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## 1969 DODGE DART GTS



# RARE DESTINATION

**BRETT HOBBS**  
69' Dart GTS



## 1969 Dodge Dart GTS - Brett Hobbs

# RARE DESTINATION

## 1969 DODGE DART GTS

THE RESTYLED DODGE DART LOOKED GREAT IN 1967. THE ONLY PROBLEM FROM A PERFORMANCE POINT OF VIEW IS THE AVAILABLE 273 CU. IN. ENGINE WAS UNDERPOWERED COMPARED TO THE 390 MUSTANG AND 396 CAMAROS AND NOVA'S. CHRYSLER SHOEHORNED A 383 INTO THE BARRACUDA TO KEEP PACE. WITH SOME INPUT FROM MR. NORM, OWNER OF GRAND SPAULDING DODGE, CHRYSLER DECIDED TO PUT A 383 IN THE DART AND THE CALL IT A GTS FOR GT SPORT. IT WAS A TIGHT FIT AND YOU COULD NOT ORDER POWER STEERING. AS WELL THE 383 SUFFERED POWER WISE BECAUSE OF RESTRICTIVE EXHAUST MANIFOLDS. ONLY 457 DART GTS CARS WERE BUILT FOR 1967.





## 1969 Dodge Dart GTS - Brett Hobbs



THE BIG NEWS FOR 1968 WAS THE INTRODUCTION OF THE PERFORMANCE SMALL BLOCK 340. THAT BECAME THE STANDARD ENGINE WITH THE NOW MORE POWERFUL 383 OPTIONAL. THE 340 CARS WERE LIGHTER AND THE 340 WAS UNDERRATED AT 275 H.P. BUT ACTUALLY PUT OUT CLOSER TO 300 H.P. HANDLING WAS BETTER AND POWER STEERING WAS AVAILABLE ON 340 EQUIPPED CARS. BUMBLE BEE STRIPES AROUND THE TRUNK AND HOOD BULGES MADE THE 1968 GTS LOOK MORE LIKE A PERFORMANCE CAR. 8,745 WERE PRODUCED.

THE GTS WAS CHANGED LITTLE FOR 1969. REAR STRIPES SPELLED OUT GT SPORT AND A NEW GRILLE AND TAILLIGHT TREATMENT WERE ADDED. THE 340 CONTINUED AS THE ENTRY ENGINE WITH THE 383 AND A LIMITED NUMBER OF CARS WITH A 440 OPTIONAL. ONLY 640 CARS CAME WITH THE 440 AND THEY WERE ALL AUTOMATICS. PRODUCTION OF THE GTS WENT DOWN IN 1969 AS CHRYSLER CAME OUT WITH THE EASIER TO AFFORD SWINGER 340. A TOTAL OF 6,702 WERE BUILT AND THAT SIGNALLED THE END OF THE GTS.



## 1969 Dodge Dart GTS - Brett Hobbs



THE FEATURE CAR WAS ORIGINALLY BOUGHT IN CALIFORNIA BY A NURSE. IT WENT THROUGH A FEW OWNERS BEFORE ENDING UP IN NEW MEXICO WHERE A RESTORATION WAS DONE. IT CAME TO CANADA IN 2014 AND WENT THROUGH A COUPLE OF OWNERS BEFORE I ACQUIRED IT. IT WAS RESTORED TO ORIGINAL AND THE 340 AND AUTOMATIC ARE NUMBERS MATCHING. IT HAS POWER STEERING, MAG STYLE HUBCAP'S AND A RARE FOR THE TIME AM FM RADIO. I ALWAYS LIKED THE BODY STYLE AND REALLY ENJOY DRIVING THE CAR AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

THERE IS A REGISTRY FOR THESE CARS. IF YOU LOOK UP GTS REGISTRY MY CAR IS NUMBER 39. ALMOST 800 CARS ARE LISTED ALONG WITH VALUABLE INFORMATION ABOUT THESE RARE CARS.