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Internet stops

Zoom off to the Internet to find car-buying tips

by the staff of Excite
Special to The Seattle Times

Drivers, start your engines! Here are automotive sites that offer tips on buying, selling and operating cars.

Car Talk@cars.com

<http://www.cartalk.com/>

Got car problems? Tom and Ray Magliozzi can help. Writers of the nationally syndicated car column "Click and Clack" and hosts of NPR's "Car Talk," Tim and Ray provide mechanical diagnosis along with first-hand car reports and a searchable database of used cars for sale. The site also provides information on how to choose the right car, where to buy it, and how to get a fair price. A humorous grease-monkey advice column a la Ann Landers, Car Talk mingles comic relief with car wisdom and philosophy.

Popular Mechanics Car Care

<http://popularmechanics.com/popmech/auto2/2HAUMRP.html>

For in-depth instruction on car maintenance and minor repair, gun your engine over to Popular Mechanics' PM Zone. The site is divided into three sections: Saturday Mechanic, Maintenance Basics and Car Clinic. Saturday Mechanic gives experienced gear heads illustrated step-by-step instructions on complex repairs like servicing drum brakes, while Maintenance Basics covers simple jobs like changing the engine oil.

Edmund's Buyer's Guides

<http://www.edmunds.com/>

Feel like you got ripped off on your last used car or truck purchase? Next time, consult Edmund's Automotive Buyer's Guides. In addition to values and prices for new and used cars down to make, model and features, Edmund's contains in-depth car reviews and information about incentives and rebates, as well as news and a discussion area. Tips on safety, saving money and general care-kicking.

Autopedia: The Automotive Encyclopedia

<http://www.autopedia.com/>

Let Autopedia help you get the best deals buying, selling, leasing and/or insuring your car. The automotive encyclopedia publishes data specific to cars, trucks, minivans, motorcycles and RVs. Skimpy on design, but generous with advice and information, this site offers new and used car buying guides, a loan-payment calculator, car finders and detailed info on recalls, tires, stereos, airbags and theft ratings.

Carpoint

<http://carpoint.msn.com/>

Where do you want to drive today? Before you cruise over to the nearest car dealer, check out Microsoft CarPoint. In addition to basic car-buying tips, the site contains a vast database of specs, photos, prices and meticulous descriptions of new car and truck models. Browse the database by vehicle class or search for automobiles using the nifty find feature.

e-Auto

<http://www.eauto.com/>

eAuto holds the keys to auto-related sites on the Net. Divided into categories including auto manufacturers, auto parts, wheels and tires, accessories, and services, this site provides updated listings to automotive resources online, including newsgroups and mailing lists. Check out site reviews and chat areas, as well as headline news and car reviews.

Automotive Learning Online

<http://www.innerbody.com/innerauto/>

Don't know the radiator from the muffler? Car anatomy at its best, Automotive Learning On-line offers a view of the automobilus americanus. Rookie mechanics will find hundreds of informative illustrations and animations, plus a descriptions index that lists detailed explanations of car parts.

Autoconnect

<http://www.autoconnect.com/>

Want to buy a used car? AutoConnect lists thousands of used vehicles for sale. Find dealers, compare models, calculate payments, check your credit, or just browse through hundreds of links to manufacturers, publications, parts, and clubs worldwide. Peruse car reviews provided by Consumers Digest and pricing from Kelly Blue Books. Register to receive e-mail notifications on safety issues and recalls.

Autosite Garage

<http://www.autosite.com/garage/garmenu.asp>

Under the hood and around the car, the AutoSite Garage provides tips and instructions on keeping your car in pristine condition. From checking tire pressure to replacing rods and bearings, The Garage provides an illustrated guide and a repair encyclopedia to guide novice mechanics down the tunnel to automotive enlightenment.

Insurance Institute for Highway Safety

<http://www.hwysafety.org/>

Did you know motor-vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death among Americans 1-37 years old? Dedicated to the prevention of crashes on our nation's highways, the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety heralds driving with reason, not recklessness. The site offers valuable insight and sobering statistics, plus safety information on passenger vehicles, large trucks and motorcycles.

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