



2014 AUTOS

NEW CAR GUIDE

WHAT'S HOT FOR



A LOOK AT THE TRENDS SHAPING THE CAR INDUSTRY

The 2014 model year is shaping up to be a great time for new-car shoppers.

As the economy improves, buyers are starting to pour into showrooms again after delaying the purchase of a new vehicle for too long. Today's vehicles have gotten better, safer and more refined. And financing terms remain favorable, with a combination of low interest rates, longer loan lengths and easier lending standards.

If you're in the market for a new car, here are some trends to know about this year.

TECHNOLOGY

New cars are becoming more like consumer electronics with each passing year.

Not only are they available with more luxury add-ons — things like adaptive cruise control, ventilated seats, video cameras and blind-spot sensors — but they're also more customizable than ever before.

In a lot of new models, for example, a digital display behind the steering wheel can show different information based on what the driver prefers to see there. It's a fancier, more powerful version of the old-fashioned trip computer.

Perhaps the biggest trend for 2014 is the ability for cars and smartphones to work together. Most new cars today offer some kind of system for playing

music, accessing apps and making phone calls through your cell phone, and the differences between them can help push careful shoppers from one car to another.

If you want to be blown away, make a visit to your local car dealer and ask them to demonstrate some of the infotainment features on their new cars. Even the most affordable, entry-level economy cars are typically available with the kinds of electronics that would have been considered extravagant luxuries just a few years ago.

GAS MILEAGE

Another big trend involves technology under the hood: getting the most mileage from every drop of gasoline.

As federal gas mileage standards tighten and consumers look more closely at the fuel economy figures

that can help lower their gas budget, car makers are responding by making impressive mileage a key feature on their 2014 cars.

Turbochargers, quiet diesel engines and direct fuel injection are just a few of the technologies that are becoming more common this year.

PREMIUM COMPACTS

Closely related to the fuel-saving trend is the popularity of today's "premium compact" cars.

Small, efficient commuter cars are available with more high-end options this year, letting buyers outfit them like luxury cars while still benefiting from their lower fuel consumption.

Luxury brands are rolling out smaller, more efficient models, too, for people who want the status and comfort of driving a high-end vehicle without the pain at the fuel pump.

Autonomy on the Way?

A FEW NEW CARS CAN VIRTUALLY DRIVE THEMSELVES

While Google and other companies continue to work on autonomous vehicles — those that can drive from place to place with no human input — self-driving cars are becoming reality in a small way starting with a few 2014 vehicles.

STEERING INPUT

For years now, some high-end cars have been available with a feature called lane departure warning. It uses cameras to watch the stripes in the road, then sound an alert if the driver accidentally veers across them or gets too close to them.

It's basically a way to make sure the driver is paying attention.

A few new 2014 cars take this a step further, actually providing steering input to help keep the car in the middle of the lane — even if the driver takes their hands off the wheel.

Lexus, Infiniti, Ford, Acura and Mercedes-Benz all offer a few vehicles with this innovative feature. While they definitely still require a driver, they are capable of doing some of the driver's job under the right conditions, making small steering adjustments to keep the car safely in its lane.

ADAPTIVE CRUISE CONTROL

One feature that is gaining widespread popularity in 2014 is adaptive cruise control.

Unlike traditional cruise control, which keeps your car at a steady pre-set speed, adaptive cruise control uses radar sensors to follow the speed of traffic.



It lets you set the distance you want between you and the car in front of you — from long gaps to practically tailgating — and then automatically adjusts your speed up and down to keep that distance constant.

That means if you're driving 65 mph on the Interstate and approach a car driving 60 directly in front of you, the

cruise control will slow you down to 60 mph automatically.

If they slow down, you slow down. And if they speed up, you speed up — all the way to the maximum speed you decide at the time.

Some systems can even bring your car to a complete stop, then start moving again when traffic picks up.

IN COMBINATION

When you combine adaptive cruise control with the lane-keeping steering system available on a select few cars, that means your vehicle can steer, brake and accelerate all on its own, if the conditions are right. And that's getting awfully close to the dream of a self-driving car.

