

HDATA4TD

BY JOE SAGE

You learn a lot when you build a truck to your order, for your needs, with far more forks in the road than the typical car build—including cab type, bed length, drivetrain (RWD/4x4), fuel type, engine, payload, transmission, transfer case, rear end and suspension alternatives, even cooling and electrical system options—all this before you ever get to such mundane buying decisions as which audio you want or what color catches your eye.

Many people seek a pickup that's ready for just about anything, while not wanting that to be at the expense of anything else. But tradeoffs abound, large and small. A dually has the highest towing capacity, but at the expense of maneuvering and parking around town. A Baja runner is extra-ready for off-road rallying, but at the expense of—well, this can generate some debate. A longer bed may not be available with a bigger cab. And so on.

This GMC Sierra—heavy duty, 4-wheel-drive, with crew cab, in AT4 off-road trim level including

“athletic” premium interior, powered by a high-torque V8 diesel—is ready for just about anything. It's the kind of truck in which you can show up at the country club and also tow the clubhouse away.

The basis for this build is the biggest news—an all new generation of GMC Sierra pickups, including the HD lineup. These follow suit in many ways to the new Chevy Silverado trucks, covered extensively in our July/August 2019 issue, including vastly expanded towing technology, from capacity itself to a 15-camera system for keeping an eye on your work (including a “transparent trailer” feature). Included is a camera-based inside rear view mirror, a neat trick with a wide view, though refocusing from windshield to a camera view is a little trickier than to a real-distance mirror. The MultiPro six-function tailgate, a slick feature we had previewed on the prior's year's Sierra 1500 AT4, is now available on all trims of Sierra HD. Cab dimensions for occupants and cargo are all boosted, with several stated as best-in-class.

Speaking of cabs, although our sample here has a standard-length bed, you can get an eight-footer

not only with a single cab, which is the only way with some brands, but also with the Double Cab or Crew Cab, completely eliminating that tradeoff.

We've driven the GMC Sierra 1500 AT4 off-road model before and have been impressed, and we're delighted to see it come to the Heavy Duty trucks. AT4 is tough in the roughest terrain, while its interior is a great mix of duty and premium comfort.

There's a choice of big V8 powerplants. All new (and standard) is a 6.6L gasoline V8 with 401 hp and 464 lb-ft of torque, while the well-known 6.6L Duramax turbo diesel V8 in our sample hits 445 hp and a whopping 910 lb-ft of torque, a beautiful thing for both its HD towing and AT4 off-roading. The AT4 build is not available as a dually, capping its tow capacity at 18,500 pounds, but that's a lot, and a special treat in an off-roader.

Heavy duty pickups may now have more appeal than ever, as new midsize pickups serve the same purposes as 1500 pickups for many people—so if you want full size, why not go all the way? Bigger, stronger, with more premium fitment and technology, they are more mainstream than ever. ■



SPECIFICATIONS

CONFIGURATIONAT4 4x4 Crew Cab, Standard Bed	
ENGINEDuramax 6.6L V8 turbo diesel, cast iron block, cast alum heads, 32v OHV, common-rail direct injection, compression ratio 16.0:1	
HP / TORQUE445 hp / 910 lb-ft	
DRIVETRAIN4x4	
TRANSMISSIONAllison 10L1000 10-spd auto	
SUSPENSIONF: short long arms indep w torsion bars; R: semi-elliptic three-stage multi-leaf spring	
STEERINGhydraulic power-assist recirc ball (w digital variable assist on AT4, also on SLT and Denali)	
FINAL DRIVE RATIO(diesel) 3.42	
BRAKEShydraulic power-assist Hydroboost brake booster, 4-whl disc w SBS & Stabilitrak ESA F: 14x1.6; R: 14.1x1.3	
WHEELS20-in machined aluminum	
TIRESLT275/65R20 AT	
LENGTH / WHEELBASEstandard bed 250 / 158.94 in (long bed 266 / 172 in)	
BED LENGTHstandard bed 82.2 in (long bed 98.27 in)	
TURNING CIRCLEna	
GROUND CLEARANCEna	
HEADROOM (F/R)43.03 / 40.12 in	
LEGROOM (F/R)44.53 / 43.4 in	
BASE GVWR[2500, 4x4, crew, diesel, standard bed] 11,150 lb	
PAYLOAD[*****] 3,563 lb	
TOW CAPACITY[2500, 4x4, crew, diesel] 18,500 lb	
BASE CURB WEIGHT[*****] 7,886 lb	
FUEL / CAPACITYdiesel / 36 gal	
MPGna	
BASE PRICE\$57,700	
INCL: OnStar®, 4G LTE wifi avail, SiriusXM, USB ports, keyless entry/start, remote start, rear seat reminder, dual-zone climate, heated/cooled 10-way power front bucket seats, 60/40 fold rear seat w storage pkg, driver seat-mirror memory, AT4 all-weather floor mats, cornerstep rear bumper, side steps, 12 fixed cargo tie-downs, power fold/extend heated auto-dim trailering mirrors, LED side markers, LED headlamps, LED fog-lamps, LED cargo area lighting, red front recovery hooks, rear window defog, rear wheelhouse liners, GMC MultiPro tailgate, spray-on bedliner w AT4 logo, Teen Driver Mode, auto-lock rear diff, 2-spd auto transfer case, traction select system w off-road & tow-haul modes, 220A alternator, 120V power outlets in center stack and in bed, high-capacity air cleaner, X31 off-road suspension w Rancho shocks, skid plates, Stabilitrak w trailer sway control & hill start assist, A/T tires, trailering pkg, trailer brake controller, Prograde trailering system, 3.42 rear axle, 11,350 lb GVWR.	
DURAMAX 6.6L V8 TURBO DIESEL9890	
AT4 PREMIUM PKG: premium 8" touchscreen infotainment w Bose premium audio, nav, voice recog, Bluetooth, Apple/Android, wireless charging, LED roof marker lights, front/rear park assist, lane change alert w side blind zone alert, rear cross traffic alert, 20" machined alum black wheels, black assist steps, power rear sliding window, universal home remote.....4215	
TECH PKG: HD surround vision, rear cam mirror, bed view cam, color HUD, color 8" digital driver info display.....2125	
POWER SUNROOF995	
DRIVER ALERT PKG II: fwd collision alert, lane depart warn, auto emergency brake, intellibeam headlights, following distance indicator, safety alert seat.....645	
GOOSENECK / 5TH WHEEL PKG: stamped bed holes w caps, 7-pin trailer harness.....545	
(AT4 PREMIUM PKG DISCOUNT)(750)	
DESTINATION CHARGE1595	
TOTAL\$76,960	

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