

Wheels: Are there any other interesting new options or features?

Halderman: A couple more options include:

1. **Radar cruise control** – This feature uses the driver to set a speed as normal but with this system, radar is used to sense objects in front and will automatically slow down to keep a predetermined gap distance. This distance can be controlled by a switch on the steering wheel on some Cadillac models.



Caption: The gap between vehicles can be set by the driver using steering wheel controls on some models. (Photo by James Halderman)

2. **Push button start** – Many vehicles come equipped with a wireless remote that automatically recognizes the wake up vehicle, when the key fob is near the vehicle. Then when the door handle is grasped, the door will automatically unlock. To start the engine,

many manufacturers are using a simple push button. Therefore, the ignition key as we now know it may be going away.



Caption: Instead of an ignition key to start the engine, some vehicles are using a start button which is also used to stop the engine, as shown on this Jaguar. (Photo by James Halderman)

3. **Automatic headlight dimming** – This system uses a forward-mounted camera that can distinguish between taillights, street lights, and on-coming headlights. The system automatically turns on the high-beam headlights if no on-coming vehicle is detected and automatically selects the low-beam headlights when an on-coming vehicle is detected.



Caption: The view of a headlight camera on this Cadillac pointing forward can detect headlights coming toward the vehicle so that the controller can select low-beam headlights. (Photo by James Halderman)

4. **Push button door handles** – Some vehicles, such as the Cadillac SLR, use a push button interior door release on the inside. No more old fashion interior door handles.



Caption: A door handle release button on Cadillac XLR. There are no interior door handles and instead the button has to be pushed to open the door. (Photo by James Halderman)

Will these become common on all vehicles in the future? I do not know. My crystal ball needs to be sent out for cleaning.