

## Is it time to buy?

You've owned your car almost three years and it's practically paid for. Now you are debating whether to trade it in for a new one or hold on to it for a while longer.

If you have been maintaining your car regularly, chances are there is still lots of life left in it. However, if your maintenance has been hit or miss, then you should give your vehicle a bumper-to-bumper and roof-to-tire-tread physical at your favorite service outlet.

Use the following checklist to determine the condition of your car. If you decide to hang on to it, make certain these items are in good condition to assure yourself of continued worry-free, safe performance.

Check:

- Battery and cable.

- Condition of tires, both tread and sidewalls.
- Transmission linkage.
- Condition of brakes.
- Condition of shock absorbers.
- Exhaust system.
- Cooling system, including radiator hoses, cap and thermostat.
- Belts.
- Wiper arms and blades.

In addition, make sure these routine maintenance services have been performed recently:

Engine tune-up, oil change with new filter, lights checked and aligned, wheels aligned, chassis lubricated, fresh antifreeze installed.

Also, if there are nicks and bumps in the car, have them repaired.



## It takes a thief

The vehicle identification number, now discreetly tucked away on the inside of a car's front door post or on the dashboard, may in a few years be moved to the outside in a prominent location.

So says Richard L. Thornberg, the assistant attorney general in charge of the criminal division at the U.S. Dept. of Justice and co-chairman of a government-wide task force trying to cut down on automobile theft. His group is studying the outside number idea.

Moulding the number into the actual body of a car would

make it a lot harder to alter or obliterate, advocates of the change believe, and so would discourage the fences who now encourage close to one-third of all car stealing.

"Also, we understand that it is feasible to develop and deploy high speed computer scanners on public highways," Thornberg says. "These scanners could be so positioned as to record the VIN's of passing vehicles and query such VIN's in the stolen vehicle computerized files of law enforcement agencies."

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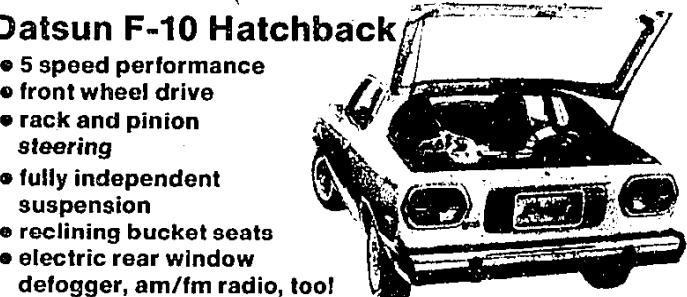
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