What's New In 1980 Cars

While a great many of the improvements in the new cars are under the hood, there are still a lot of visible changes — everything from heated outside mirrors to on-board computers. Here are some of the things you can expect to find in the new cars for 1980.

Self-Sealing Tires

The puncture - sealing tire, offered as an option on all 1980 Cadillacs, features a tire sealant on the interior tire liner. Should a nail or other object penetrate the tire, sealant surrounds the object, sealing the puncture at the tire's inner liner.

If the puncturing object is expelled by centrifugal force or otherwise removed from the tire, the sealant fills the opening, keeping the tire inflated. That means the driver probably won't even be aware the tire was pierced.

3.8 Turbocharged V-6

Chevrolete Monte Carlo for 1980 offers new turbocharged power. How does it work?

The turbocharger forces a dense air-fuel mixture into the combustion chamber. The ignited dense fuel mixture delivers more power per piston stroke than a non-turbocharged engine increasing horsepower to 170—a boost of approximately 47 percent in maximum power over the non-turbo version.

The turbocharged Monte Carlo is readily recognizable by the special hood with raised rear center pod and specific turbo decal identification. Inside the passenger compartment, a brushed chrome - lettered "Turbo" nameplate is positioned in the upper portion of the corner instrument panel air outlet.

Goodbye Bumper Jacks

When you gotta change a tire, you gotta change a tire and those old bumper jacks left a little to be desired. But those days are gone forever on Dodge's 1980 domestic model cars because sill jacking has gone across the board.

The sill jacks come in two sizes, depending on car model, and are to be placed under the jacking pads at the four corners of the car body where there is great structural strength.

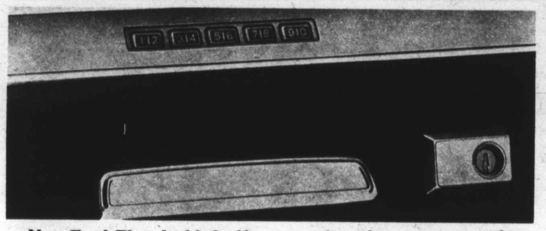
The jacking sills are immediately aft of the front wheels and immediately forward of the rear wheels. They include downward protruding flanges into which the top of the sill jack nestles providing a safe, secure connection between car and jack.

Chrysler added sill jacking to the 1980 model Dodge Aspen, Diplomat, and Mirada. Sill jacking has always been standard on the Omni and the full - size St. Regis models.

Amazing soft plastic cushion

holds dentures comfortably tight for weeks without messy "stickums"

Not a messy paste, powder, cream or wax pad—but an amazing soft plastic adhesive cushion. Snug® Brand Denture Cushions hold loose, wobbly dentures comfortably tight for weeks. With Snug there's no need to bother with messy daily "fixing." It lasts for weeks, sticks to your plate not to your gums, so easy to clean or remove. Get Snug Denture Cushions to hold your dentures tight and firm for weeks... in comfort. At all drug counters.



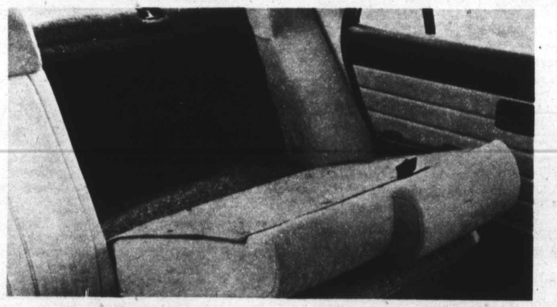
New Ford Thunderbird offers a series of computer push-buttons to lock and unlock the doors. No key is needed.

Multi-Control Lever

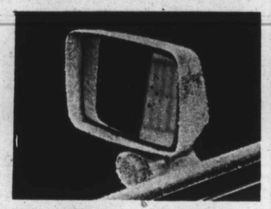
The new fuel-saving speed control option on manual transmission Horizon is another feature incorporated into the multifunction control lever mounted on the steering column of all domestic cars.

The lever incorporates turn signals, headlamp beam selector, windshield wiper - washer, and speed control for manual or automatic transmission cars.

Weight reduction and resizing continue into 1980 with the most significant change reflected in the all - new mid - size Cordoba. Reduction in wheelbase to 112.7 inches for this new two - door hardtop, combined with the use of lighter weight parts, make Cordoba nearly 400 pounds lighter than Chrysler's intermediate specialty cars of 1979.



A 60/40 split folding rear seat on the Mazda 626 allows you to carry large items, or long ones plus a passenger in the rear.



If visibility during rain and snow has been a problem, the new Cadillac Seville offers heated rear view mirrors.

Other key features for 1980 include halogen headlamps for improved visibility; new and improved air conditioning, heater, and radio sound systems; more convenient armrest - mounted power door locks and window switches in some models; wider use of chime warning systems instead of buzzers; expanded sill jacking, and body wiring improvements for easier service.

