

Chrysler

Chrysler has invested jointly with GM and BMW in developing the Two Mode hybrid system and is now introducing the technology across its vehicle platforms. As this joint investment was made while Chrysler was still owned by Daimler Benz, which still owns 20% of Chrysler, this technology may appear in future Mercedes models as well.

The first two hybrid models Chrysler has available for sale are the 2009 Chrysler Aspen and Dodge Durango. Both these SUV's are powered by a large 5.7 Liter HEMI engine Two Mode Hybrid powertrain. The addition of the hybrid system is expected to improve fuel efficiency by about 40% in City driving and about 25% overall. Due to the vehicles just entering the market no performance data is yet available to confirm these fuel efficiency improvements.

Using the Two Mode hybrid system these vehicles can be powered either by the electric motors or by the 5.7-liter HEMI V-8 engine - or both. The system is a fully integrated combination of two electric motors and four fixed mechanical gear ratios allowing for a range of operating conditions from light city driving to pulling heavy loads. To improve fuel efficiency this HEMI engine also uses Chrysler's Multi-displacement System (MDS), which allows the engine to alternate between four-cylinder mode when less power is needed and the full V-8 mode when more power is required.

Send us your data!

Help us increase the value of this web site by collecting performance data on the new Chrysler vehicles and sending us your data.