

Auto Guide



FREE Fall/Winter 2016

Supplement to the Tribune

Buckle up pets for safety – it could save their life and yours

Texting and phone calls are not the only driver distractions causing problems on the roads. Many people don't realize that an unrestrained dog or cat riding in a vehicle can also be a distraction and equally as dangerous. Keeping your furry friend buckled up while traveling on vacation as well as to the grocery or park can help avoid many unknown dangers created by an unrestrained pet.



According to the American Pet Products Association more and more pets are traveling in vehicles with their owners. The problem is, the vast majority of owners are traveling with their pets unrestrained.

A dog sitting in the front seat can risk fatal injury from an airbag, even in a minor collision. Just as bad, a dog is also at risk for flying through the windshield when sitting co-pilot. In the backseat they could be thrown like a projectile with enough force to seriously injure the human passengers and small children are most susceptible to serious injury.

If a collision is bad enough that emergency crews are

required, an unsecured animal could run from the scene into oncoming traffic, get hit or even cause another accident. The animal could also pose a threat to a paramedic or firefighter and they may have to put the animal down in order to save human life.

There are a number of products available that provide great options for keeping your pet safe while traveling. Fido Pet Products offers their patented FidoRido®, a 3-in-1 booster seat and restraint system that can also be used as a pet bed and bath tub for

dogs up to 30 lbs.

The FidoRido® installs easily using the car's seat belt. The two-strap restraint system, when used with the FidoRido® harness provided, equalizes the pressure of a sudden stop. The FidoRido® provides lots of room and pet comfort, and even when restrained, dogs can sit, stand, lie down AND look out the window!

Visit www.fidopetproducts.com to learn more about the FidoRido® 3-in-1 booster seat and restraint system and many other great safety and fun products for pets.

Maintaining headlights

By Brian Noble

(NAPS)—While many people know to check their oil and tire pressure before a road trip, if there is one commonly overlooked car care component it would be a bright idea to remember: headlight maintenance.

As the National Safety Council points out, driving at night is more hazardous than at any other time since vision—one of the most important senses necessary for driving—is compromised. Depth perception, color recognition and peripheral vision are all affected.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration adds that the primary reason for severe nighttime accidents and reduced driving safety is dim, cloudy or improperly lit headlights. In fact, a 20 to 50 percent reduction in headlight output leads to a 90 percent increase in the possibility of an accident. Yet an estimated nine out of 10 cars on the road have dirty or yellowed headlights that greatly reduce vision and need to be replaced, repaired or restored.

Before hitting the streets, it's important to not join the majority—check vehicle headlights and ensure that visibility is high. Try these headlight maintenance tips to prepare for the open road ahead and improve vehicle safety year-round.

• You have choices for better headlights: Better headlights can help increase visibility farther down the road, which



in turn can help drivers feel safer and more secure when driving at dusk, dawn or nighttime. If there's an object on the road, better headlights can help drivers react sooner. Any upgrade above a basic headlight replacement can create a better, safer experience for drivers. Many high-performance halogen headlights don't increase glare, which avoids affecting other drivers on the road.

• Replace before burnout: Headlights can dim over time so make sure to replace them before they burn out. If you can't remember the last time the headlights were changed, it may be time for an upgrade.

• Always swap in pairs: It's very important to replace headlights in sets of two. Since headlights dim over their lifetime, a new bulb paired with an old bulb will create an uneven field of vision, which can be a major distraction on the road for oncoming traffic.

• Consider DIY: Depending on the vehicle's make and model, changing the headlight bulbs

can be a simple process that doesn't require a mechanic or service professional. Various online guides exist to help consumers swap out headlight bulbs in a matter of minutes. Consult the vehicle's owner's manual for replacement procedures, needed tools and safety precautions.

• Restoration as an option: The average age of vehicles on the road today is more than 11 years old. Millions of these cars have faded, cloudy plastic headlight lenses. There are DIY restoration kits that can help you restore clarity and remove the hazy yellow appearance on headlight lenses. A good restoration kit can let up to three times more light shine on the road from the same, once cloudy headlight.

• Keep it clean: Be sure all vehicle lights, including headlights, taillights and turn signals, are clean.

To shed further light on headlight facts and figures, see www.sylvania.com.

