GENERAL

# arctic cat bearcat 660

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## Discover the Arctic /Cat /Bearcat /660: The Ultimate Snowmobile for Adventurous Riders

When winter descends upon the Northern Hemisphere, the call of the snow-covered wilderness beckons thrill seekers and seasoned riders alike. For those who crave power, agility, and reliability on the back of a snowmobile, the **Arctic /Cat /Bearcat /660** stands out as a top choice. This iconic model blends robust engineering with user friendly features, making it an attractive option for both newcomers and veterans of the sport. In this comprehensive guide, we'll dive deep into the Bearcat 660's design, performance, maintenance, and buying considerations, helping you decide whether it's the right machine for your next winter adventure.

## Why the Bearcat /660 Has Become a Snowmobile Staple

Arctic /Cat, a brand synonymous with quality snowmobiles, introduced the Bearcat line in the early 2000s. The 660 cc engine version, launched in 2009, quickly gained a reputation for its balance between speed and versatility. Unlike the more aggressive 700 cc models, the Bearcat 660 offers a smoother power curve, making it easier to handle while still delivering impressive performance on both groomed trails and off trail terrain.

Key reasons for its popularity include:

- Powerful yet manageable engine – 660 /cc displacement provides ample torque without overwhelming new riders.
- Lightweight chassis – The Bearcat /660's 290 /lb frame allows for nimble handling.
- Durable build – Designed to withstand harsh winter conditions.
- Cost effective maintenance – Parts and servicing are relatively affordable compared to premium models.
- Strong resale value – The Bearcat /660 maintains a solid market presence for used snowmobiles.

## Engineering Overview of the Arctic /Cat /Bearcat /660

### Engine and Performance

The heart of the Bearcat 660 is its 660 cc, four stroke, liquid cooled engine. It produces around 50 horsepower, giving riders a top speed of roughly 70 mph on flat terrain. The engine's torque curve peaks at 2,200 RPM, delivering strong acceleration from a standstill and maintaining power in deep powder. The dual stage fuel injection system optimizes fuel delivery for both low and high RPM conditions, ensuring efficient performance across a wide range of riding scenarios.

### Chassis and Suspension

The Bearcat 660 features a lightweight aluminum frame, which contributes to its overall agility. The suspension setup includes a 13 inch front shock absorber and a 12 inch rear shock, both adjustable for preload and rebound. This allows riders to fine tune the ride to match snow depth and personal preference. The adjustable front and rear sway bars further enhance stability during high speed turns.

### Braking System

Safety is paramount, and the Bearcat 660 comes equipped with a dual disc braking system – one disc on each

wheel – paired with ABS (anti lock braking system) for enhanced control in slippery conditions. The hydraulic brake lines are engineered for quick response, reducing stopping distances and giving riders confidence on uneven terrain.

### Fuel Capacity and Efficiency

The 4.5 gallon fuel tank offers a respectable range, typically covering 60–80 miles depending on riding style and conditions. With a fuel economy of around 12–14 miles per gallon, the Bearcat 660 balances power with efficiency, making it suitable for longer rides without frequent refueling stops.

## Detailed Technical Specifications

1. Engine: 660 /cc, four stroke, liquid cooled
2. Power Output: 50 /hp (peak), 2,200 /RPM torque peak
3. Weight: 290 /lb (empty)
4. Length: 132 /in
5. Width: 44 /in
6. Height: 38 /in
7. Fuel Capacity: 4.5 /gal
8. Top Speed: ~70 /mph
9. Brakes: Dual disc, ABS
10. Suspension: 13 inch front, 12 inch rear adjustable shocks
11. Transmission: 6 speed, manual, with reverse gear

## Performance on the Trail

The Bearcat 660's performance is a blend of speed, agility, and endurance. Its lightweight frame and responsive steering make it an excellent choice for riders who enjoy both groomed runs and off trail exploration. The 50 hp engine offers a smooth power delivery, allowing riders to maintain momentum even in deep snow or on uneven terrain.

### Acceleration and Top Speed

From a dead stop, the Bearcat 660 can reach 60 mph in roughly 12–14 seconds, thanks to its high torque output. While it isn't the fastest snowmobile on the market, its top speed of 70 mph is more than adequate for most recreational and trail based riding. The 6 speed gearbox allows riders to keep the engine in its optimal power band, improving both acceleration and fuel efficiency.

