

1988
TOPAZ



The Shape You Want To Be In.

MERCURY



MERCURY. THE SHAPE YOU WANT TO BE IN.



*Topaz LTS 4-door in Silver Clearcoat Metallic with Graphite Clearcoat Metallic lower Tu-Tone.
Some features shown may be optional.
See option list on page 22.*

Design leadership. Nobody hands it to you. You've got to go out and earn it. It was a commitment to do precisely that which led to the dynamic shape that is Mercury today. Early in this decade, the automotive industry was struggling through a recession. The general climate was one which favored pulling back rather than taking chances. But adversity turned into opportunity for us. Searching for a way to turn things around, our top management looked to the design staff. They told us to pull out all the stops. "Design the kinds of cars you want to build." It was the creative license every designer dreams about.



But it also carried a weighty risk. The future of the company was virtually riding on it. Happily, that risk turned into a great success. It's the story of a dynamic new aerodynamic shape that has literally set the standard in automotive design. It is a shape with integrity. Not just attractive, but functional and efficient to such a degree that others simply can't afford not to follow its lead. Most pleasing of all for us on the design staff is that the American public has embraced this bold new direction with all the enthusiasm that drove us to create it.

Jack Teinack
Chief Design Engineer
Ford North American Automotive Operations

THIS SHAPE MOVES LIKE THE WIND EVEN IN THE RAIN.



*Topaz LTS 4-door in Shadow Blue Clearcoat Metallic with Silver Clearcoat Metallic lower Tu-Tone.
Some features shown may be optional.
See option list on page 22.*

INTRODUCING THE ALL-NEW SHAPE OF ALL-WHEEL DRIVE.

The smooth exterior shape of Topaz does a lot more than just keep you dry when it rains. It is actually an active element in the performance of Topaz. Through the application of advanced aerodynamics, the shape of Topaz manages the flow of air over, under and around the vehicle. The benefits are improved handling, reduced wind noise and greater fuel efficiency at highway speeds. **But** Topaz is uncommon beyond its functional appearance. In addition to its standard front-wheel drive and fully independent suspension, Topaz is available with the advanced technology of all-wheel drive. The system was specifically*



*designed for drivers who want even greater traction in rain, snow and mud but don't want to give up the comfort, convenience and styling advantages a sedan affords. **All-wheel drive** is available as an option on all Topaz models. This system is not intended for off-road use. When ordered, it includes the 2.3-liter HSO engine and requires the optional automatic transmission. See page 20 for more information on this impressive feature.*

*See EPA statement on page 25.

EVERYBODY TALKS ABOUT GIVING CONSUMERS WHAT THEY WANT.

Pictured here is the result of science and good listening skills. The science is ergonomics—the study of the interaction between man and machine. It provides insight into such important areas as hand/eye movement, field of vision, reach, control-design logic and other design-based characteristics affecting the driver. The listening part came at research clinics held around the country to provide an intimate view of what today's drivers really want in an automobile. They talked, and we listened. The combination of these vital elements with the skill and experience of our designers resulted in this aestheti-



Topaz LTS instrument panel.
Some features shown may be optional.
See option list on page 22.

THIS IS WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE WHEN SOMEONE LISTENS.



cally pleasing instrument panel for Topaz. Instrumentation is displayed before the driver in a clear, easy-to-read manner and includes analog speedometer, tachometer, trip odometer, main odometer, fuel level and engine coolant temperature gauges. There is also a warning light bar which alerts the driver to shift up for economy driving, door ajar, directionals-on, high beam-on and low windshield washer fluid level. Knobs for operation of the windshield wipers and the fan are conveniently located on the sides of the main instrument panel.

IF YOU DON'T THINK ACHIEVING FUNCTION AND COMFORT IS A SCIENCE...



*Topaz LTS 4-door interior.
Some features shown may be optional.
See option list on page 22.*

IT'S TIME YOU SAT DOWN.