Four accessories to spruce up used cars

By Ace Abbey

Smart, money-conscious consumers turn to used cars to avoid immediate depreciation. However, pre-owned models sometimes lack that desired "new" factor. Fortunately, several accessories can be added to a previously owned vehicle to spruce it up a bit, bringing back that wow factor.

• A Warming Or Cooling Seat Pad

Most new vehicles are equipped with seats that will warm up at the touch of a button. This feature can be a lifesaver on particularly cold winter days, and it is considered standard in many recent models. The same effect can be achieved in an older vehicle by purchasing a seat pad. Easy to install, they bring a little luxury to an older automobile. Simply place the pad on the seat and plug it into the 12-volt outlet. Some heating pads even offer cooling settings for hot summer days, which is an amenity not commonly found in brand new automobiles.

• Seat Covers

Many used cars can also be spruced up with the addition of seat covers. This small investment can create a whole new feel in an older vehicle.

• The Headliner

The headliner, which is the fabric lining the interior roof, can sometimes become dirty or possibly even fall or

droop. Even though this can make an automobile appear very outdated, the upgrade to fix this problem is quick and easy. Headliners come in a variety of colors, and some even feature designs for those who wish to customize the interior.

• Fun Hitch Cover

For used cars or trucks that have a hitch, it can be fun to change out the hitch cover. It might not exactly make the vehicle look brand new, but it will help add some personalization. Some hitch covers come in standard chrome. However, they are also available in a variety of shapes and styles including light up options. Some people purchase hitch covers that feature their favorite sports team's logo or display an image for a cause they support.

Used cars are known to save some money compared to new ones, and the excitement of this investment does not have to be diminished because the automobile is



not from this year. Adding some personalized touches can make it seem as good as new. These parts are typically available in an auto parts or department store. Some may need to be special ordered to ensure a proper fit.

Article Source: EzineArticles.com

Studded tire information

Washington only allows studded tires Nov. 1 through March 31. There is no individual exception to the studded tire law. However, WSDOT may extend the deadline if forecasts indicate severe winter weather conditions are likely across much of the state.

New in 2016, a \$5 per tire fee is added to every studded tire sale. Money collected goes to the State Motor Vehicle Fund. Studded tires must be used on all four tires of your vehicle.

Do you really need studded tires? It depends. According to

Pemco Insurance, studies show that studded tires perform best on clear ice in temps around the freezing mark,

while winter tires deliver the best handling when the temp is below freezing.



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Northwest drivers are not ready for driverless cars

Though flying cars might still be a distant figment of the future, a majority of Northwest residents believe that self-driving automobiles will soon join other vehicles on the road. But insights from the latest PEMCO Insurance Northwest Poll reveal that most drivers in this region will be reluctant to give up the driver's seat when that day comes.

A new PEMCO Poll finds that most drivers (58 percent) believe that driverless cars will be legally allowed on city streets and highways within the next decade, but surprisingly few – just one in three Washington and Oregon drivers – say they're very interested in owning one, even if the price tag isn't an issue. Instead, significantly more – about 40 percent – say they're not interested in owning one at all.

Younger drivers, however, are more eager for autopilot. Two-thirds of drivers under age 35 think driverless cars will hit the streets in less than 10 years, and they're twice as likely to say they're very or extremely interested in owning a self-driving vehicle compared to their older counterparts (47 percent vs. 23 percent).

“Though perhaps not as true for the younger crowd, the poll confirmed what might be a familiar feeling for many: it's hard to give up

control. Especially when you consider what's at stake in a car crash, we can understand many drivers' desire to remain behind the wheel,” said PEMCO spokesperson Derek Wing. “Even considering today's latest safety features, I think it's human nature for drivers to trust their own instincts and reaction times more than a machine's.”

According to the poll, a majority of drivers welcome the newer safety features of today's traditional vehicles (additions like back-up cameras, blind-spot detection

and brake assist) and agree they keep all drivers safer on the road.

Of the drivers who have newer safety features installed, about three-quarters say they rely on them at least a little bit, but most (76 percent) also are quite confident they could drive just as well without those safety features.

“We'll be interested to see how people's attitudes may change over time as technology continues to evolve and some of these concepts become less futuristic and more contemporary,” Wing added.



For a complete summary of PEMCO's poll results, visit www.pemco.com/poll, where you'll find the responses collected by FBK Research of Seattle in June 2016.

