

EXTRA

GMC reveals the Syclone sticker price.

Syclone On Target

GMC Truck has announced that its new all-wheel-drive, turbocharged Syclone pickup will sell for close to the estimated price announced months ago. For \$25,500 you can have acceleration from 0-60 mph in 4.8 seconds



PHOTOGRAPHY: SCOTT KILLEEN

or less, the first ever four-wheel antilock braking system on a pickup and a slew of standard equipment.

This equipment includes: 16-inch aluminum wheels, a tilt steering wheel, tinted glass, special analog gauges, cruise control, air conditioning and power windows and door locks.

Ford And Mazda Are At It Again

Ford and Mazda have a long history of sharing vehicles for sale under different nameplates (such as the Ford Courier and the Mazda Navajo), and now the industry is buzzing about plans for the partners to get together on the planning and production of new compact pickups.

Ford's version is scheduled to hit the streets in 1993 and Mazda's variation probably will arrive shortly thereafter. Most likely, Ford will still call its truck the Ranger, but nothing is concrete yet.

Mazda's truck will use the same cab sheetmetal as Ford's version, but plans call for a different front-end treatment, a different cargo box and some exclusive interior features for the truck.

Are Electric Catalytic Converters Next?

It's very likely that electrically heated catalytic converters will find their way into tomorrow's automobiles and trucks as vehicle manufacturers look for ways to meet the stiffer tailpipe emissions standards of the federal Clean Air Act and the state of California.

Testing has shown that conventional converters don't get up to a fully functional operating temperature for several minutes. Those first few minutes contribute about 80 percent of the pollution on a 15-mile trip. With electric preheating, the figures would obviously drop dramatically.

Manufacturers haven't committed themselves to the heated catalysts yet. However, most have done extensive testing, and while there are no hard figures on the system's effect on performance, the driver must wait up to 20 seconds before

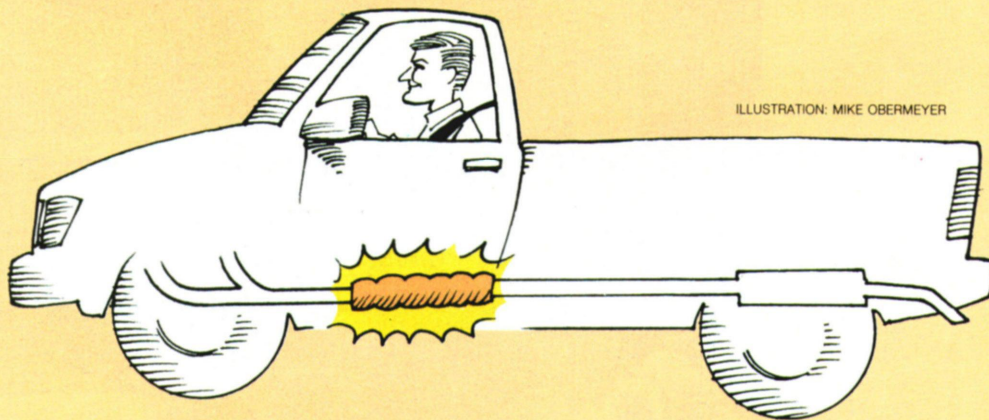


ILLUSTRATION: MIKE OBERMEYER

starting the car (much like a diesel engine requires a glow plug warm-up period).

It has been estimated that the new technology will cost about \$170 more for the additional hardware. However, there may be no other alternative since the new emissions regulations call for a 60-percent reduction in nitrous oxide emissions. According to the Subcommittee on Health and the Environment, the first target date is the '94 model year for light-duty trucks (trucks under 6000 pounds gross vehicle weight) and the '96 model year for full-size trucks (trucks over 6000 pounds gross vehicle weight). Regulations will be fully effective by the '98 model year for light-duty trucks and the '99 model year for full-size trucks. ■