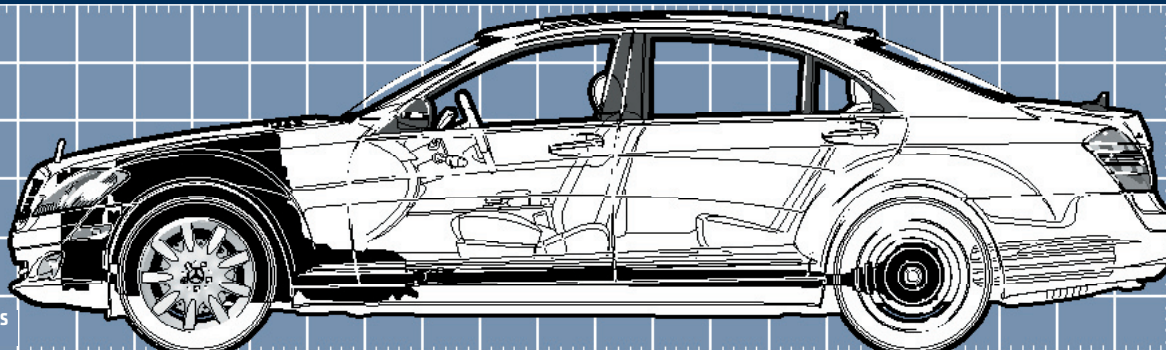


Mercedes-Benz S550

ROAD & TRACK

Mercedes-Benz of North America, Inc., One Mercedes Dr., Montvale, N.J. 07645; www.mbusa.com

www.roadandtrack.com



SCALE: 10 IN. (254 mm) DIVISIONS
DRAWING BY TIM BARKER

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SPECIFICATIONS

PRICING

List price \$85,400
Price as tested \$106,745

Price as tested includes std. equip (ABS, front, side and curtain airbags, traction & yaw control, pre-collision, nav system, voice actuation, Tele Aid, AM/FM/CD/DVD Audio/MP3, tire-press. monitor, bi-xenon headlights w/active curve illumination, anti-theft, leather upholstery, wood trim; pwr windows, mirrors, seats & door locks), Premium 3 pkg (heated & active vented seats, Sirius satellite radio, Parktronic, Keyless Go, Night View Assist, Dynamic rearview mirror, Drive Dynamic Multicontour seats w/ massage) \$6550, Rear Seat pkg (heated & active vented rear seats, 4-zone climate control) \$3500, Active Body Control (\$3900), Distronic Plus (\$2850), Panorama sunroof (\$1000), power rear sunblinds (\$700), wood/leather steering wheel (\$550), electronic trunk closer (\$520), gas-guzzler tax (\$1000), dest charge (\$775).

GENERAL DATA

Curb weight	4715 lb
Test weight	4895 lb
Weight dist (with driver), f/r %	1255 lb 1135 lb 52% 48%
	1270 lb 1235 lb

Wheelbase	124.6 in.
Track, f/r	63.0 in./63.2 in.
Length	205.0 in.
Width	73.3 in.
Height	58.0 in.
Ground clearance	5.8 in.
Trunk space	19.8 cu ft

ACCOMMODATIONS

Seating capacity	5
Head room Front:	37.5 in.
Rear:	35.0 in.
Seat width Front:	2 x 18.8 in.
Rear:	49.0 in.
Front-seat leg room	47.5 in.
Rear-seat knee room	26.5 in.
Seatback adjustment	70 deg
Seat travel	10.0 in.

INSTRUMENTATION

160-mph speedometer, 7000-rpm tachometer, coolant temp, fuel level

SAFETY

front, side & curtain airbags, traction & yaw control, anti-lock brakes, pre-collision, front seatbelt pretensioners, front seatbelt force limiters (all standard equip.)