Anti-Theft System

For several years, Cadillac's optional anti - theft system has announced to the world—with flashing lights and intermittent sounding of the horn—when someone tries to make off with the car.

Picture the thief with a 1980 Cadillac. If somehow he gets past flashing lights and sounding horn, he encounters Cadillac's new starter - disablement feature. The car will not start.

In some high - theft areas, this feature may qualify for saving up to $150 annually on insurance premiums.

Optional Overdrive

"A major new feature this year is Ford's optional Automatic Overdrive Transmission."

Preliminary Ford tests with the new Automatic Overdrive Transmission and LTD's optional 5.8 - liter V-8 engine indicate a 35 per cent highway fuel - economy improvement, a 19 per cent metro - highway improvement, and a 14 percent city mileage improvement, compared with a 1979 Ford LTD equipped with a 5.8 - liter engine and a conventional automatic transmission.

The new four-speed Automatic Overdrive Transmission, standard on all Lincoln and Mark VI models, features a mechanical lock-up overdrive fourth gear designed to provide improved fuel economy at highway speeds.

The shift from third to overdrive occurs at approximately 40 miles per hour at minimum throttle, or at higher speeds when the engine is under more load or during faster acceleration. When the transmission makes the three-to-four shift, there is a noticeable reduction in engine sound level and RPMs.

Another feature directly related to engine operating efficiency is the electronic engine control system. This system monitors and controls selected engine functions and is standard on all 1980 Lincoln Continentals and Continental Marks VIs. It uses a more powerful computer than last year's system and has a reduced number of custom - integrated microprocessor chips.

New styling is the hallmark of the new Cadillac Seville Elegante. A more spacious trunk is one of its features.

35% Fuel Improvement

The most fuel-efficient gas-powered Oldsmobile is the 1980 Omega with the standard 2.5 liter engine and manual transmission. On the EPA highway schedule the car earns 38 miles per gallon and 24 miles per gallon in the city driving. The same engine coupled with the automatic transmission is rated at 35 mpg on the highway and 22 in the city.

Electronic digital displays show the average mpg, temperature and radio setting on the new Seville.

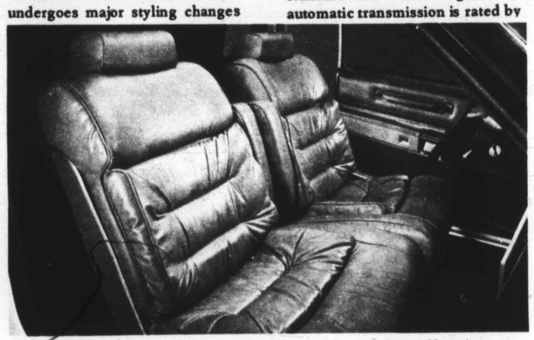
Similar Front Ends

The full - size Pontiac for 1980 undergoes major styling changes and offers a revised, more fuel efficient engine lineup than the 1979 models.

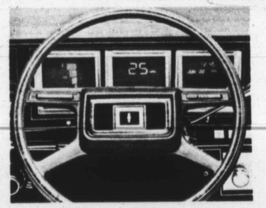
For the first time in many years, the 1980 Catalina and Bonneville have similar front end styling. Catalina, like Bonneville, features a bold, vertical grille centrally located above and below a new flush bumper design.

Fuel economy for the 1980 Starfire with the standard 2.5 - liter engine and automatic transmission is 32 mpg on the highway schedule and 24 in the city, and 35 miles per gallon on the highway and 22 in the city with the manual transmission.

The 1980 Cutlass with the standard 3.8 - liter engine and automatic transmission is rated by



Town Landau split-bench seats with dual recliners are available on the new Thunderbird, plus 18-ounce carpeting.



A digital readout speedomet and a trip computer is featured on the new Continental Mark VIs.

EPA at 27 miles per gallon on the highway schedule and 20 mpg in the city.

The Mazda RX-7 will continue to have a standard equipment list on both the S and top-of-the-line GS models that includes cutpile carpeting, reclining bucket seats, tachometer, cigarette lighter, quartz clock, AM-FM stereo radio with power antenna, tinted glass, electric rear window defroster and side window demisters, center console and lockable fuel filler door.

Added to this list for 1980 are a vanity mirror on the passenger's sunvisor, a pocket on the driver's sunvisor and the choice of fabric or new "breathing" vinyl seat upholstery. A day-night inside rear view mirror has also been made standard on the S model.

Hennessy says...

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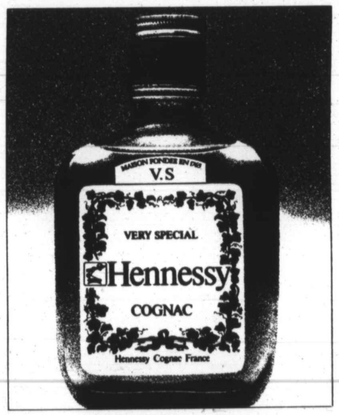
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