

# DELOREAN FACTS



## Is John DeLorean still in jail for smuggling cocaine?

No, and he never was. During a FBI sting, John discovered drugs were involved and tried to back out. But the FBI informant (not an agent) threatened the life of John's children. To save their lives he reluctantly agreed to meet with them. He was later acquitted on all charges. As a result of this case, the FBI changed certain policies concerning sting operations. John passed away March 19, 2005 from a stroke at the age of 80.



## Is this the Back to the Future Car?

Not the actual car, but Yes, the DeLorean was used as the time machine in the Back to the Future trilogy. "Let me get this straight Doc . . . you built a time machine . . . out of a DeLorean?" "I figured if you're gonna build a time machine you might as well do it with some style!"



## Where's the Flux Capacitor? / Do you go back in time when you hit 88mph?

That's funny, I haven't been asked that since tomorrow! / No, I usually get a speeding ticket. If given a choice, I'd rather have the Wilson Hover Conversion.



## How do you keep it clean?

Dawn dish soap, a sponge & bucket of warm water. Windex & Stainless Steel Cleaner easily gets off finger prints and other oily dirt smudges. Since the exterior is bare brushed 304 stainless steel you can also use paint thinner, gasoline & turpentine to remove road tar & such. A Scotch Brite Pad (**not** steel wool) with the grain can really shine up the stainless.



## How fast is it?

Maximum speed is for a stock DeLorean is about 135 mph. It has tall gears and was meant for cruising the highways and curvy country roads. For stoplight to stoplight drag'n, one of John DeLorean's other creations like the "original" Pontiac GTO is a much better choice!



## Do you have problems opening your doors when you park close to other cars?

No. You actually have more problems with conventional doors because the DeLorean only needs 14 inches of swing space to fully open the door. They are lifted by a steel torsion rod and assisted with a gas strut.



## How much does a DeLorean cost? \*

Initially in 1981 they were to be only \$12K but production & economical problems caused the price to exceed \$26K. Now a parts car is about \$4K - \$8K. Average/Drivable \$15 - \$30K. Refurbished & Warranted \$33 - \$43K. A prestigious status symbol for \$72K. Or one of the three 24 karat gold plated DeLoreans for around \$225K.



## Where did you find this car?

The local DeLorean club, word of mouth, newspaper ads, Hemmings, E-Bay Motors, etc. There is also an extensive Buy and Sell Listing at [www.dmnews.com](http://www.dmnews.com). How about the obvious . . . [www.delorean.com](http://www.delorean.com). If you're look'n, you'll find them.



## Isn't it difficult to get parts?

No. Almost all parts for a DeLorean from lug nuts to zero mile engines are easily obtainable from various DeLorean vendors. The plant was shut down mid production, just under 9,000 of the projected 30,000 cars were manufactured leaving a huge pile of spare parts. Also, rare parts are being re-produced.



## Weren't DeLoreans made by GM in Canada?

No, ex-GM executive John Z. DeLorean founded the independent DeLorean Motor Company. Roughly 9,000 were produced from 1981-1983.

- The DeLorean assembly plant was in Belfast, North Ireland.
- The body styling was done by the Italian designer Giugiaro of Ital Design.
- The engine is a Peugeot-Renault-Volvo V6
- The undercarriage/suspension and frame were engineered & developed by Lotus.



## Who was John DeLorean?

He was a talented automotive engineer who developed over 200 patents that are used on almost every car today. At Pontiac he developed the GTO, Firebird and other cars that started/fueled the "muscle car" revolution. Soon after becoming Vice-President of GM, he left to create an "ethical" sports car that was practical, stylish, safe, economical, affordable and long lasting requiring little maintenance. He also wanted to warranty the cars for 25 years! Can't do that in Detroit! 😊



## They all look the same, why would you want a DeLorean?

Well, compared to any other identical car today, the DeLorean with less than 9,000 cars made & around 6,000 still on the road it's a little easier not to be like everyone else. Besides that they are: great looking, fun & extremely comfortable to drive, affordable, reliable, the body will never rust and they are relatively easy to work on.



## Aren't they always breaking down leaving owners stranded?

No, like most cars they are very reliable as long as they are driven & properly maintained. 17 years worth of failure rate records and the following listed components all have less than 1% failure rate after 50k miles and less than 5% after 100k miles: Starter, Engine, Ignition Coil, Ignition ECU, Lambda ECU, Windshield wiper system, Shock Absorbers, CV Boots, CV Joints, Brake System, Muffler, Transmissions, HVAC, Fiberglass Underbody, Stainless Steel Panels, etc. Even DeLoreans that have remained outdoors and unused in excess of 10 years seldom have problems when bringing the PRV-6 back to life. Compare this to any other car of the period.

*Sylvia*