### Handling and Stability

With a low center of gravity and adjustable suspension, the Bearcat 660 handles well in both straight line speed and tight turns. The dual disc brakes with ABS provide reliable stopping power, even on slick or icy surfaces. The adjustable sway bars help maintain stability during high speed cornering, reducing the risk of over steering or loss of control.

## Maintenance and Longevity

One of the Bearcat 660's biggest strengths is its low maintenance cost. Arctic Cat's reputation for durability means that riders can expect reliable performance year after year with routine upkeep.

### Routine Maintenance Checklist

- Oil and filter change every 150–200 /miles or after every 3–4 /months, whichever comes first.
- Inspect and replace spark plugs every 500 /miles.
- Check and adjust tire pressure regularly; optimal pressure is 10–12 /psi.
- Inspect brake pads and discs for wear; replace if pad thickness is below 3 /mm.
- Inspect suspension components for leaks or damage; replace shocks if necessary.
- Clean and lubricate the drivetrain every 200 /miles.

### Common Repairs and Parts Availability

Typical repairs include replacement of worn brake pads, shock absorbers, and spark plugs. Parts for the Bearcat 660 are widely available through authorized dealers and online retailers, and due to its popularity, aftermarket options are plentiful. The cost of replacement parts is generally lower than that of premium snowmobiles, making the Bearcat /660 a budget friendly option for long term ownership.

## Comparing the Bearcat /660 to Other Models

### Bearcat /650 vs. Bearcat /660

The 650 cc version of the Bearcat series offers slightly less power (around 47 hp) but retains many of the same features. The 660's increased displacement results in better acceleration and higher top speed, making it preferable for riders who demand a bit more performance without moving to the 700 cc range.

### Bearcat /660 vs. Bearcat /700

The 700 cc model delivers up to 58 hp, providing stronger performance, especially on steep ascents or heavy loads. However, the 700 is heavier (approximately 305 lb) and more expensive. For riders who prioritize agility and cost efficiency, the Bearcat /660 remains a compelling choice.

### Bearcat /660 vs. Competitors

When compared to models from other manufacturers such as the Yamaha S Series or Ski Doo S Series, the Bearcat 660 holds its own. While the Yamaha S Series offers a slightly higher top speed (up to 75 mph) and a more powerful engine, it also comes with a higher price tag and heavier frame. The Ski Doo S Series focuses more on touring comfort and luxury features, which may not appeal to riders seeking a more rugged, performance oriented machine. The Bearcat /660's blend of power, affordability, and durability makes it a solid middle ground.

## Pros and Cons of the Arctic /Cat /Bearcat /660

### Pros

- Powerful engine with smooth torque curve – Ideal for both new and experienced riders.
- Lightweight frame for agile handling.
- Adjustable suspension and sway bars for personalized ride.
- Dual disc ABS brakes for safety.
- Affordable maintenance and parts.
- Strong resale value and widespread dealer support.

### Cons

- Not the fastest snowmobile on the market.
- Limited touring features compared to premium models.
- Some users report a slightly harsh ride on very rough terrain.

## Buying Guide: What to Look for When Purchasing a Bearcat /660

### New vs. Used

New Bearcat 660 snowmobiles come with a manufacturer's warranty and the latest factory tuning. However, they are priced at the higher end of the market. Used models can offer significant savings, but it's essential to verify the vehicle's condition. Look for:

- Comprehensive service history.
- No visible rust or frame damage.
- Intact suspension and steering components.
- Functional ABS and brake system.
- Accurate mileage reading.

### Where to Buy

- Authorized Arctic /Cat dealerships – guarantee genuine parts and factory support.
- Reputable online marketplaces – ensure seller reliability and return policies.
- Local snowmobile clubs or forums – often have trusted sellers and community support.

### Financing Options

Many dealerships offer financing plans with low interest rates for qualified buyers. Additionally, seasonal promotions and trade in offers can reduce upfront costs. Consider the total cost of ownership, including maintenance and potential upgrades, when evaluating financing options.

## After Sales Support and Warranty

Arctic Cat provides a standard warranty covering the engine and major components for up to 2 years or 2,000 miles, whichever comes first. Extended warranties are also available for an additional cost. Dealer support includes routine maintenance, parts, and troubleshooting assistance. The strong dealer network ensures that buyers have access to service centers across North America and Canada.

## User Reviews and Real World Experiences


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