

1988 Avanti Avanti

2dr Convertible • 8-cyl. 305cid/155hp 4bbl

#1 Concours condition

\$38,700

↗ +48.8%

#2 Excellent condition

\$24,000

↗ +36.4%

#3 Good condition

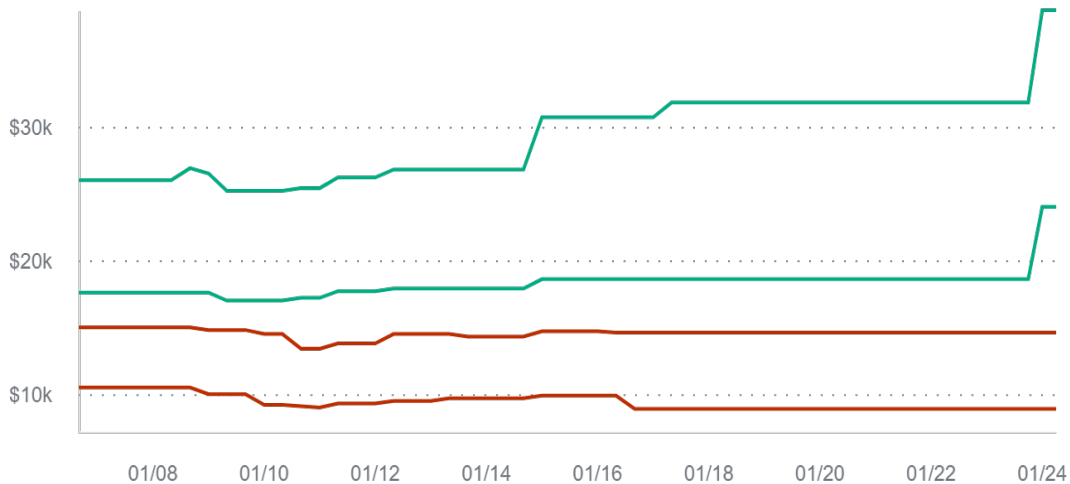
\$14,600*

↘ -2.7%

#4 Fair condition

\$8,900

↘ -15.2%



Model description

The famous Studebaker Avanti was radically different from anything on the road during its two-year production run, from 1963-64. The design was polarizing, but thoroughly modern, and it could be configured in both mild and wild states of tune. Studebaker was plagued with problems at the time, however, and fewer than 6,000 were manufactured before production ceased. A few years later, in 1966, the Studebaker Corporation exited the auto business and Leo Newman and Nate Altman picked up the Avanti torch.

Former Studebaker dealers from South Bend, Newman and Altman bought part of the original Studebaker plant, and had access to Studebaker's molds, tooling and development work. The two created the Avanti Motor Corporation and began producing the Avanti II. The earliest cars with the RQA serial number prefix and low-back seats were basically Studebakers with Chevrolet small-block V-8s, usually 327 cubic inches.

The cars looked much the same, except the Avanti II had different badges and lost its pronounced forward rake. Eschewing mass production, the Avanti II became a bespoke automobile and buyers had endless color options and choices interior materials.

Nate Altman died in 1974 and his brother Arnold took the reins. Emissions restrictions suppressed power on the 305-cid V-8 engine that was used, and these later cars are less lively than the earlier cars. They did have several nice new features, though, like front disc brakes and decent GM air conditioning.

In 1982, Washington, D.C., realtor Steven Blake bought the company for approximately \$5 million. He introduced rack and pinion steering and rectangular headlights in place of the round units originally used on the Studebakers. He also did away with chrome bumpers in 1984, and the "II" in the model name—the cars returned to simply being called "Avanti."

*Please note: All prices shown here are based on various data sources, as detailed in [About Our Prices](#). For all Hagerty clients: The values shown do not imply coverage in this amount. In the event of a claim, the Guaranteed Value(s)® on your policy declarations page is the amount your vehicle(s) is covered for, even if the value displayed here is different. If you would like to discuss your policy, please call us at 877-922-3391.