Here too, ergonomics plays a vital role. This science which is so important to making the instrument panel an efficient working partner for the driver, is applied here to help position the driver for greatest effectiveness while providing comfort and support. This LTS features luxury with a sporty flair. The front sport bucket seats have power lumbar adjustments for improved support, four-way adjustable head restraints and fully reclining seatbacks. The rear seatbacks are contoured for comfort and the LTS interior is done in a luxurious cloth trim which is unique to this model. Other significant LTS standard



features include electronic AM/FM stereo radio cassette with Premium Sound System, black leather-wrapped tilt steering wheel, speed control and air conditioning. Also standard is the Comfort and Convenience Group which includes ashtray, glove box, luggage compartment and engine compartment lights. A headlamps-on chime, rear-door courtesy light switches, remote decklid release, remote fuel-filler door release and interval wipers are also included.

THIS EFFICIENT AERODYNAMIC SHAPE WAS ACHIEVED BY CUTTING EDGES,



*Topaz LS 4-door in Graphite Clearcoat Metallic.
Some features shown may be optional.
See option list on page 22.*

NOT CORNERS.

The attainment of aerodynamic efficiency can be a time-consuming and expensive ordeal. It essentially adds a new step in the development process. Designs now have to be developed and tested for aerodynamic efficiency, not just eye appeal. This smooth aerodynamic shape was achieved only after extensive computer-aided design and many hours of testing in the wind tunnel. The result is a shape that is essentially free of hard edges that can disrupt the flow of air over the body. It is also a strong shape that features unitized body construction. It combines body and frame in a unified structure welded end-to-



end to form a high-strength occupant compartment that is both weight- and space-efficient. The doors are built of strong double-panel welded construction and inside each is a high-strength steel beam for added protection. And to help avoid damage at low speeds, all Topaz models are equipped with 5-mph impact bumpers, front and rear. The federal government only requires 2½-mph impact bumpers, but you'll find 5-mph bumpers on all Mercury automobiles.

SOME CARMAKERS HAVE
A DIFFERENT NAME
FOR MANY TOPAZ STANDARD FEATURES.

*Topaz LS. This four-door front-wheel-drive sedan is well equipped with a lengthy list of standard features. For starters, the LS has luxurious cloth upholstery and tasteful trim unique to this model. The front bucket seats have full recline capabilities and there's a folding center armrest on the center console for added comfort. The long list of convenience items includes power steering, power brakes, power door locks, power windows, electronic AM/FM radio with cassette, remote decklid and fuel-filler door releases, tilt steering wheel, dual illuminated visor vanity mirrors and more. **T**opaz has safety features*



*Topaz LS interior.
Some features shown may be optional.
See option list on page 22.*

THEY CALL THEM OPTIONS.



*that some carmakers don't even offer as standard or optional. A new automatic shoulder safety belt system for both front seat occupants is one of them. When you shut the door and turn on the engine, the belt automatically locks in place across your chest. All you have to do is fasten your manual lap belt. **A**nd on all four-door Topaz models you can order the optional Driver Air Bag Supplemental Restraint System. This system is not intended to replace safety lap and shoulder belts. It is to be used in combination with them. (See pages 20 and 22 for more information.)*

IT'S IMPRESSIVE FROM ANY ANGLE...



*Topaz XR5 2-door in Bright Red Clearcoat Metallic with Medium Dark Titanium.
Some features shown may be optional.
See option list on page 22.*

ESPECIALLY FROM THE DRIVER'S SEAT.

Topaz XR5. This is where the designers and engineers were allowed to fulfill their performance ambitions. Visually the XR5 steals attention with distinctive accents such as its bold black grille and black window moldings, quad-band lower bodyside tape stripes and rear decklid spoiler. From the driver's seat it becomes clear that the XR5 badge represents more than simply a cosmetic nod to performance. XR5 sports the 2.3-liter HSO—the most powerful engine available with Topaz. It features multi-port electronic fuel injection, EEC-IV electronic engine controls and is matched to the 5-speed manual



transmission with the higher 3.73:1 axle ratio for quicker acceleration. The fully independent suspension with its nitrogen gas-pressurized struts and front stabilizer bar is specially tuned with the accent on cornering ability. Performance steel-belted radial tires on cast-aluminum wheels round out this impressive sports machine. Topaz XR5 can also be ordered with the all-wheel-drive option. When the all-wheel drive is ordered, it requires the 3-speed automatic transmission to be ordered, as well.

