

Wheels: Last week you discussed some vehicle optional equipment that you felt may become common on all or most vehicles in the future. What are some more?

Halderman: Last week I included navigation systems, backup cameras, satellite radio, heated and cooled seats, and hand-free cellular telephones. Some additional options that may be popular in the future include:

1. **Bluetooth and hands-free telephones** – Bluetooth is short range (33 feet) radio frequency standard that allows cellular telephone to “talk” to the vehicle and then allows the driver to use the built-in microphone and speakers of the vehicle for a hands-free telephone system.

Caption: Instead of having to manually control the vehicle or dial the telephone, voice-recognition and Bluetooth technology allow the driver to control the telephone by voice commands. (Photo by James Halderman)



2. **Steering wheel controls** – These controls are becoming very common and are standard equipment on many vehicles. The usual buttons on the steering wheel include radio volume up and down and station or track changes. Some vehicles include climate control features on the steering wheel for easy access.
3. **Heated steering wheel** – In cold climates this is a very welcome option.
4. **Electrical folding side mirrors** – Now here is an option that I think will become popular on large SUVs and trucks. This option makes it easy to fold the large outside mirrors when going through a car wash or when parking.
5. **Head up display** – This feature displays the vehicle speed and sometimes other data, such as turn signal information, onto the windshield. The projected image looks as if it is some distance ahead, making it easy for the driver to see without having to refocus on a closer dash display.

Caption: A typical head up display showing zero miles per hour, which is actually projected on the windshield from the head up display in the dash. (Photo by James Halderman)





Caption: The dash-mounted control for the head up display on this Cadillac allows the driver to move the image up and down on the windshield for best viewing. (Photo by James Halderman)