There's an App for That

CARS BECOMING CLOSELY INTEGRATED WITH SMARTPHONES

As long as cell phones have been around, people have been eager to adapt the new technology to cars.

From the bag phones of the 1980s to the iPhones and Androids of today, cell phones are increasingly being integrated with the driving experience, and the ultimate expression of that in 2014 vehicles is the in-car app.

WHAT THEY DO

For the most part, the most popular in-car apps mirror services offered directly on smartphones, only they do so through the car's digital display.

It makes perfect sense. Most of today's new cars are available with some sort of digital screen, whether a large navigation display or a smaller screen behind the steering wheel.

By linking your vehicle to your cell phone's digital data, you can access online services to stream digital music with Pandora, make dinner reservations with OpenTable or read reviews of local venues on Yelp.

QUICK DEVELOPMENT

Seeing an opportunity here, auto makers have been fast to

roll out suites of apps that are designed to work via the car's digital display and interface.

Some results are better than

others. Many apps are easier to use on the phone itself than through the car, but others — especially music apps

— are better and safer to use via the car's own interface.

Drivers are used to adjusting the volume and changing

songs or stations using knobs on the dash, for example.

Since many people use their smartphones or MP3 players to carry their music library around, it's logical to connect it to the car for use while driving. That way they can use those same familiar knobs and buttons to control their music from the phone and play it through the car's sound system.

COMPATIBILITY

As apps gain popularity, one of the problems that arises is the compatibility of new cars and new devices as they roll out.

Most phones will either connect to the car using a USB cable or wirelessly using Bluetooth, but different versions of software and hardware don't always work well together. And software upgrades for both your phone and car could cause compatibility issues down the road.

If connectivity is important to you, make sure you bring your phone on your test drive to see exactly how it connects and which features are available.



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More Sporty Fun This Year

EXCITING CARS MAKE A COMEBACK WITH NEW INTRODUCTIONS

After the market crash of 2008, flashy cars fell out of style for a while. Sporty, aggressive, fun-to-drive cars are harder to sell in a recession, when it's fashionable to be conservative and when more buyers are shopping for bargains.

As the economy has slowly recovered, though, America's appetite for sporty cars has returned. Here's a look at four exciting cars that are all-new for 2014.



LEXUS IS

The IS has long been Lexus' sports-sedan alternative, but a redesign for 2014 has BMW squarely in its crosshairs.

While its drivetrain carries over from 2013, the rest of the car has been totally re-thought to make it sharper, more aggressive and faster than before. It feels more like a premium sports sedan than ever in its history.

The 2014 IS is a much more exhilarating car than last year's model, especially in F-SPORT trim with a firmer suspension.

CORVETTE STINGRAY

For many car lovers, the biggest news for 2014 is the introduction of a brand-new sports car that brings back an iconic name: the Stingray.

The Chevrolet Corvette Stingray is expected to be in high demand this year thanks to a thorough redesign that makes it better looking and faster than before.

It's the most powerful standard Corvette model ever sold, making an estimated 450 horsepower and accelerating from zero to 60 mph in less than four seconds.



CADILLAC ATS-V

Cadillac's new entry-level model, the ATS, drew praise when it was introduced last year and offered performance and handling that matched the longtime leader in sports sedans, the BMW 3-Series.

In 2014, Cadillac is unleashing its high-performance version of the ATS, called the ATS-V. It should be a good match for the BMW M3 and more proof of just how impressive General Motors engineers can be when given the opportunity to show off.



JAGUAR F-TYPE

Another iconic name is being revived, in a way, with the Jaguar F-Type this year.

The F-Type is the spiritual descendent of Jag's most legendary sports car — and perhaps the sexiest vehicle of all time — called the E-Type.

It's a long-awaited true two-seater sports car from the storied British brand, offering high-tech, all-aluminum construction in a gorgeous convertible body. Pricing starts at \$69,000.



Safer Than Ever

TECHNOLOGY PLAYING BIGGER ROLE IN 2014 CARS

Safety is one of the biggest concerns of new-car buyers, especially those who regularly drive with children in the vehicle.