IF A DRIVER IS A PRODUCT OF HIS OR HER ENVIRONMENT,

Any professional driver can tell you how important interior layout is to the overall performance of a driver. From a 200+ mph Indy car to a road-going sports coupe like the XR5, interior design rests on the science of ergonomics—the study of the interaction between man and machine. Ergonomics has among its goals the comfort, safety and operating ease of driver and passengers. To get the most out of the machine, you have to design the interior to get the most out of the driver. The relationship between the driver and steering wheel is important. To help the driver achieve greatest comfort, XR5 comes



*Topaz XR5 interior.
Some features shown may be optional.
See option list on page 22.*

THIS IS WHAT'S KNOWN AS A HEAD START.



with a tilt steering wheel wrapped in black leather to provide a sure, comfortable grip. The seats are sport buckets with adjustable seatbacks (to full recline), four-way adjustable head restraints and power lumbar supports. There's also a center console which features a cassette storage area and a fold-down center armrest.

TO BE SUCCESSFUL,
A TECHNICALLY ADVANCED ROAD CAR
MUST ALSO EXCEL IN TWO AREAS:



Topaz GS interior.

COMFORT AND CONVENIENCE.

You've got to be comfortable. No matter how impressive a vehicle may be technically, its ability to provide comfort and convenience for driver and passengers is a major factor in long-term satisfaction. At least that's the philosophy behind Topaz and one of the reasons for its carefully planned and well-equipped interior. There are thoughtful touches in Topaz that you may not really appreciate until those occasions when you need them. The four-speed heater/defroster fan and side window demisters are good examples. Tinted glass is also standard to help reduce glare and keep interior temperature down in hot



A tilt steering wheel is standard on XR5, LS and LTS models and optional on GS.

The standard automatic safety shoulder belt restraint system automatically locks the belt in place across the chest of front seat occupants when the door is closed and the engine started. All the front occupants have to do is fasten the manual lap belts. This system is standard for driver and front seat passenger on all Topaz models.



Windshield wiper/washer switch has been designed to allow operation without making visual contact. It is located on the left side of the instrument pod.



The ergonomically-designed power window controls are positioned conveniently for ease of operation.

LTS and XR5 feature sport seats with power lumbar adjustments for added support.

Some features shown are optional. See option list on page 22.

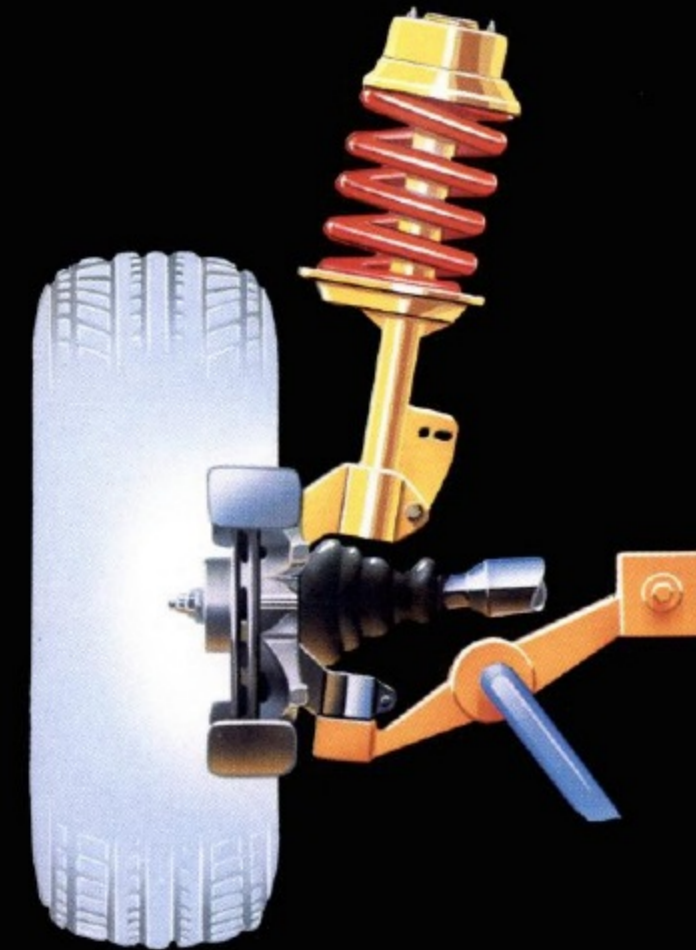
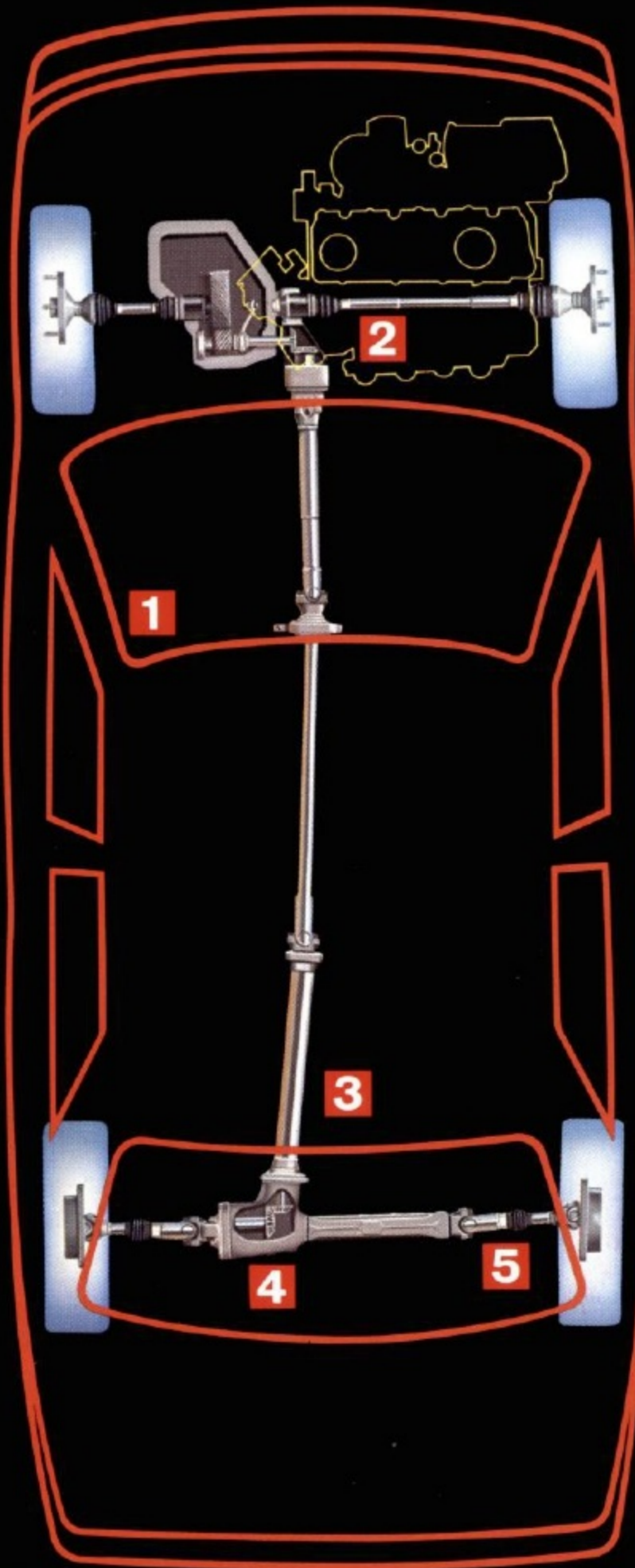


Cassette storage tray.

weather. Topaz has an option list that allows you to add luxury and convenience where you want it. It includes tilt steering wheel, speed control, air conditioning, six-way power adjustable driver's seat and a Premium Sound System. Of course there is more, and many of the options noted are standard equipment on certain Topaz models such as LS, XR5 and LTS. Consult standard and option listings on page 22 for specific model details.

IN THE FUTURE, ALL CARS MAY OFFER THIS LEVEL OF SOPHISTICATION AND SAFETY.

- 1** At the flick of a switch, Topaz delivers the added traction of all-wheel drive. The driver can switch into or out of all-wheel drive even while moving. The system is designed for those who want greater traction capabilities for dealing with a slippery condition presented by snow or mud. It is not intended for off-road use or use on dry pavement.
- 2** Power is transmitted to rear drive shaft from final drive gear in transaxle.
- 3** Drive shaft delivers power to rear differential.
- 4** Limited slip differential helps reduce wheel spin.
- 5** Half-shafts transmit power to each rear wheel.



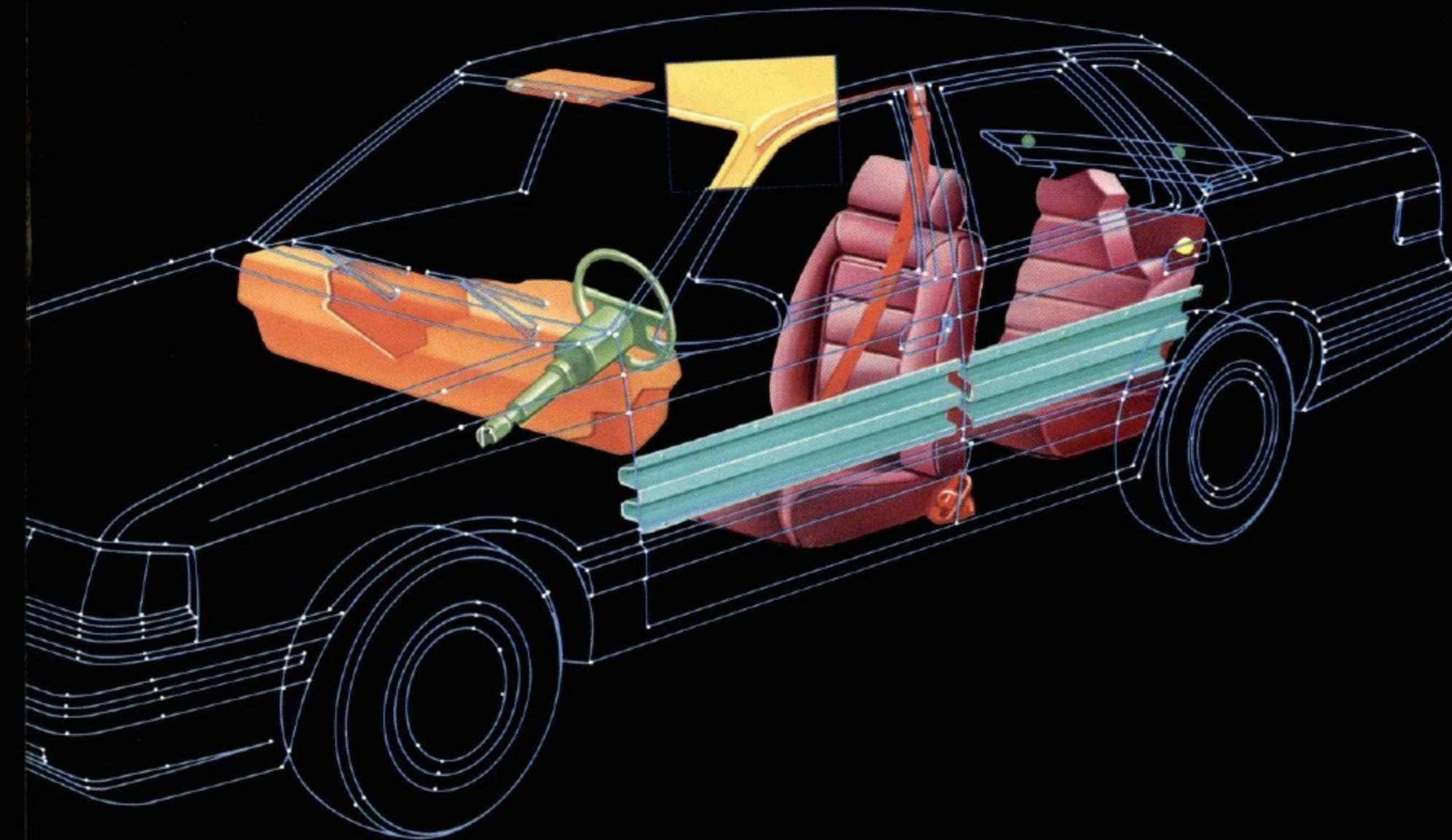
Performance suspension package. Topaz LTS and XR5 feature specially tuned, fully independent suspensions. The front suspension shown here has nitrogen gas-pressurized struts, coil springs and stabilizer bar.

