- ↑ Flammang, *Standard Catalog of Imported Cars*, pp. 503-504
- ↑ <sup>*a*</sup> <sup>*b*</sup> Mastrostefano, Raffaele, ed (1990) (in Italian). *Quattroruote: Tutte le Auto del Mondo 1990*. Milano:





Plymouth Colt GL coupe

Editoriale Domus S.p.A. p. 186.  
8. ^ *Tutte le Auto del Mondo 1990*, p. 185

## External links

- Media related to Dodge Colt at Wikimedia Commons
- Media related to Plymouth Colt at Wikimedia Commons
- Colt/Champ/Cricket infos on Allpar (<http://www.allpar.com/model/champ.html>)
- Forum dealing with rwd mitsubishi cars "colts" (<http://classiccolt.forumcircle.com/>)
- Australian Based forum dealing with old mitsubishi cars (<http://sigma-galant.com>)
- Colt/Summit/Mirage US based forum (<http://4g61t.org>)
- Dodge Colt ([http://www.imcdb.org/vehicles\\_make-Dodge\\_model-Colt&sortBy=4.html](http://www.imcdb.org/vehicles_make-Dodge_model-Colt&sortBy=4.html)) at the Internet Movie Cars Database

Retrieved from "[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dodge\\_Colt](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dodge_Colt)"

Categories: Dodge vehicles | Compact cars | Front wheel drive vehicles | Rear wheel drive vehicles | Coupes | Hatchbacks | Sedans | Station wagons | Vehicles introduced in 1970 | 1970s automobiles | 1980s automobiles | 1990s automobiles

## Seventh generation



<b>Also called</b>	Mitsubishi Mirage Plymouth Colt Eagle Summit
<b>Production</b>	1993–1994
<b>Body style</b>	4-door sedan 2-door coupe 3-door van (see Mitsubishi RVR)
<b>Layout</b>	FF layout
<b>Engine</b>	1.5L 92 hp (69 kW) I4 1.8L 113 hp (84 kW) I4
<b>Transmission</b>	3-speed automatic 4-speed automatic 5-speed manual
<b>Wheelbase</b>	Sedan: 98.4 in (2,499 mm) Coupe: 96.1 in (2,441 mm)
<b>Length</b>	Sedan: 174.0 in (4,420 mm) Coupe: 171.1 in (4,346 mm)
<b>Width</b>	Base: 66.1 in (1,679 mm) ES: 66.5 in (1,689 mm)
<b>Height</b>	Sedan: 51.4 in (1,306 mm) Coupe: 51.6 in (1,311 mm)
<b>Related</b>	Mitsubishi Lancer

- This page was last modified on 21 May 2011 at 04:00.
- Text is available under the Creative

Commons Attribution-ShareAlike  
License; additional terms may apply. See  
Terms of Use for details.

Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization.