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Auto Recalls In the News



What car is this?
Answer=Spada Codatronca.



Renault Wind 450 for 2008.



American Muscle; The beautiful Corvette Callaway C16 Speedster for 2008.



Lexus facing lawsuit over ES350 airbags
by Siddharth Raja

Lexus cars are regarded as some of the safest on the road, however a new lawsuit against the company could tarnish this reputation. A class action brought about by a Florida law firm alleges that the Lexus ES350 is fitted with a faulty front passenger airbag sensor that could prevent the airbag from triggering in the event of a collision.

The suit goes on to explain that the defective vehicles are fitted with a weight sensor that gauges the weight of the person in the front passenger seat, but that these sensors have been found to be faulty. One representative claims that he tested multiple ES350 vehicles and found them to be defective, as did other customers from across the country. Worse, it claims Toyota was warned about these issues and failed to correct them. The owners want Toyota to recall and repurchase all ES350s, refunds for those that leased the cars, each car to be refitted with a working airbag system, and compensation for any loss of value and costs owners incurred during this process.



Ford recalling 3.6 mil vehicles with faulty cruise control units
By Frank Filipponio

Ford announced a big recall, involving 3.6 million vehicles with a faulty cruise control switch that could potentially cause a fire. This is essentially a follow-up to the January recall involving 6 mil light trucks for basically the same concern. This newest recall affects about a dozen different Ford, Lincoln and Mercury models from model years 1992-2007. Ford is apparently undertaking this latest recall in response to complaints that the speed control deactivation switch is always on.

A Ford spokesman admitted that the company had received "a few reports of fires" in Crown Vics already, but no deaths, injuries or accidents from this problem.

The full list of vehicles being recalled is a long one: 1998-2002 Ford Ranger, 1992-1997 Lincoln Town Car, 1992-1997 Ford Crown Victoria, 1992-1997 Mercury Grand Marquis, 1993-1998 Lincoln Mark VIII, 1993-1995 Taurus SHO, 1999-2001 Ford Explorer and Mercury Mountaineer, 2001-2002 Ford Explorer Sport, 2001-2002 Ford Explorer Sport Trac, 1992-1993 E150-350 vans, 1997-2002 E150-350 vans, 1993 Ford F-Series pickups, 1993 Ford Bronco, 1994 Mercury Capri, 2003-2004 Ford F-150 Lightning, and 1995-2002 Ford F53 motor homes.

Get Ready for the Motion-Plus Top Sales Contest with great Prizes Giveaway starting September 15th till December 15th.

eBay Find of the Day: Insurgent-proof party bus



When you're headed out for a night on the town in one of the world's hot spots -- and by "hot spot" we mean someplace like Kabul, Chechnya, or the Congo -- and you want to guarantee safe passage, you need one of these. It's billed as an H1, but it's actually an armored limo built on a 4x4 Ford F550 using the 6.0-liter Power Stroke V8. Part of a lot built for US diplomatic missions, they are street legal and armored to level A9, which will stop high-powered rifle and sits just below 'tank' on the protection scale. They've also got a 1/4-inch of ballistic steel explosion protection in the floor, seven exits, rear seats that can be folded flat and used as shooting platforms, and room for 22 civilians or 16 combat-equipped soldiers for when you want to roll with your friends from the 1st Marine. It's also got the kind of interior that makes you wonder what diplomats do in their free time, and what limo would be complete without a Ballisticom Outside Intercom System with Siren? They'll paint it a more appealing shade if you wish, but if you're rolling in a 20-foot Brinks truck, making a fashion statement probably isn't high on your list of priorities.

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How often should I change my antifreeze?

Transmission Treatment reduces friction, noise and wear in transmissions, gear boxes and differentials. Increases hydraulic and transfer case life. Can be used on 2-stroke engines. We recommend repeat treatment every 6 to 9 months.