Some features shown may be optional. See option list on page 22.



Optional Driver Air Bag Supplemental Restraint System. Laboratory testing has shown the supplemental driver air bag, combined with properly used safety belts, can provide extra protection against chest and face injuries that might occur in severe front-end impacts. It is so fast that it inflates in approximately 40 milliseconds. It is a proven system that has been field tested in thousands of cars driven millions of miles. To this date, not a single case of accidental air bag deployment has been reported by users. It is now available as an option on all four-door Topaz models. (Airbag deployment sequence shown here was not made during an actual test.)

ILLUSTRATIVE SAFETY FEATURES†



- Steel guard rails in side doors.
- Tether anchors for child safety seats.
- Front pillars and roof designed to meet a static force test equal to 1½ times the car's weight.
- Energy-absorbing interior materials.
- Flame-resistant interior materials.
- Energy-absorbing steering column and steering wheel. (On the actual automobile, the steering column does not end as shown in the illustration.)
- Child-proof rear door locks.
- Safety belts for all vehicle occupants.

†This is not intended to be an exhaustive list of safety features.

HOWEVER, SOMETIMES YOU JUST CAN'T AFFORD TO WAIT.

traction. All-wheel drive is intended for use on slippery surfaces only—not off-road use—and requires the more powerful 2.3L HSO engine and automatic transmission. Topaz displays a wealth of thought in the area of safety. Details are displayed on the facing pages.

SELECTED OPTIONAL AND STANDARD FEATURES.



Black

Oxford White

Medium Scarlet

ENGINES

| Type | 2.3L HSC Inline 4-cylinder | 2.3L HSO Inline 4-cylinder |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Displacement | 2.3 liters | 2.3 liters |
| Horsepower (SAE net) | 98 @ 4400 rpm | 100 @ 4400 rpm |
| Torque (SAE net) | 124 lb-ft @ 2200 rpm | 130 lb-ft @ 2600 rpm |
| Fuel delivery | Multi-port electronic fuel injection | Multi-port electronic fuel injection |
| Compression ratio | 9.0:1 | 9.0:1 |
| Engine control | EEC-IV, electronic engine control | EEC-IV, electronic engine control |

TRANSMISSIONS

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Manual | 5-speed with self-adjusting clutch linkage |
| Automatic | 3-speed with 62 percent mechanical drive in 2nd gear and 93 percent mechanical drive in 3rd |

SUSPENSION

| | |
|-------|--|
| Front | Independent MacPherson nitrogen gas-pressurized struts with strut-mounted coil springs, stabilizer bar, forged lower control arms and cast steering knuckles |
| Rear | Independent parallel 4-bar with MacPherson nitrogen gas-pressurized struts, coil springs, parallel suspension arms and double bayonet tie rods |

STEERING

| | |
|------|--|
| Type | Power-assist rack-and-pinion with 18.4:1 overall ratio on center |
|------|--|

BRAKES

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Type | Dual hydraulic (diagonally linked front to rear) with power assist |
| Front | 9.2-inch disc |
| Rear | 8.0-inch drum |
| Brake swept area | 2172 sq. in. |

DIMENSIONS (in inches)

| | 2-door | 4-door |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Wheelbase | 99.9 | 99.9 |
| Overall length | 176.7 | 177.0 |
| Overall height | 52.7 | 52.8 |
| Overall width | 68.3 | 66.8 |
| Track, front/rear | 54.9/57.6 | 54.9/57.6 |

Based on official 1988 MVMA specifications



Silver Clearcoat Metallic

Bright Red Clearcoat Metallic

Shadow Blue Clearcoat Metallic



Spinnaker Blue

Smoke

Sand Beige

Corrosion protection including pre-coated steel, cathodic electrocoat paint primer and electrostatically applied paint

| | GS | XR5 | LS | LTS |
|--|----|-----|----|-----|
| Lower bodyside protective urethane coating | S | S | S | S |
| Rear decklid luggage rack | 0 | — | S | S |