There's good news for 2014: today's latest cars are adopting more technologies than ever before to keep their occupants safe. Here's a look at a few of the features that are available this year:

BACKUP CAMERAS

This isn't a particularly new technology, but it is getting widespread use in 2014.

Rear-view video cameras are now standard equipment on a wide range of vehicles, most commonly SUVs and crossovers because of their size, but also some smaller sedans, too.

These rear-view cameras can help drivers see what's below the bumper and behind their car when backing up, making them a must-have safety feature for many buyers.

REAR CROSS-PATH DETECTION

This feature addresses a weakness of video cameras: their often narrow field of vision.

When drivers rely too much on video cameras when backing up, as opposed to their own eyeballs, they can't always see cars driving toward them on the horizon.

Rear cross-path detection senses when cars are driving toward you when you're in reverse, even if those cars are outside the field of vision for

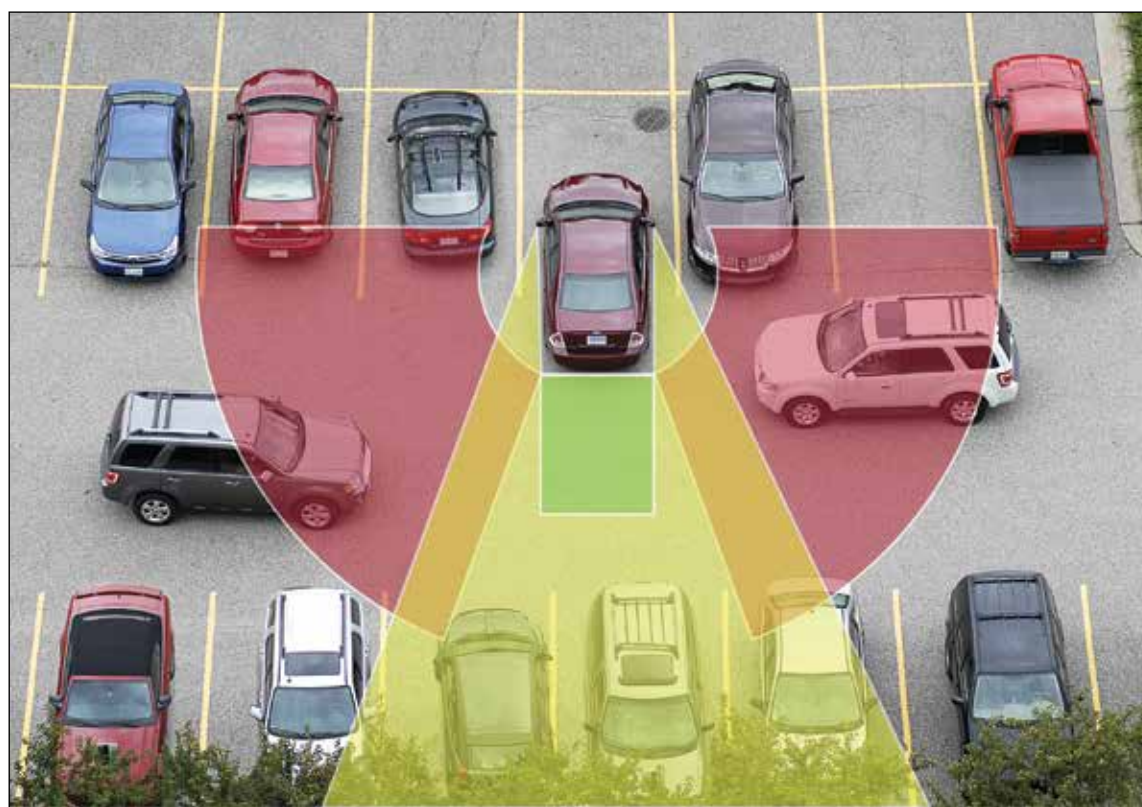


PHOTO COURTESY OF FORD

Rear cross-path detection is designed to alert the driver when cars are approaching from the sides, where rear-view cameras often can't see clearly.

your camera. It gives an audible warning to let the driver know there's an oncoming vehicle nearby.

LANE DEPARTURE WARNING

A nice feature for drivers who may be distracted or sleepy, lane departure warning will alert you if you veer outside of your lane.

