



BIG CALIBER GUN



STORY ED KRAMER
IMAGES TONY RABBITTE

**SON OF A GUN! THIS IS A DODGE WITH A FULL
OPTION AUDIO KIT LIST AND A HIGH-END
INSTALL OF THE HIGHEST, UM, CALIBER...**



same deep blue as featured in the exterior. Mustard-coloured leather and suede cover the dash (even around the custom instrumentation dials), steering wheel, door trims, flooring, roof and centre console. The custom designed and fabricated deep blue speaker pods and the accent around the centre instrumentation panel are eye-catching contrasts that nicely break-up the colour scheme. Similar contrasts are used on the doors' electric window control panel and on the custom made open/close levers.

The centre console has been extended into the rear passenger area with a custom piece in a pointed and curved shape that reflects the silver pattern on the exterior. It serves both as a divider for the rear passengers – surely to be used as an arm rest too – and as a baffle for an LCD on either side of it.

The rear hatch is covered in mustard suede and is home to further fibreglass blue pods that house a number of LCD screens and speakers. And what a technical tour de force this installation has achieved...

TECHNICAL TREASURE-TROVE

The DDX7039 head unit takes pride of place as the source and heart of the system. The in-built 7-inch screen is one of the many that are strategically-placed around the Caliber's cabin. Option Audio screens feature in each of the headrests, sun visors, on each side of the centre console, on the rear hatch, in-between the subs, rear quarter window, and even on the rear-view mirror/GPS unit. We're talking a total of 16 Option Audio screens, no less.

Audio-wise it's very serious too. The DDX7039 handles audio signal over to a bank of four suspended amplifiers placed in the boot area. Two amps are attached to a polished aluminium arm that transverses the boot from side to side, and the other two amps



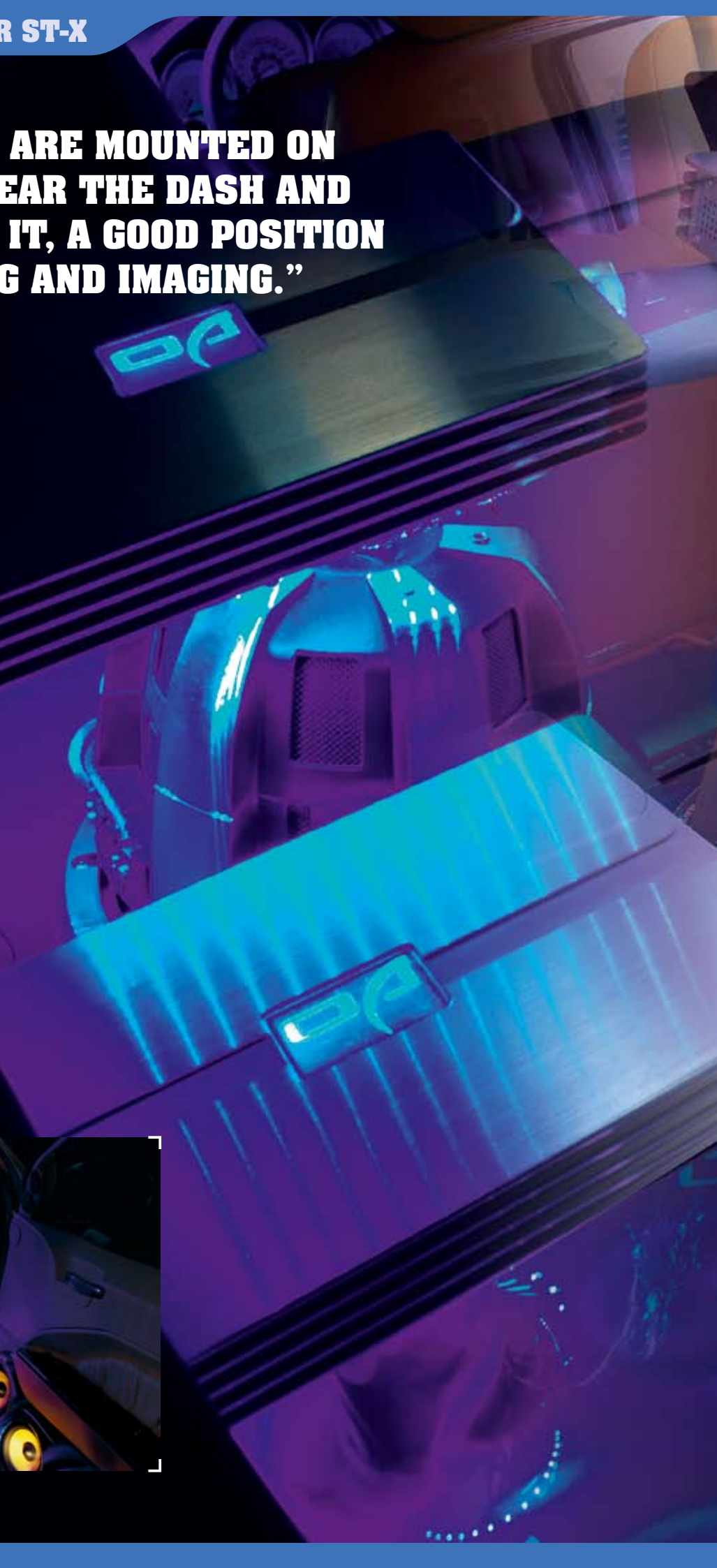
Feakin' A. Or freakin' OA for Option Audio. InCar Entertainment has had this awesome Dodge Caliber in its sites for quite a while, however it went through some changes to improve it a few months ago (mind you it was no slouch before that) therefore delaying our feature. But the delay was worthwhile because the guys at Option Audio, Ulterior Trimming and Audio, Innovation Audio, Tru Konnections, and PJ Custom Spray Panel House – all worked together to make this car what it is – have come up with a real head-turner, eye-opener, and jaw-dropper, all at once.