INTERIOR COMFORT AND CONVENIENCE FEATURES

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| Air conditioning | 0 | 0 | 0 | S |
| Low-back individual reclining front seats in cloth | S | — | S | — |
| Sport bucket seats | — | S | — | S |
| 6-way power driver's seat | 0 | 0 | 0 | S |

MERCURY TOPAZ

FUNCTIONAL FEATURES

| | GS | XR5 | LS | LTS |
|--|----|-----|----|-----|
| Air bag supplemental restraint system, driver's side (4-door only) | 0 | — | 0 | 0 |
| 2.3-liter HSC engine | S | — | S | — |
| 2.3-liter HSO engine | — | S | — | S |
| 5-speed manual transmission | S | S | S | S |
| 3-speed automatic transmission | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| All-wheel drive (requires automatic) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Maintenance-free 58 amp-hr H.D. battery | S | S | S | S |
| Electronic voltage regulator | S | S | S | S |
| Aluminized exhaust system corrosion protection | S | S | S | S |
| Self-adjusting clutch linkage | S | S | S | S |
| Power-assist rack-and-pinion steering | S | S | S | S |
| Sport/Touring suspension | — | S | S | S |
| Tinted glass | S | S | S | S |
| Electric rear window defroster | 0 | S | S | S |
| Side window demisters | S | S | S | S |
| Engine block heater | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rear child-proof locks | S | — | S | S |

EXTERIOR FEATURES

| | | | | |
|------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| Aero-halogen headlamps | S | S | S | S |
| 5-mph impact bumpers | S | S | S | S |

SOUND SYSTEMS

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| Electronic AM/FM stereo with four speakers (may delete for credit) | S | — | — | — |
| Electronic AM/FM stereo with cassette and four speakers | 0 | S | S | S |
| Premium Sound—Amplifier and premium speakers | 0 | 0 | 0 | S |

INSTRUMENTATION

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Analog instrumentation with speedometer, tachometer, engine coolant temperature gauge, fuel gauge and trip odometer | S | S | S | S |
|---|---|---|---|---|

WHEELS AND TIRES

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| P185/70R14 black sidewall, all-season, steel-belted radial tires | S | — | — | — |
| P185/70R14 white sidewall, all-season, steel-belted radial tires | 0 | — | — | — |
| P185/70R14 black sidewall, performance steel-belted radial tires | — | S | S | S |
| P185/70R14 white sidewall, performance steel-belted radial tires | — | — | 0 | — |
| Deluxe wheel covers | S | — | S | — |
| Spoke wheel covers | 0 | — | 0 | — |
| Styler cast-aluminum wheels | — | S | — | S |
| Polycast wheels | 0 | — | 0 | — |

COMFORT/CONVENIENCE PACKAGE

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| Includes rear window defroster, light group, locking fuel-filler door with remote release and remote decklid release | 0 | S | S | S |
|--|---|---|---|---|

S—Standard Feature 0—Optional Feature

Left to right: Luxury wheel cover, polycast wheel, spoke wheel cover, cast-aluminum wheel.



Graphite Clearcoat Metallic

Light Sandalwood Clearcoat Metallic

Twilight Blue Clearcoat Metallic

Over the years, Mercury buyers have tended to prefer certain combinations of optional equipment. So we've grouped them together in the Preferred Equipment Packages listed below. And priced them to cost you less than if they were purchased separately.**

TOPAZ GS Preferred Equipment Package 361A

| | |
|--|---|
| Electric rear window defroster | • |
| Electric decklid and fuel-filler door releases | • |
| Light group | • |
| Tilt steering wheel | • |
| Electronic AM/FM stereo with cassette | • |

TOPAZ XR5 Preferred Equipment Package 371A

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Speed control | • |
| 6-way power driver's seat | • |
| Power lock group | • |
| Premium sound system | • |

