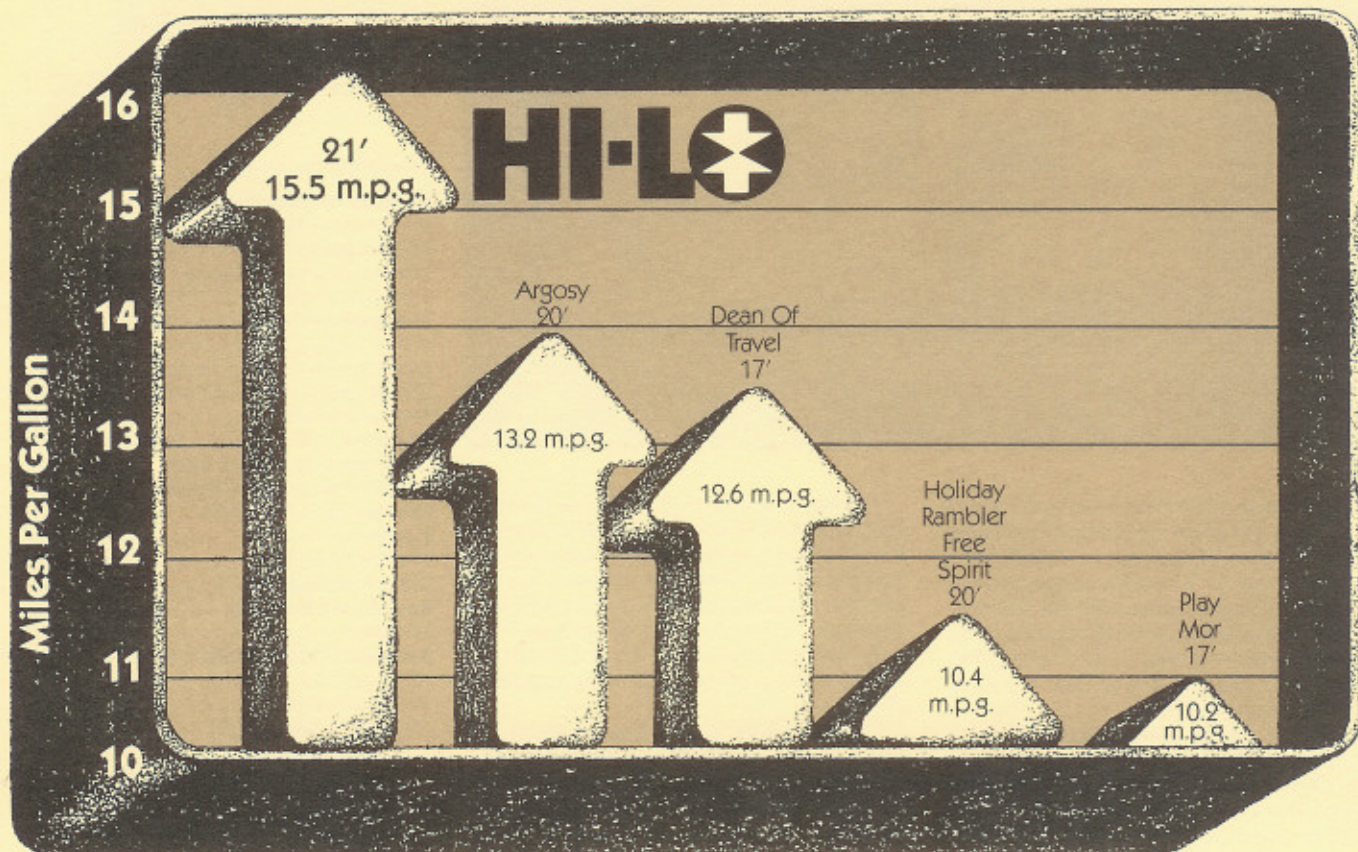


## Chevrolet Citation Test Tow

CONDUCTED BY

**WOODALL'S Trailer & RV Travel**

# HI-LO



Course covered interstate highway, divided four-lane, improved backroads, rutted unpaved backroads, city streets, monotonous flat stretches, curving hills in the Fox River Valley (Wisconsin/Illinois) and provides an accurate measure of real-life handling characteristics and overall fuel economy.



## HI-LO FUNCHASER

by:  
**LARRY GREEN**  
Associate Editor

### Testing a trailer alternative for the 80's.

Arnie De Jong was not surprised to see us pull up in the Citation at his south-suburban Chicago dealership where we were to pick up a Hi-Lo 2179 Funchaser. His Lynwood Motors also handles the local Subaru franchise, and he's seen a lot of his customers pulling fold-down campers.