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Put your phone away: this includes hands-free talking

(StatePoint) In an age of constant communication and connectivity, it can be difficult to take a break. But drive time is when your phone should take a backseat to safety, say experts.

"You don't need to be texting to be distracted by your phone," says Kelly Nantel, vice president of communications and advocacy at the National Safety Council (NSC). "Even hands-free talking is a major distraction."

Research indicates drivers using handheld and hands-free phones only see about 50 percent of all the information in their driving environment. This phenomenon is known as "inattention blindness," similar to tunnel vision.

While multitasking is valued in today's culture, researchers find that the human brain doesn't actually perform two tasks at the same time but rather switches

attention between tasks. At your desk, this can be an effective and efficient way to work, but behind the wheel, "multitasking" can be deadly.

From checking GPS, to firing up a drive time playlist, there are countless smartphone-related reasons why people take their mind off the road. And newer in-vehicle systems allow drivers to call, text, email, update social media and browse the Internet, despite research showing these systems cause distraction that can linger after the driver finishes the task.

One of the major reasons drivers today are so distracted is one of the most surprising – pressure from your family. Indeed 82 percent of Americans feels their family pressures them the most – above friends or employers – to drive distracted, according to a recent NSC survey.

"It is a sad irony that the people we love are actually jeopardizing our safety the most," says Nantel. "If you really care, don't call to say, 'I love you,' instead encourage your family to set everything else aside, disconnect and focus only on the road."

To prioritize safety and reduce your risk of being involved in a crash, turn your commute into "me time," and your car into a safe sanctuary. The National Safety Council is offering some tips to take back your drive.

- Turn off your phone when you get in the car.
- Tell your family (and anyone else expecting to hear from you) that you will be driving and will call or text them when you are parked at your destination.
- Send emails and texts before you start driving.
- Return the favor. When friends, family or colleagues



are driving, refrain from placing distracting calls or sending texts.

Driver distractions have joined alcohol and speeding as leading factors in fatal and serious injury crashes. In recent years, thousands of people have died in crashes

when drivers used cell phones. The issue has started capturing the attention of political leaders nationwide and some are taking action to improve laws that promote safe driving, though no law goes far enough, say safety experts, because no law prohibits

hands-free use. To learn more about the dangers of distracted driving and efforts to end this public health crisis, visit distracteddriving.nsc.org.

Driving contains enough risk. So put the phone away and encourage those you love to do the same.

Be aware of these symptoms of a bad transmission

By David Friedman

Transmission failure can be a complete nightmare, costing thousands of dollars to fix or replace. Nobody knows when or where a transmission will fail, so there is another inconvenience of possibly being stranded in the middle of nowhere or on your way to an important function. Although transmission failure is not something any car owner wants to hear about, there are warning signs that may indicate your vehicle is having some kind of transmission problems. Remember, even if your vehicle is experiencing one or more of these warning signs, it does not necessarily mean it's the transmission. Symptoms of a bad transmission overlap with numerous other common vehicle problems, so it's always best to take your vehicle in to have it inspected before just jumping to any conclusion. Bringing your vehicle in for an evaluation and possibly catching a minor problem before it becomes a major issue, might save you thousands of dollars. All that said, below are some of the more common symptoms of a bad transmission:

• Leaky Fluid

One warning sign of a bad transmission is when your vehicle begins to leak transmission fluid. If you park on a white surface, such as a concrete driveway or in a garage, you will be able to tell if you have transmission fluid leakage. If you park on a dirt or grass surface you will need to place a white cloth or blanket underneath the hood part of your car to find such leakage. If you notice any pinkish fluid leaking out, then

you will know that it is from the transmission. Also any very dark or burned looking fluid is another sign that the transmission may be having a problem since optimal color should be a dark or cherry red. Any fluids leaking from your vehicle are cause for concern and warrant taking your vehicle to get transmission repair at as soon as possible.

• Gears Slipping

This is one of the more common signs of transmission failure. You will know if there is a slippage problem if you try to accelerate from a stopped position. Vehicles with normal functioning transmissions allow for a smooth acceleration without hesitation, however a vehicle that may be experiencing a transmission problem would slow down this acceleration process and at the same time your vehicle's RPM spikes up. A jerking motion when putting the vehicle in gear or accelerating from a stand still would be a sign of gear slippage as well.