WARRANTY

Basic warranty	4 years/50,000 miles
Powertrain	4 years/50,000 miles
Rust-through	4 years/50,000 miles

ENGINE

Type/layout	aluminum block & heads, V-8/longitudinal
Valvetrain	dohc 4-valve/cyl, variable timing, chain drive
Displacement	333 cu in./5461 cc
Bore x stroke	3.86 x 3.56 in./98.0 x 90.5 mm
Compression ratio	10.7:1
Horsepower (SAE)	382 bhp @ 6000 rpm
Bhp/liter	70.0
Torque	391 lb-ft @ 2800-4800 rpm
Redline	6400 rpm
Fuel injection	elect. sequential port
Recommended fuel	premium unleaded

DRIVETRAIN

Transmission:	7-speed automatic
Gear Ratio Overall ratio (Rpm) Mph	
1st	4.38:1 11.61:1 (6200) 41
2nd	2.86:1 7.58:1 (6200) 63
3rd	1.92:1 5.09:1 (6200) 94
4th	1.37:1 3.63:1 (6100) 130*
5th	1.00:1 2.65:1 (4450) 130*
6th	0.82:1 2.17:1 (3650) 130*
7th	0.73:1 1.93:1 (3250) 130*
Final drive ratio	2.65:1
Engine rpm @ 60 mph in top gear	1500
*Electronically limited.	

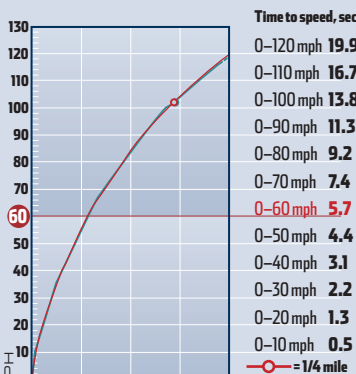
CHASSIS & BODY

Layout	front engine/rear drive
Body/frame	unit steel
Brakes Front:	13.8-in. drilled & vented discs/4-piston fixed calipers
Rear:	12.6-in. solid discs/1-piston sliding calipers
Assist type	vacuum, ABS
Wheels Front:	cast alloy, 18 x 8½
Rear:	cast alloy, 18 x 8½
Tires	Continental ContiTouring Contact M+S
Front:	255/45R-18 99H
Rear:	255/45R-18 99H
Spare tire	full-size
Steering	rack & pinion, power assist
Steering ratio	14.2:1
Steering-wheel diameter	15.5 in.
Turns, lock to lock	2.8
Turning circle	40.0 ft
Suspension	
Front:	4-link, air springs, adj hyd servos, adaptive tube shocks, anti-roll bar
Rear:	5-link, air springs, adj hyd servos, adaptive tube shocks

PERFORMANCE

ACCELERATION

Time to distance	seconds
0-100 ft	3.0
0-500 ft	7.8
0-900 ft	11.2
0-1320 ft (¼ mile)	14.2 @ 101.1 mph
*06 BMW 750i	¼ mi: 14.1 @ 101.5 mph



Time to speed, sec

0-120 mph	19.9
0-110 mph	16.7
0-100 mph	13.8
0-90 mph	11.3
0-80 mph	9.2
0-70 mph	7.4
0-60 mph	5.7
0-50 mph	4.4
0-40 mph	3.1
0-30 mph	2.2
0-20 mph	1.3
0-10 mph	0.5

BRAKING

Minimum stopping distance	
From 60 mph	130 ft
From 80 mph	229 ft
Total swept area	580 sq in.
Swept area/ton	246 sq in.

HANDLING

Lateral acceleration*	0.80g
Balance	moderate understeer
Slalom speed**	60.1 mph
Balance	moderate understeer
Lateral seat support	very good
*200-ft skidpad; **700-ft slalom, 100-ft spacing.	

FUEL ECONOMY

Our driving	est 18.0 mpg
EPA city/highway	est 16/24 mpg
Cruise range	est 409 miles
Fuel capacity	23.7 gal.

INTERIOR NOISE

Idle in neutral	48 dBA
Maximum in 1st gear	66 dBA
Constant 50 mph	62 dBA
Constant 70 mph	66 dBA

TEST CONDITIONS

Temperature	65° F
Humidity	19 %
Elevation	350 ft
Wind	calm
Location	Irvine, California

0-60 mph

5.7 sec

0-¼ mile

14.2 sec

Top speed

130 mph*

Skidpad

0.80g

Slalom

60.1 mph

*Electronically limited.

Test Notes:

ACCELERATION

Fast runs were achieved with ESP on and without power braking. The torque is abundant, and pulls the S550 easily. Letting the automatic transmission shift itself resulted in consistently fast times.

Test Notes:

BRAKING

The pedal is light and has a long throw, effective for smooth driving. ABS pulsations are almost imperceptible through the pedal. It needs summer tires for better stopping distances.

Test Notes:

HANDLING

Impressive amount of rotation is available on the skidpad before stability control intervenes. Slalom can't be done quickly without intervention, so it was slow and steady for the fastest time.

AT A GLANCE