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Auto Enthusiasts Ditch Horsepower For Gas Mileage

By Matt Timion

America's hotrod scene has been one of its most unique features and subcultures since the earlier

1900s, and most notably in the 1950s. Enthusiasts would spend countless time and money modifying, tuning, and driving their cars so that they could be the fastest, the most dangerous, and gain the most respect. A resurgence of this culture appeared when small economy cars were modified, and in the 1990s, the "Tuner" crowd was born.

Now the same enthusiasts are shifting from speed and power to efficiency and distance.

One-by-one, back yard mechanics and former racers are beginning to modify their cars for gas mileage instead of horsepower. In this game, less is more, and the person with the smallest car, the smallest engine, and the fewest horses powering their vehicle usually win. Surprisingly, it's not just the fiscally responsible adults that are concerned about fuel economy, but young enthusiasts are also jumping on the bandwagon.

A quick look at websites like

<http://GasSavers.org>

will show you hundreds of people all interested in

modifying their cars to make them more efficient. That is where Matt Todhunter, who at one time spent more than \$12,000 to make his car fast, now goes to talk about making his car efficient.

"I wanted to be unique again," says Todhunter, "...and I wanted to straighten up my finances. I knew that I'd never be able to stop modifying cars, so I figured I'd do something that was much less expensive yet still goal oriented. I still get to tinker with my car, it's ALWAYS a challenge, and I haven't gotten a speeding ticket in a long time."

Enthusiasts like Matt Todhunter are becoming more and more common, and they are even beginning to earn the respect of the hotrodders, who are often amazed by the accomplishments these fuel

economy fanatics are capable of achieving.

Many of the crossovers from the racing crowd are able to apply the same principles to fuel economy. "Most of the modifications are the same," says Joe Gardner, another fuel economy enthusiast. "Racers and people interested in fuel economy both want lighter, smaller cars that are aerodynamic and ultra efficient. The only major difference is that we want small engines and they want big ones."

Considering the similarity in process, procedure, and mentality of modifying for speed and gas mileage, it is also no surprise that many speed enthusiasts are beginning to have two cars: one car modified for fuel economy as their daily driver, and another car modified for speed for their "fun" car.

While America's obsession with speed will most likely never end, this new breed of auto enthusiast will most certainly be a driving force in their future choice of transportation. As the fuel economy movement gains more momentum, it would be no surprise at all of this became the next "big thing" for car lovers.

Matt Timion owns and operates

<http://www.GasSavers.org>

. He belongs to a number of groups

dedicated to efficiency, gas mileage, and alternative energy.

Saving Money With Gas Friendly Car Models

By Gabriel Adams

With gas prices averaging over three dollars a gallon, everyone in America is looking for ways to get more gas mileage out of their car. People are making sure they have enough air in their tires, changing their fuel filter, and watching their speed to try to conserve gas. However, there are many gas friendly car models on the market today, which could really put some money in your pocket.

The days are gone where the only gas friendly car models look like toy cars, or have no horsepower. Now you can get a sleek, sophisticated car, with quite a bit of horsepower, and great gas mileage. Many cars are available now like the Honda Accord, Honda Civic, Honda Insight, Lexus GS450H, Toyota Camry, and the Toyota Prius. These cars get anywhere from 25 miles per gallon in the city (Lexus GS450H) on the low end to 61 miles per gallon in the city (Honda Insight). The Insight also gets 68 miles per gallon on the highway, while the GS450H, gets 28 miles per gallon on the highway. Some of these cars have a fully integrated hybrid (gas & electric) engine, while others have a six cylinder engine that turns off three cylinders on the highway to conserve gas.

If you are looking for a sports utility vehicle, but you do not want to get a second mortgage on your house to pay for gas, then you are in luck, because many hybrids are hitting the market now. These include the Ford Escape, Lexus RX400H, Toyota Highlander, and Mercury Mariner. The gas mileage for these models ranges from 31 to 33 miles per gallon in the city, and 27 to 29 miles per gallon on the

highway, with the Escape and Mariner getting higher gas mileages.

Not only will these gas friendly car models get more mileage for your gas dollars, the federal government is giving income tax breaks for buying gas friendly car models as well. Many different states are also giving sales tax breaks, parking fee exemptions, and state income tax breaks for purchasing gas friendly cars. Some major cities are also allowing hybrid cars the ability to drive in the high occupancy vehicle lane with only one passenger. The perks to owning a gas friendly car model are very lucrative, so what is stopping you from going out and buying one the next time you are looking for a new car?

Get more information on discount cars and family cars:

<http://www.fleetcars.info>



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