• Surging

Bad transmissions usually cause vehicles to surge or lurch ahead. You might hear the RPM's have a sudden increase as well. Again, this issue needs to be solved right away and you should take your car to a service center as soon as you're able.

• Any Type of Burning Odor
A burningsmell can be many things, and this includes your transmission. Transmission overheating can be disastrous, so if you ever smell any kind of burning odor, stop driving immediately until you have your vehicle checked out by a professional.

• Non-existent Transmission Action

Transmissions that do not engage no matter what gear you are in can indicate a serious transmission problem. There could also be some sort of electronic failure causing your transmission not to engage. Have it looked at right away to determine the extent of the problem.

• Dashboard Lights

If your check engine light comes on, take your vehicle in for an inspection as soon as possible. Although the check engine light can be indicative of many things, even something as simple as an electronic sensor or computer chip malfunction, it can also indicate a possible transmission problem, so it is always better to be safe than sorry.

There are many things that can go wrong when driving your vehicle, so it is always wise to have your vehicle checked on a routine basis and at specific mileage intervals according to your

owner's manual. There are over 300 moving parts in many transmissions and any one of these could be the cause of your problem. As soon as you notice any of the above symptoms or other abnormalities when driving your vehicle, don't

take chances and have the vehicle checked out. Routine maintenance can be a low cost way of preventing major transmission failure down the road. Although there are no guarantees of preventing any kind of possible transmission problems, having knowledge

about the symptoms of a bad transmission may prevent further damage to this vital component and save you a lot of money in the long run.

Article source: Articlecity.com

Winter is coming: Is your seasonal car ready for storage?

(NewsUSA) – Winter is coming – and that means it's time to store seasonal cars, tools and recreational equipment. Safe, smart storage of motorcycles, RV's, power equipment and seasonal cars goes a long way towards keeping them at their best to ensure peak performance in the spring.

To keep the fuel in gas-powered machines and equipment in peak shape through winter storage, consider these three elements:

- Time is the Enemy

Fuel in gas-powered equipment and cars that remain in storage during the winter months needs to be stabilized to ensure easy starts and full power in the spring. Untreated fuel begins to oxidize, losing quality and combustibility over time, which leads to engines that are hard to start or run rough.

- Fuel

Draining gas from your cars or power equipment is one way to prevent gunk and debris from forming, but it isn't always a practical

solution. One alternative – add a fuel stabilizer. However, you need to choose the right treatment to ensure maximum fuel quality. In general, ethanol-blended gasoline should be used within 30-45 days. However, an enzyme stabilizer, such as Star Tron Enzyme Fuel Treatment, will stabilize gasoline for up to two years. Star Tron does much more than simply stabilize; the unique enzyme formula also helps improve fuel combustibility to ensure easy starts, full power, improved

fuel economy and decreased emissions.

- Formulation

Some fuel stabilizers contain many of the same anti-corrosion and antioxidant additive packs that are already present in pump-grade gas. Adding more of these add-pack compounds can degrade fuel quality causing engines to run rough and smoky when they are started after winter storage. An enzyme stabilizer is designed to work in conjunction with pump-grade gas additives to keep

fuel fresh for maximum performance in the spring. Fresh fuel and easy engine starts are better for fuel economy, which means lower emissions and less environmental impact. And it's not just for winter; an enzyme fuel treatment can maximize fuel quality all



year long.

For more information visit www.startron.com

Fender Flares: reasons to buy them for your vehicle



By Johnny Dow

Fender flares are an aftermarket automotive accessory available to most vehicles, may it be a car, SUV or a truck.

Benefits

The primary purpose of fender flares is to prevent the tires from throwing particles such as mud, rocks, sand, liquids, and other road substances into the air.

For aesthetic purpose, you

can customize the look of your vehicle with fender flares and add style.

Another benefit is it becomes an extension of your vehicle especially when you plan to put on bigger tires. It is fitted directly over the wheel well and contoured to match the same body lines of the vehicle. It is also used to hide rust

or body damage around the wheel well. These are typically made to be rigid and paired up with flexible mud flaps.