WHEELIN' AND DEALIN'

Starting on the exterior, you'd be travelling far and wide to find a classier bit of colour co-ordination and style. A deep blue smoky-swirl colour pattern – for lack of a better word – provides the base for the silver sharp curves and patterns that adorn the Caliber's side panels. PJ Custom Spray took over four weeks of labour to finalise and detail the paint work. But a paint-job this good, and this abstract, is almost impossible to describe in words, so we'll let the beautiful images by star automotive photographer Tony Rabbite, do the talking.

No less expense has been spared in the sumptuous interior. Here, the dominant colour scheme is a mustard tone that is accented by the

“...THE TWEETERS ARE MOUNTED ON THE PILLARS UP NEAR THE DASH AND SHOOTING ACROSS IT, A GOOD POSITION FOR SOUNDSTAGING AND IMAGING.”





Driver Licence
Australian Incar Entertainment

Mark Speelmeyer
2007 Dodge Caliber ST-X

What got you into car electronics?

A passion to deliver a point of difference in the industry

How long have you been into it for?

Three years

Occupation

Director of Option Audio

Favourite music for testing audio gear?

Nothing in particular

Dream car?

Too many to choose from

Other hobbies/interests

Gym, property development, cars

Where to next?

New vehicles, possibly a bus, some Utes, and overall a bigger
2009 for Option Audio

"sprout" from the boot floor on fiberglass-covered vertical arms. Very nice, that. Two OAC160 4-channel amplifiers run the front and rear speaker systems and two OAX1502 amplifiers run the subwoofers. The front amps take care of the four sets of OA65R split systems, the midbass units of which live in those gorgeous fiberglass pods on the front doors. The tweeters are mounted on the pillars up near the dash and shooting across it, a good position for soundstaging and imaging.

The rear of the cabin is looked after by the OA60C coaxials that are again mounted on the doors, this time on beautifully-made mustard leather pods. Two more coaxial speakers are mounted on fiberglass pods on the rear hatch. The OAX1502 amplifiers look after the

three enormous OA12DVC Pro 12-inch dual voice coil subwoofers. The subs are mounted magnet-up on a custom fiberglass baffle that forms the boot's floor. The dark blue smoky colour motif is maintained here too, and the mix of that colour and the silver sub magnets is truly stunning. The whole shebang is visually highlighted with the 25 TBS60 60cm LED strips that are placed throughout the vehicle.

CONCLUSION

This Option Audio Caliber is truly outstanding and it's no surprise that it has been awarded the Pro Class Audio Champion prize at this year's Autosalon Sydney. This Dodge Caliber has only had one 'option' throughout its design and production span; that of excellence. <<<



INCAR INFO

OWNER Mark Speelmeyer
VEHICLE 2007 Dodge Caliber ST-X

ENGINE: 2.0L DOHC 4-cylinder

TRANSMISSION: Manual 5-speed

EXHAUST: 2.5-inch split Y into quad 2.5-inch tips

WHEELS: BAZO Miami 2-inch x 9.5

TYRES: Kumho 255 x 35

SUSPENSION: KMAX springs, lowered 3-inches

SYSTEM

SOURCE: Kenwood DDX7039

GAME CONSOLE: Playstation 3 in glove box

FRONT SPEAKERS: 4 x Option Audio OA65R 6.5-inch split systems

REAR SPEAKERS: 4 x Option Audio OA60C 2-way coaxials
SUBWOOFERS: 3 x Option Audio OA12DVC Pro 1600 watts dual 4 ohms

FRONT AMPLIFIERS: 1 x Option Audio OAC160 4-channel amplifier

REAR AMPLIFIERS: 1 x Option Audio OAC160 4-channel amplifier

SUB AMPLIFIERS: 2 x Option Audio OAX1502 amplifiers

EQUALISER: N/A

FRONT SCREEN: 2 x Option Audio OA70HRDV/DV MOD headrest LCDs, 2 x OA9SV sunvisor LCDs

REAR SCREEN: 2 x Option Audio OA70HR LCDs in centre console, 2 x OA70HR headrest LCDs, 4 x OA70HR in hatch, 2 x OA70HR in rear quarter windows

WIRING: Tru Konnection 0 gauge power and earth, TK 16 gauge speaker

BATTERY: Alco Batteries 1000 CCA 120AMP/HR

LIGHTING: 25 x TBS60 60cm LED strip lighting by Tru Konnections

SOUND DEADENING: Option Audio OA6SMD 4mm thick

INSTALLED BY: Innovation Audio, Evalin and Peter Nash

TOTAL BUILD TIME: 5 weeks

TOTAL INSTALLATION COST: \$8000 (does not include equipment)

CREDITS: Option Audio's Kristy Speelmeyer, Freddy Alas from Tru Konnections, Steve Lemon at PJ Panel House, Sean and Scott at Ulterior Trimming and Audio, and Peter Nash at Innovation Audio