But the Funchaser we had scheduled for our tests is a travel trailer, despite its close resemblance to the other units. It was that resemblance that had drawn us to the Hi-Lo as a viable alternative for trailerists in the '80s.

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# FUNCHASER

## Chevrolet Citation Test Tow

CONTINUED



Measuring just 62 inches from road to roof in its towing position, the 21-foot Funchaser offers minimal frontal area to wind streaming past a tow car. Its unique design showed up in our mileage figures with the Citation: 15½ miles per gallon, even though it was the second-heaviest trailer in our tests. That figure is 17 percent better than the next-best figure we recorded.

Even so, as we demonstrated to some apartment dwellers across the street from our offices, the 2179 offers plenty of living space inside once the upper half is telescoped into position. No cranking is involved, either; the whole lifting or lowering action is governed by a toggle switch inside the doorway which kicks in a hydraulic system. For safety, a child-resistant mechanism prevents the roof from being lowered inadvertently.

Disregard an earlier story we carried in our New Designs section. Hi-Lo uses tubular steel throughout the unit as well as Styrofoam insulation for lighter weight and greater strength. This sandwich construction pressure-bonds the exterior aluminum skin, exterior paneling, insulation and steel framing, and interior paneling for a stronger yet lighter wall section.

Our unit featured a rear-bath, front-dinette floor plan. In itself, that layout is nothing out of the ordinary, but in a telescoping trailer it presents a series of engineering dilemmas.

We were impressed by the number of storage cabinets and drawers, even though the total amount of space available was somewhat less than average. It seemed as though every conceivable shape of stored goods had been considered, the result being that very little storage space would be wasted. However, the design inherently eliminates the possibility of outside storage.

Almost as impressive to us was the fact that once inside the trailer, we had to search for clues that we were indeed using a telescoping trailer. Overhead cabinets are in place as are hard sidewalls, sliding radiused windows, and other usual giveaways. The only tipoffs are the woven-wood walls to the bath and the overlapping fit of the entrance doors.

The rear bath has all the usual equipment: marine toilet, bath and shower combination (although headroom is on the short side at 68 inches), sink with vanity, and so on.

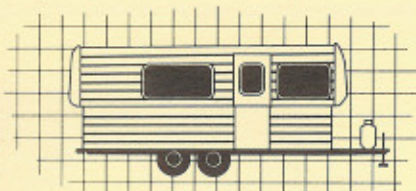
A sofa bed shares the middle of the coach with the galley. In the galley, appliances include a 4½-foot gas/electric refrigerator, 4-burner range with oven and lighted power range hood, and a two-compartment stainless-steel sink. The front dinette seats four adults comfortably and converts to a double bed, as does the sofa and the optional swingaway bunk over the dinette.

We picked up a brochure at the dealer; it shows an interesting idea we hadn't really considered before. With the Hi-Lo Funchaser, you can park your trailer in a standard garage, safety away from vandals and the weather.



*Hi-Lo's center kitchen offers no clues to the trailer's telescoping dual personality.*

## 1982 Specifications



### Livability Features

**Sleeping facilities:** dinette, sofa, swingaway bunk.

**Kitchen facilities:** two-compartment stainless-steel sink; 4-burner range with oven; lighted power vent; 4½-foot refrigerator.

**Bathroom facilities:** sink with vanity; marine toilet; shower/tub; mirror.

**Storage, total space (cubic feet) . . . . .** 52

**Dining space, number of adults . . . . .** 4

**Floor covering . . . . .** linoleum

**Windows, type . . . . .** awning radiused

**Screened area, square feet . . . . .** 20

**Overall braking with Citation . . . . .** very good

**Emergency braking with Citation . . . . .** very good

**Transient steering . . . . .** excellent

**Crosswind handling . . . . .** excellent

**Rough-road handling . . . . .** excellent

**Tracking . . . . .** excellent

**Acceleration with Citation, seconds**

0-30 mph: 8.6

0-60 mph: 31.8

40-60 mph (passing): 21



**Model . . . . .** 21' Funchaser

**Manufacturer:** Hi-Lo Trailer Company, 100 Elm Street, Butler OH 44822.

### General Data

Length, bumper-to-hitch (inches) . . . . . 248

Width, inches . . . . . 87½

Height, road-to-roof (open/closed) . . . . . 95/65

Overhang, inches . . . . . 97

percent of total length . . . . . 39

Track, inches . . . . . 57

Weight as tested . . . . . 3,260 lb.

Tongue weight . . . . . 450 lb.

**Construction:** tubular-steel framing with laminated Styrofoam insulation, aluminum skin, and interior paneling; 4" tubular-steel chassis; B78-13 tires, load range B; tandem axles; electric brakes.



**HI-LO TRAILER COMPANY**

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