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2011 Hyundai Sonata

Hyundai is rethinking and redesigning its Sonata midsize sedan. Instead of a conservatively styled car with four-cylinder and V6 power, the new Sonata features bold, expressive styling and strictly four-cylinder motivation.

Available in January 2010, the 2011 Hyundai Sonata features the Fluidic Sculpture styling theme introduced on the Tucson compact SUV. On the Sonata, the theme features an angular face with a chrome grille, a high beltline accented by chrome trim, a long roofline, and a flowing side crease reminiscent of recent BMWs.

Inside, the 2011 Sonata boasts 120 cubic feet of interior volume, more than any competitor including the Honda Accord. Like the Accord, the Sonata is classified by the EPA as a large car due to its generous interior volume.

For the 2011 model year, the only engine will be a new direct-injected 2.4-liter four-cylinder. In base trim, it will produce 198 horsepower and 184 pound-feet of torque. The Sonata SE model will come with dual exhaust, which boosts power to 200 hp. Transmission choices will include a new six-speed automatic with manual shift capability and a six-speed manual. The SE will also come with steering wheel shift paddles when ordered with the automatic. Government EPA fuel economy ratings are expected to be 23 mpg city/35 mpg highway with the automatic and 23/34 mpg with the manual.

The SE will be followed sometime next year by turbocharged and hybrid powered models. The turbo is expected to make 250 horsepower, while the hybrid should offer about much improved fuel economy.

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