Styles

Fender flares are legally required if you're planning

to put on larger tires. You need to determine what set of fender flares you want or need. Finding the style that fits with your vehicle will depend on your preference and your personality. There are different brands that offer fender flares in various color, shapes and sizes, but it can be categorized into one of 4 styles:

- OE Style: This style will give an added style on the basic stock look on your vehicle. This is also preferred by those who just want to hide a small amount of body rust or damage to their vehicle. Take note that some OE style fender flares do not use the same factory holes and may require drilling.

- Street Style: Street Flares provides protection around

the wheel well and fenders, plus an added style and low-profile appearance on the vehicle. It has a smaller profile compared to OE style. You can usually see this on showroom style trucks.

- Pocket / Bolt Style: This style provides protection while giving an extremely rugged and tough look on your ride. It's a no-drill installation, unlike the OE style that requires drilling. It is created with a bolt set in each number of pockets which gives bolt-on appearance.

- Extended Style: These are usually seen on heavy duty-looking vehicles but not as aggressive as the looks you can get from the bolted style.

Fender flares are available in different styles, colors, and

even textures to match the look of your vehicle. It also provides additional coverage for oversized wheels and tires. Take note that this aftermarket vehicle part can even help retain resale value since it keeps rocks and debris away from the vehicle's body.

Article Source: EzineArticles.com

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Despite vehicle advances, breakdowns at record high

Despite advances in vehicle technology, including maintenance reminders and other dashboard alerts designed to mitigate roadside trouble, AAA rescued a record-breaking 32 million drivers in 2015, with more battery, flat tire and key problems than ever before, a new study shows. Vehicles fewer than five years old in particular experienced a higher proportion of tire and key-related issues than older vehicles, suggesting that the trend toward eliminating the spare tire and moving to electronic keyless ignitions may have unintended consequences.

“Vehicles today are advanced more than ever, yet are still vulnerable to breakdowns,” said Cliff Ruud, AAA’s managing director of Automotive Solutions. “Sleek, low profile tires are highly susceptible to damage, electronic keyless ignitions can zap battery life and despite advanced warning systems, more than half a million drivers ran out of gas last year.”

Owners of new vehicles may be unaware that some new

vehicle designs and features may leave them vulnerable at the roadside. To reduce vehicle weight and boost fuel economy, spare tires are being eliminated from new vehicles at alarming rates, and are being replaced with tire inflator kits that can only remedy some flat tire situations. Additionally, new keyless ignition systems can drain the battery life when keys are stored too close to the vehicle and can lock a driver out of the vehicle while the engine is still running. Finally, despite nearly all new vehicles being equipped with low fuel warning alerts and range estimations, a higher proportion of drivers are using these systems to push the limits between fuel ups.

Other key findings from an analysis of AAA’s 2015 roadside assistance data include:

- Battery failures, flat tires and keys locked inside the vehicle remain the top roadside assistance requests.
- Vehicles fewer than five years old have a higher proportion of tire, key and fuel-related issues than older vehicles. Due

to part to complex, electronic vehicle designs, one-in-five service calls for a newer vehicle required a tow to a repair facility.

- Vehicles between 6 and 10 years old have the highest proportion of battery-related issues, as most batteries have a three- to five-year life.

- Roadside assistance calls peak in the summer (8.3 million) followed by winter (8.1 million), fall (7.8 million) and spring (7.7 million).

- Drivers are most likely to request roadside assistance on Mondays and least likely to request assistance on Sundays.

- Drivers in the West experienced the most breakdowns, followed by the South, the Northeast and the Midwest.

- Despite advances in key technology, AAA came to the rescue of more than four million drivers locked out of their vehicles.

“Drivers today have increasingly-connected lifestyles, and want reliable, flexible service options when trouble strikes,” continued Ruud. “AAA has responded with flexible roadside assistance offerings nationwide including app-based service requests and the ability to track assigned service vehicles in real time on a smartphone.”

To help prevent millions of roadside breakdowns from

happening, AAA offers the following recommendations for common roadside problems:

Check for a spare tire: Before purchasing a car, check that the vehicle includes a spare tire. If it doesn’t, consider adding one as an option. Tire inflator kits — which have replaced spare tires on tens of millions of vehicles — cannot remedy all types of tire damage.

Check tires: At least once a month, check the tire pressure to ensure proper inflation. This affects tire wear and vehicle handling. Tires should be rotated based on the manufacturer’s recommended schedule for the vehicle.