Video cameras in the front of the car will look for stripes in the road,

and if the driver appears to be leaving their lane without signaling, the car will give a warning. On most cars, this is just an audible beep, but a few will also produce a vibration in the steering wheel or seat to get the driver's attention.

BLIND SPOT MONITORING

This feature addresses the nightmare of student drivers everywhere:

the blind spot.

Blind spot monitoring uses radar sensors to detect when a car is in your blind spot, the place a driver can't see in their rear-view mirrors.

On most of these systems, a light will show up in your side mirror when there's a vehicle in your blind spot. And if you signal to change lanes while a car is there — making your car sense that a collision might be imminent — many of these systems will also issue an audible alert.

ACTIVE SAFETY

Unlike passive safety features like air bags and seat belts that protect you after a collision has occurred, active safety features are all about taking steps before the crash happens.

Some luxury-car brands, like Mercedes-Benz, have been pioneering this technology for years, but it's filtering down to more affordable cars now. Many vehicles offer forward collision warning sensors that will set off an alarm — usually lights and sounds from the dash — if they detect you're going to hit a car in front of you, with the goal of getting the driver's attention at the last second.

Other cars will do things like lock the doors, pre-tension the seat belts, prime the brakes, or even apply braking pressure automatically if it senses a wreck is about to occur.

New Luxury Models

HIGH-END BRANDS TAKING BOLD STEPS THIS YEAR

This is going to be an interesting year for luxury-car sales. With many high-end brands reporting improving sales, carmakers are experimenting with new ideas in the luxury market in 2014.

This year will see budget brands introducing luxury cars, like the Kia Cadenza, and luxury brands introducing new electric cars, like the Mercedes-Benz B-Class.

Here are some of the new upmarket cars for 2014:



KIA CADENZA

Like its Korean cousin, Hyundai, the Kia brand has been on an upswing with better cars and good quality ratings in recent years.

Now Kia is taking things to a new level by introducing the Cadenza for 2014. It's a full-size luxury car that's the most powerful and technologically advanced vehicle that Kia has ever sold in America.

It's also built for budget-conscious shoppers with a base price of \$35,100, which includes a backup warning system, navigation system, leather seats and 550-watt sound system.



INFINITI Q50

Starting at \$37,605, the all-new Q50 replaces the G-Series sedan in Infiniti's lineup. It has a sexy, sleek body style and 328-horsepower base engine.

Even more impressive is the Q50 Hybrid, which makes more power — 356 horses — and still gets a 36-mpg highway rating.

An all-wheel-drive Hybrid model will be priced around \$49,000.



BMW 4-SERIES

What used to be called the 3-Series Coupe gets a new name and a fresh design for 2014: the BMW 4-Series.

This two-door car is not only substantially larger than the 3-Series Coupe it replaces, but it's also 100 pounds lighter, befitting BMW's tradition of building cars for precise handling and performance.

It will initially be available with two engines: a turbocharged four-cylinder that makes 240 horsepower, and a 300-horse turbocharged inline six.

It's drawing the most attention, though, for its gorgeous new body design, which is a new, sleek take on the classic BMW shape.



MERCEDES B-CLASS

Mercedes-Benz is reaching two milestones at once with the introduction of the electrified B-Class in the United States.

One is that a B-Class has never been offered here before. While the relatively affordable Merc is sold overseas with gasoline engines, it's only going to be available as an electric car here.

And that's the other milestone. It's Mercedes' first test of how the

American market will respond to the idea of an all-electric car with a three-pointed star on the hood.



CADILLAC

The 2014 model year is going to be huge for Cadillac. In addition to the high-performance ATS-V and CTS-V, Caddy will be rolling out new versions of its CTS sedan and coupe along with a new electric luxury car, the ELR.

Perhaps the biggest news of all is that Cadillac is moving its volume seller, the CTS, upmarket with a fresh-slate redesign that has drawn plenty of praise for its body design, tech-filled cabin and bigger size that makes it more comparable to the BMW 5-Series and Mercedes E-Class.

