

## **Dodge Muscle Truck Family Tree**

It is without a doubt that Dodge Trucks have led the industry for years, with many innovations that took the other truck manufacturers years trying to keep up with the pace and follow Dodge's lead.

Dodge was the first to have factory-built trucks with the 4X4 option, in 1946. They were also the first to have the Club Cab and the Crew Cab options, and the first "muscle trucks". This all happened years before the other manufacturers were even thinking about doing it.

With that being said, this article is going to delve into the "muscle truck" history, i.e. "The Dodge Family Tree".

### **(#1). ("Father") The 1964/65 Dodge D100 CSS/HPP (Custom Sports Special), (High Performance Pickup)**

These trucks came with a 365hp, 426ci wedge engine, mated to a push-button 727 Loadflite, 3 speed automatic transmission, with heavy-duty springs, traction bars, power steering, and a gauge package with a 6,000-rpm tach. They were also lavishly trimmed with bucket seats and a console. Totally unheard of, during that time period.

As a side note, the HPP package was available in 1963, with a 413ci engine. CSS package wasn't available until 1964, and wasn't required for also having the HPP.



**The 1964 Dodge D100 CSS/HPP**



**The 1965 Dodge D100 CSS/HPP**

## **(#2) (“Son”) 1978/79 Dodge D150 “Li’l Red Express”.**

These trucks were the vision of Tom Hoover and were tagged “The Last American Hot Rod”. Hoover found a loophole in the Federal Regulations, that made it possible for a manufacturer to produce high performance trucks that skirted the regulations. These trucks came with a high performance 225hp / 360ci., police engine, with a special “purple” cam from a 1968 Dodge Duster 340 automatic transmission car. They also had the 850 cfm Thermoquad 4bbl carburetor, dual cold air intakes, vertical chrome shielded 2.5” exhaust pipes, with Hemi mufflers, 15” Chrome Road Wheels and oak paneling on the bedsides. They were also very well equipped with the required options, that made them very special.



**1978 Dodge D150 Li'l Red Express**



### **1979 Dodge D150 Li'l Red Express**

### **(#3) ("Grandson") 2004/06 Dodge 1500 SRT 10**

These trucks were undoubtedly the fastest trucks that Dodge had ever produced. On a closed track, the SRT 10 was clocked at 154 MPH, and 0 to 60 in 4.9 seconds, making it the world's fastest production pickup ever produced. Under the hood was the all-aluminum, 8.3 liter, 500hp Viper V 10 engine, mated to a Tremec T-56, 6 speed transmission, and a Hurst shifter. The Quad Cab model was available with the 48RE four-speed automatic transmission. They came standard with 22" Pirelli tires, Infinity sound system, navigation, Bluetooth, and satellite radio, along with a red start button, Viper gauges, and a Viper shift knob, from the Viper automobile.



**2005 SRT 10 Standard Cab**



**2005 SRT 10 Quad Cab**

#### **(#4) (“Great Grandson”) 2021/24 Ram 1500 TRX**

This truck is the Muscle truck of all times, along with being a fast street truck, it is also a most capable “off road” 4X4, go anywhere truck. The engine is a Supercharged Hemi 6.2 liter, 702 horsepower, Hellcat engine, with a 0 to 60 time of 4.5 seconds. It comes with a performance leather-wrapped, flat-bottom steering wheel that includes aluminum paddle shifters, the Uconnect® 5 NAV with 12-inch touchscreen gives every driver a personalized experience with custom profiles and customization features and a powerful center console-mounted shifter with manual shift mode and 18-inch bead lock-capable wheels. It is undoubtedly the fastest and most capable “muscle/off road” truck ever built.



**2024 Ram 1500 TRX**

## **“Summary of the Family Tree”**

As you can see from the above information, Dodge/Ram has always been and remains the most innovative truck manufacturer in the world.

One fact that most people don't pick up on, is a throwback to the original “Son”, the '78/'79 Li'l Red Express. I have found out from my sources, that the name Ram “TRX”, actually is referring to the “Son”, it breaks down as follows “T”- The, “R”- Red, “X”- Express. Dodge/Ram really wanted to revive the original Li'l Red, but with all the pressure from the Federal Government, it would have never been possible to pull it off. So, they used the Ram “TRX”, subliminally, to honor the original Li'l Red Express!

“Just a little more trivia”

**John C. Roberts, President, “NALRETO”**

**National Association of Li'l Red Express Owners.**