

## The Mystery of the '79 Single Headlight Grille

For some time now, I have had many people that disagree with me as to whether some 1979 Li'l Red Express Trucks came with the 2 single 7" headlight setup. (See pictures at the end of the article)

This discussion has even got heated at times, because 99+% of the '79 Li'l Reds came with the 4 Quad stacked headlight setup, option NE5. Most people, having not seen a Li'l Red this way, want to argue that none of them were built with the single options, because they never have seen one that way.

In the 30+ years I have been studying and documenting the Li'l Red Express, I have only found 8 trucks with the single light setup. This means that approximately 27, or .0528% of the total production of 5118, were built this way, making it the rarest of any of the Li'l Red Express trucks.

The only conclusion I can come up with is, the dealer just missed checking the NE5 option box when they ordered the truck. There would be no other reason to make the trucks look cheaper than all the other '79's they had on the lot. I have even had people argue that maybe somebody just changed their quad lamps for singles. I cannot, for the life of me, figure out why someone would go to all the expense to change his grille to a cheaper option. Therefore, I believe it was an error in ordering by the dealer. Nevertheless, it did happen and there are a few of the '79 Li'l Reds out there with the single lights. Dodge did not keep track of options installed on any trucks; therefore, nobody knows for sure how many were produced with this setup.

This headlight setup was an extra cost option on all 1979 Dodge trucks, Li'l Reds included. The only 1979 Dodge trucks that came standard with the quad light setup were the Adventurer S.E. Special Edition models. This fact is confirmed in the 1979 Dodge truck brochure, page 5, it states **"Optional dual vertically stacked quad rectangular headlamps (included with the**

**Adventurer S.E. Package) add to distinguished appearance. Standard pickup headlights are single 7" round ones."**

What this was telling the customer is, if you wanted the quad lights, it would be an extra cost (\$49.30) option. They were not standard equipment on a '79 Dodge truck, only on the

***Adventurer S.E. Package.***

Also, on the dealer order sheet, it clearly indicated that you must check the box marked NE5 to get this extra cost option. Now, Dodge recommended that dealers get this option, to distinguish the new '79 models from the single headlight '78 models and most dealers ordered the top line Adventurer trucks with the quad lights. The only trucks usually ordered with the single light setup were the cheaper Custom, work & fleet truck models. Most people ordering the cheaper trucks did not want to spend the extra money for the quad lights, therefore, there are quite a few of the 1979 Custom model trucks with single lights.

Below is the 1979 Dodge Truck Price sheet and pics of the 3 known single light verified 1979 Lil Red Express Trucks, with their VIN numbers.

2 of the trucks have sequential VIN numbers and were built on the same day and hour. Both of those trucks were built for export to Canada. The earlier truck was sent to Virginia and its location is unknown, at this time, the rest are in the U.S.


I hope this will clear up any confusion that may exist on this subject in the future.

***John C. Roberts (Lil Red Dad)***  
***Co-Founder, President, NALRETO***

**1979 DODGE TRUCK M.S.R.P.**

**1979 "L1" RED TRUCK PRICES**

	Wholesale With Holdback	M.S.R.P.
Base D150 116" W.B. Outline (GH3)	\$4,190.83	\$5,168.00
Automatic Transmission (FAO)	289.80	361.35
Adventurer Package (YA1)	184.00	242.15
Delete Moldings (MEO)	- 35.30	- 35.30
Power Steering (ST1)	153.50	202.00
AM/FM/MPX Stereo Radio (LM2)	151.60	199.50
Convenience Package (YK1)	54.10	71.20
Oil Pressure Gauge (LB2)	9.45	12.45
Head Lamps - Quad Rectangular (NE5)	37.45	49.30
L1 Red Truck Package (YH5)	859.60	1,131.10
• 360 4-Bbl. Engine (EH1)		
• Chrome Five Slot Road Wheels - 5		
• Goodyear GT Tires - 5		
• Bright Rear Bumper		
• Stabilizer Bar		
• Special Steering Wheel		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,895.03</b>	<b>\$7,421.75</b>
Price with air conditioning (HA1)		
Heavy-duty front springs (SF1)		
Tinted glass (GL2) with bench	\$5,368.63	\$8,045.00
Price with Bucket Seats (KTIK85)	\$6,042.78	\$7,616.20
Price with Bucket Seats (KTIK85)	\$6,516.38	\$8,239.45
Air conditioning (HA1), heavy duty		
Front springs (SF1), tinted glass (GL2)		
NOTE: Options or upgrading other than that described above is not allowed.		
Truck, R. V. & Equipment Planning		October 31, 1979



The bright-red pickup grille is distinct, with two cross-hatched sections divided in the middle by a wide horizontal crossbar.

**Front spring capacities** from 1,340 lbs. to 2,250 lbs.; assurance of the right capacity for top performance.

**Optional dual vertically stacked quad rectangular headlamps (included with Adventurer S.E. Package)** add to distinguished appearance. Standard pickup headlights are single 7" round ones.

VIN D13JS9S153525



VIN D13JS9S197148



VIN D13JS9S197149



VIN D13JS9S223239