The ELR, a sibling to Chevy's brilliant Volt extended-range electric car, also promises a luxury experience with low fuel consumption — or perhaps zero fuel consumption — depending on how you drive it.

New Trend: Going Electric

ELECTRIC POWER IS BECOMING A MAJOR PART OF THE AUTOMOTIVE WORLD

Another major trend for 2014 is automakers continuing to roll out new, innovative versions of electric-powered cars.

Hybrids have used electricity to save some gasoline consumption for years now, but that's just the beginning. The scope and breadth of today's electric-car market is wider than ever before, making it rather confusing to

sort through the different types of power systems on the market.

Here's a look at several broad categories of electrified cars.

HYBRID

The most widely available fuel-saving car today, a hybrid uses a combination of a gasoline engine and electric motor to improve fuel economy.

The key thing to understand is that hybrids are designed, for the most part, to use both gasoline power and electrical power at the same time. They may be able to drive very briefly in "EV" electric-vehicle mode, but most of the time your engine will be running like a normal car. The boost it gets from the electric powertrain just means it uses less gas.

PLUG-IN HYBRID

A few cars are available as a special "plug-in" hybrid car. They usually come with a beefier battery pack than traditional hybrids and can drive for several miles on purely electric power before the gasoline engine kicks in.

As the name suggests, you can plug them into the wall to keep them charged up, maximizing the amount of time they can drive on purely electric power. For the most part, though, the electric power range is relatively short, so most drivers will end up rely-

ing on gas power at some point with plug-in hybrids.

MILD HYBRID

Mild hybrids are designed to save some fuel, but they use smaller, less powerful, less expensive batteries and charging systems than traditional hybrid cars.

While normal hybrid cars may be able to drive briefly under purely electric power, for example, mild hybrids cannot. They have electricity-based designs that save some fuel, but they typically don't get as dramatic a boost in miles per gallon.

The upside is that there's less of a cost premium when buying one.

PURE ELECTRIC

A purely electric-powered car doesn't have a gasoline engine. The upside is that, because they don't need that engine and all its related components, they're less expensive and lighter weight than comparable hybrid cars.

That means they can drive a long way on electric power before the batteries run out of juice.

The downside, though, is

that their range is finite. Until a more extensive fast-charging network is rolled out, drivers won't be able to realistically take long trips in their pure electric cars and will still need something powered by gasoline as a second car.

EXTENDED-RANGE ELECTRIC

General Motors is the main proponent behind the concept of an "extended range" electric car, referring to the Chevrolet Volt and the new-for-2014 Cadillac ELR.

These cars are designed primarily to work as electric vehicles, running all the time on battery power. But unlike pure electric cars, they also carry a small gasoline engine that can work as a generator to keep the electric power flowing indefinitely on long trips.

This best-of-both-worlds approach makes sense, but it comes at a cost. The engineering, added weight and production expense of building a gas-powered generator and an electric drivetrain make them considerably more expensive than many electric-only cars.



What's New in Trucks?

ALL-NEW GM, TOYOTA MODELS, UPDATES FOR FORD, RAM

All-new pickups from General Motors and Toyota are dominating the truck news for 2014, but they're not the only ones with big changes.

Ram and Ford are both making updates to their trucks to keep them fresh amidst the increased competition. Here's an overview of changes for 2014 pickups.



CHEVY SILVERADO/GMC SIERRA

GM's lineup of light-duty trucks gets a clean-slate redesign for 2014 — new “from hood to hitch,” as GM likes to say — but they retain their same base prices from 2013.

According to GM, the new trucks have the best V-8 fuel economy and the best available tow ratings of any light-duty pickup. They also include standard scheduled maintenance for two years or 24,000 miles.

Three all-new EcoTec engines are available — a V-6 and two V-8s — along with a stronger, quieter and more comfortable cab. A refined new interior comes with features and connectivity tailored to the needs of truck customers, while the steering, suspension and brakes have all been revised for improved ride and handling.

It also comes with some smart solutions for handling cargo in the bed, including steps built into the rear bumper corners.



TOYOTA TUNDRA

Likewise, the Toyota Tundra is all-new for 2014, with a modern, chiseled look and refined, highly functional interior.