**Specific content is subject to change throughout model year. Consult your dealer for the most up-to-date information.

TOPAZ COLORS

Standard Exterior Colors GS and LS

Black
Oxford White
Medium Scarlet
Spinnaker Blue
Smoke
Sand Beige

Optional Clearcoat Colors GS and LS

Silver Clearcoat Metallic
Graphite Clearcoat Metallic
Bright Red Clearcoat Metallic
Shadow Blue Clearcoat Metallic
Light Sandalwood Clearcoat Metallic
Twilight Blue Clearcoat Metallic

Standard Interior Colors

Smoke
Regatta Blue
Sand Beige
Scarlet

Exterior Colors XR5 and LTS**

Bright Red Clearcoat Metallic
Graphite Clearcoat Metallic
Shadow Blue Clearcoat Metallic
Oxford White
Silver Clearcoat Metallic
Black
Medium Scarlet (XR5 only)
Smoke (XR5 only)

**All feature complementing lower Tu-Tone with quad-band tape stripes on XR5 and tri-band tape stripes on LTS.

Customer satisfaction with Mercury cars may be attributed to the personalized attention given by the sales and service staffs at Lincoln-Mercury dealerships and to the Lincoln-Mercury Quality Commitment program. Its goal is to achieve outright industry leadership in customer satisfaction. We want Lincoln-Mercury customers to be the most pleased in the entire automotive industry. An integral part of the Lincoln-Mercury Quality Commitment is the 6-year/60,000-mile powertrain and 6-year/100,000-mile corrosion warranty. The warranty is limited, and certain restrictions and deductibles apply. Ask your Lincoln-Mercury dealer for a copy of the warranty and take time to read it.

Motorcraft Genuine Ford and Motorcraft original equipment replacement parts are engineered and manufactured to Ford's high **QUALITY PARTS** specifications. They're your best assurance of quality and long-term satisfaction because these replacement parts meet the same high standards as those installed in production.



The optional Ford Extended Service Plan covers selected components on new Mercury cars for longer than the vehicle's basic warranty. The cost is so moderate for the protection offered that it could pay for itself the first time it is needed. Ask your Lincoln-Mercury dealer for complete details of the plan, which is available on cars sold and normally operated in the 50 United States and Canada.



Participating Lincoln-Mercury dealers are now offering the Lifetime Service Guarantee, which guarantees their work on your Mercury Topaz for as long as you own it. This means that you pay for a covered repair once and never again. If it ever has to be fixed again, the repairing dealer will fix it free. Free parts. Free labor. Ask your Lincoln-Mercury dealer for a copy of this limited warranty and take time to read it.

Ford-paid repair programs after the warranty period Sometimes Ford Motor Company offers adjustment programs to pay all or part of the cost of certain repairs. These programs are intended to assist owners and are in addition to the warranty or to required recalls. **Technical Service Bulletins** All vehicles need repairs during their lifetime. Sometimes Ford issues Technical Service Bulletins (TSBs) and easy-to-read explanations describing unusual engine or transmission conditions which may lead to costly repairs, the recommended repairs and new repair procedures. Often a repair now can prevent a more serious repair later. Ask Ford Motor Company or your Lincoln-Mercury dealer about Ford-paid repair programs and TSBs relating to your Mercury Topaz.

To get copies of materials for your Topaz or the vehicle of interest to you, call Ford toll-free at 1-800-241-3673. In Alaska or Hawaii, call 1-800-241-3711. In Georgia, call 1-800-282-0959, or write Ford at: Ford Customer Information System, Post Office Box 95427, Atlanta, GA 30347. Please include your name and address, year, make, model and vehicle identification number, as well as engine size.

EPA statement 1988 EPA mileage estimates were unavailable when this publication was printed. The 1988 Mercury Topaz, however, should post good mileage figures. Ask your Lincoln-Mercury dealer for the latest information. **Buckle up—together we can save lives.** Buy or lease your Topaz from your Lincoln-Mercury dealer.

Specifications and descriptions used were in effect when this publication was approved for printing.

Lincoln-Mercury Division reserves the right to discontinue options at any time or change specifications, equipment or designs without notice and without incurring obligation. Standard and optional equipment listed is subject to change. Some features described are optional at extra cost. Some options are required in combination with other options. Availability of some features may be subject to a slight delay.

LINCOLN-MERCURY DIVISION 

1988

TOPAZ



The Shape You Want To Be In.

MERCURY