Lockouts: AAA recommends motorists take special care of their “smart keys” and keyless entry fobs. Always take keys when exiting the car, avoid exposing keyless-entry remote or smart keys to water and always replace the key or fob battery when recommended by the vehicle manufacturer.

Battery: AAA recommends that drivers have their vehicle’s battery tested when it



reaches three years of age and on an annual basis thereafter. AAA’s Mobile Battery Service offers free battery testing for AAA members.

Pack an emergency kit: A recent AAA survey shows that more than 40 percent of motorists do not carry an emergency kit in their vehicle. AAA recommends that every driver have a well-stocked emergency kit, which includes a mobile phone and car charger; a flashlight with extra batteries; a first-aid kit; drinking water; extra snacks/food for your travelers and

any pets; battery booster cables; and emergency flares or reflectors.

Before hitting the road, download the free AAA Mobile app for iPhone, iPad, Android and Apple Watch. Travelers can use the app to request AAA roadside assistance, route a trip, find the lowest gas prices, access exclusive member discounts, book a hotel and more. In addition, AAA members can also track in real time the location of their assigned vehicle with Service Tracker. Learn more at AAA.com/mobile.

Are wiper blades created equal?

(NewsUSA) - Is there really a difference between wiper blades?

When is it necessary to change my wipers? As the wet seasons approach, it’s important to ask yourself these questions as heavy rains and increasingly severe weather can obscure driving visibility.

In fact, the American Optometric Association reports that 90 percent of all driving decisions are based on visibility. Having a properly installed set of wiper blades will enhance your vision during difficult driving conditions. Most drivers don’t even realize they need new wipers until that moment of truth, as a storm approaches

or heavy snow begins to fall.

To avoid this, check your wipers once a month for worn or split rubber that can cause streaking or chattering. TRICO, an authority in the wiper blades industry, encourages consumers to “change your clocks, change your blades” and make replacing wipers part of your typical fall and spring routine maintenance during daylight saving time.

Finding the right-sized blades can seem difficult. The “Find Your Wiper” feature on wiperblades.com offers a quick solution by letting drivers select their vehicle’s make, model and year to display a full selection of wiper

See WIPERS on page 7

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Finding antique auto parts for your classic ride

By PDS, articlecity.com

There are thousands of people in the auto industry who are antique car buffs and there are actually many reasons to get involved with collecting antique cars. Not only are antique cars worth a pretty penny if they are in pristine condition, but they are also hot collector's items if they run and meet certain criteria. Furthermore, many people love collecting antique cars because they like to restore them to their original condition; however, many times this requires some auto parts that are needed for various systems throughout the automobile.

On the other hand, if you or someone you know has

ever tried to get their hands on some antique auto parts then you already know how much of a pain they can be to find. Indeed, the reason that antique auto parts are very hard to find is because normal auto parts retail stores hardly ever carry them or anything else that's related to antique cars. The main reason for this is that there is very little profit in doing so, except from the antique car collectors themselves.

In order to find antique auto parts, many people are forced to search high and low for these much sought after parts. These auto parts are definitely needed, though, in order to restore an antique car to its original condition. However, one suggestion to find these antique auto parts

is to ask around through connections that are forged and acquaintances that are met through antique car shows. Most people, especially antique car owners, will be more than happy to divulge the information since there is no profit in hiding the information and keeping it a secret.

Another suggestion that one has to find antique auto parts is the resources on the World Wide Web. There are many specialty groups that can be found online and one of these groups is devoted to antique auto parts. You may be very surprised to find out that there are a great deal of antique car owners that are located on the web for the sole purpose of connecting with other antique car owners and to

start up antique car groups throughout the whole United States. Within these antique car groups on the internet, though, there is bound to be some antique auto parts resources that one is able to use in order to help restore their antique car they're working on.

On the other hand, it's very possible that the antique auto part that you are looking for is no longer available and there's nobody that's carrying the part anymore. If this situation arises then the very next best thing to do would be to make modifications and adjustments to the antique auto parts that you can find



that will nearly do the trick.

All in all, even though some antique auto parts are very hard to find, there are always going to be options and alternatives available in place of the antique auto parts themselves. Even though it

may be difficult to grasp the notion that no part is available anywhere, life must go on and the restoration of the antique car must continue if one is to succeed with the goal of getting it back to pristine and working condition!

Wipers

continued from page 6

blade options.