For "ordinary" antifreeze, the vehicle manufacturers generally recommend coolant changes every two to three years or 30,000 miles. Others say it's not a bad idea to change the coolant every year for maximum corrosion protection -- especially in vehicles that have aluminum heads, blocks or radiators. But such recommendations may soon be obsolete. Several antifreeze suppliers have just recently introduced "long life" antifreeze formulations that claim to provide protection for four years or 50,000 miles.

General Motors introduced a five year, 150,000 mile antifreeze in its 1996 cars and light trucks. The new coolant is called "Dex-Cool" and is dyed orange to distinguish it from ordinary antifreeze (which is green).

CAUTION: These new long life coolants provide extended life only when used in a clean system mixed with water. If mixed with ordinary antifreeze and/or old coolant in a system, the corrosion protection is reduced to that of normal antifreeze (2 to 3 years and 30,000 miles).

Corrosion Inhibitors

The life of the antifreeze depends on it's ability to inhibit corrosion. Silicates, phosphates and/or borates are used as corrosion inhibitors to keep the solution alkaline. As long as the antifreeze remains so, corrosion is held in check and there's no need to change the coolant. But as the corrosion inhibiting chemicals are used up over time, electrolytic corrosion starts to eat away at the metal inside the engine and radiator. Aluminum is especially vulnerable to corrosion and can turn to Swiss cheese rather quickly when conditions are right. Solder bloom can also form in copper/brass radiators causing leaks and restrictions. So changing the coolant periodically as preventative maintenance is a good way to prevent costly repairs. The basic idea is to change the coolant before the corrosion inhibitors reach dangerously low levels. Following the OEM change recommendations is usually good enough to keep corrosion in check, but it may not always be the case. That's why more frequent changes may be recommended to minimize the risk of corrosion in bimetal engines and aluminum radiators.

Checking The Antifreeze

One way to find out if it's time to change the antifreeze is to test it. Several suppliers make special antifreeze test strips that react to the pH (alkalinity) of the coolant and change color. If the test strip indicates a marginal or bad condition, the coolant should be changed.

Changing The Coolant

Reverse flushing is the best way to change the coolant because draining alone can leave as much as 30 to 50% of the old coolant in the engine block. Reverse flushing also helps dislodge deposits and scale which can interfere with good heat transfer. The concentration of antifreeze in the coolant also needs to be checked prior to the onset of cold weather. A 50/50 mixture of antifreeze and water is recommended and will protect against freezing down to -34 degrees F and boil over protection to 263 degrees F. For maximum protection, up to a 70% mixture of antifreeze can be used for freezing protection to -84 degrees F.

CAUTION: Do not use more than 70% antifreeze, and never run straight water in the cooling system because it offers no corrosion, freezing or boil over protection.



M & J Sunshine also carries cartridge filters for European as well as domestic automobiles.



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Heard it On The Street

A Seven Ten Cap

The other day I was in the local auto parts store. A lady came in and asked for a seven ten cap. We all looked at each other and one of the service guys asked, "What's a seven ten cap?" She replied, "You know, it's right on the engine. Mine got lost somehow and I need a new one." "What kind of car do you drive?" another guy asked. (Thinking that perhaps she drove an old Datsun Seven Ten.) The lady replied, "I drive a Buick." We asked her how big is the cap. She made a circle with her hands about 3 1/2 inches in diameter. "What does it do?" asked one of the service guys. She replied, "I don't know, but it's always been there." One of the guys gave her a note pad and asked her if she could draw a picture of it. So she made a circle about 3 1/2 inches in diameter and in the center she wrote 710. As she was drawing, the guys behind the counter looked at it upside down and they fell behind the counter laughing their heads off.

(Directions: Draw a circle and write 710 in the center. Now look at it upside down.)

Ridding 40"



A mechanic's must-have;
Crankshaft table lamp.



Got Beer?



Photo: Metro.co.uk

Chick Of The Month



Mustang Bud



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