One of Toyota's goals with the Tundra was to offer some of the best standard features in the class, so backup cameras and Bluetooth are now standard equipment on every single grade. The new Tundra is also available with a blind-spot monitor system and rear cross traffic alert.

Toyota is also proud of the fact that the Tundra is all-American. It's engineered, designed and assembled in the United States.



FORD F-150

Ford's big news for 2014 is the announcement of

a new sport truck, the Tremor.

The Tremor comes standard with the company's powerful 3.5-liter EcoBoost engine, offering V8 performance, V6 fuel economy and a launch-optimized 4.10 rear axle with electronic locking differential.

The short-wheelbase, regular-cab Tremor offers a stylish FX Appearance Package and functional features that include a floor shifter, class-exclusive HID headlamps and standard SYNC with MyFord Touch connectivity system.

All-new truck's distinctive looks are complemented by unique boxside Tremor graphics and custom-inspired interior.



RAM 1500

A new, efficient diesel engine leads the list of updates to the popular Ram for 2014.

Ram is the only brand to offer a small-displacement diesel for its half-ton line of trucks.

The 2014 Ram 1500 starts at \$24,200, plus \$1,095 destination, while the EcoDiesel option is priced \$2,850 higher than the similarly equipped HEMI-powered Ram 1500.

According to Ram, best-in-class fuel economy will be achieved with the new 3.0-liter EcoDiesel engine, which features 240 horsepower and a whopping 420 pound-feet of torque.

Power will be routed through a TorqueFlite eight-speed automatic transmission.

Some 'Wow' Features

A LOOK AT UNUSUAL, INNOVATIVE IDEAS IN 2014 VEHICLES

One of the best things about shopping for a new car is getting to see all the new features that are available.

And in 2014, car makers are digging deep into their bag of engineering tricks to come up with some crazy-cool ideas to make driving more enjoyable.

Here's a look at some of them.

S-CLASS WIZARDRY

The S-Class, Mercedes-Benz's flagship sedan, has always offered a glimpse at the kind of technologies ordinary cars will have in around 10 years. With a new S-Class being introduced for 2014, it's fun to look at some of the crazy-cool luxuries the M-B engineers have dreamed up, including:

- LED mood lights that can change color depending on the driver's preferences.

- An automatic perfuming system that keeps the air smelling perfect.

- A "hot stone massage" feature in the seats.

- Magic Body Control, which uses stereoscopic cameras to scan the road surface, then adjust the suspension for bumps before the car hits them. It leads to an incredibly smooth ride, Mercedes says.

VACUUM CLEANER

Here's an idea many a minivan driver has wished for: a built-in vacuum cleaner.

Honda is making that a reality on the Touring Elite version of its popular Odyssey minivan for 2014. It's supposed-



PHOTO COURTESY OF HONDA

A built-in vacuum cleaner in the Honda Odyssey minivan is among the more unusual and innovative ideas seen in 2014 vehicles.

edly an idea that sprang straight from the mind of an engineer's six-year-old daughter.

The built-in vacuum is perfect for picking up spilled Cheerios. Designed in conjunction with the people who

make the Shop Vac, it is located in the left side of the rear storage area, and it comes with a hose that can reach all the way to the front of the van. It has a gallon-size receptacle for collecting trash that is vacuumed up.

CAMERAS EVERYWHERE

As high-resolution video cameras get smaller and less expensive, car designers are finding more creative ways to put them to use.

Honda has rolled out a side-view camera that can help Accord drivers change lanes. Some Infinitis offer 360-degree views via video cameras when parking, and a few luxury cars even use night-vision cameras to improve safety when driving after dark.

TIRE PRESSURE

All new cars today come with tire-pressure monitors that detect when tires have too much or too little air.

And all new cars come with a horn, too.

Nissan came up with the unique idea of bringing those two things together in the new Altima, using the horn to give a quick audible alert once a tire has reached the right pressure when filling it up.

That means it makes the old tire-pressure gauges pretty much obsolete. If the sensor detects low pressure, a warning will show up on the dash. Then the driver will simply air up the tire until the horn beeps and the hazard lights flash to confirm the tire pressure is at the right level.