You may find that several different wiper blades fit your



car, and then ask yourself, "Does it really matter which one I use?" The difference between a conventional style and the newer, premium beam design is important to keep in mind.

A

conventional blade design features a steel superstructure with blade claws, a rubber wiping element and several connection points. The beam blade design is the latest advancement in wiper technology that offers even pressure and enhanced clarity in all conditions.

Although the beam blade is considered an all-season wiper, you may want to consider a winter weather blade that is equipped with superior armors and synthetic

blended materials. TRICO invented the winter blade in 1953 and has recently perfected it with TRICO Ice.

This wiper blade is a great option for providing maximum performance in the most unrelentingly harsh conditions.

Of course, one of the most frustrating parts of buying wiper blades is installation.

Thankfully, wiperblades.com has helpful installation videos to help you avoid the struggle and make the

process as quick and easy as it should be.

No matter where you live, unpredictable and harsh weather will affect driving visibility, so be ready with a reliable, quality set of wiper

blades when the time comes. Get more tips on how to keep yourself and other drivers safe at wiperblades.com.

Take a look at the top five family hatchbacks



Skoda Octavia



Volkswagon Golf



Hyundai i30



Mazda 3



Toyota Prius

By Claire Nguyen

If you're in the market for a new family hatchback below is a rundown on the top five as voted by a renowned online car buyer's guide.

Top of the picks is the Volkswagen Golf hatchback which is described by the use of words like 'refined', 'comfortable' and 'fun'. As most Volkswagen cars it's reliable and well-built and holds its value well, it comes with an array of safety kit as standard and both looks and feels good to drive. It's

only let down by its rather conservative appearance.

In at number two comes the Skoda Octavia which has more space than the VW Golf and offers great value for the money. But the models on the lower end of the price scale also miss out on some equipment so expect to pay more for things like rear electrical windows and alloys.

The green Toyota Prius gets the third spot with its spacious cabin and big boot. It's got excellent fuel economy and low emission which makes up for the rather disappointing

interior.

Forth in the top five is the Hyundai i30 which is the cheapest of the top five

cars and also comes with a great warranty package. It's described as a solid car but a bit bland.

Last of the top five cars is the Mazda 3 which is described as funky and fun with good resale value.

So if you're in the market for a new family hatchback, you probably won't go wrong by checking out one of the above.

Tips on getting a new or replacement keyless remote

By James Jacob

By now, the knowledge of keyless entry or key fob (as also called) have become quite common amongst car owners. Even thieves are aware of them, and some of them who are tech savvy have found out ways to hack into such advanced devices and steal the vehicle. However, they are still one of the best and certain ways to keep your car safe. In addition, keyless entry remotes provide various convenient functions.

Keyless remotes bring you the convenience of locking and unlocking your car doors from a distance. After getting out of your car, one push of a button on the keyless remote ensures that all the doors of your car are safely shut, no

need to check each. Likewise, you can open your car doors from a distance or set the alarm while you are away and so on.

There could be typically two reasons for which a car owner buys keyless remotes and keys. The first could be that he/she owns an older car model that was manufactured without the keyless functions and wants one installed. Another is the case of losing the keyless remote and keys. This is a common situation amongst many car users whose car has a keyless remote feature. Being very compact, these remotes and keys could be quite easily misplaced. In these cases the owner can either go to the original car manufacturer and ask them to install or program

the device for him/her, or go to other third party shops for the same. The latter is considered preferable as it provides considerable savings.

However, some experts also advise that you can do the programming by yourself. This can be done with a spare key which you might have received with the master or original one that you



have lost. With the spare key and a manual of the vehicle where the programming instructions are given, or in the case you don't have the manual you can search for

it online, and when you have found one, you can read it up and re-program the device. This, if done successfully, could be a cost free method to get your device back to work.

Although possible, not everyone prefers to adopt the cost free method by themselves, sometimes because the car owner doesn't have time and patience to search for the spare key or the manual, then read it

and follow the instructions. Another reason is that some just prefer to get the job done by a professional, although with a cost, it ensures that the job will be done correctly and in lesser time excusing yourself from the otherwise hit and trial approach. If you are looking for a keyless remote, you can find one easily on the Internet. You can just type in the car make or model name with a related keyword, for example - Cadillac remote or Cadillac fob key and so on.

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