Auto Theft Prevention - Table of Contents

Automobile Alarms

A motor vehicle's horn, bell, siren or other sounding device that is easily audible at 300 feet. Some alarms have an automatic shut-off and reset capability that provides for the alarm to sound for not more than four minutes, shut off and then immediately rearm itself. Other alarms have a backup battery which is an auxiliary power source that trips an alarm device if the main power source is disconnected or if the wires to the alarm device are cut or disconnected.

Alarm Systems

The purpose of an alarm system is to make enough noise that a thief will leave without the vehicle. These alarm systems take many forms:

- Door sensor - a mechanical switch that activates the alarm device if the door is opened without deactivating the alarm system.
- Glass sensor - an electronic device that activates the alarm if it detects the sound of breaking glass or metal in contact with glass.
- Motion sensor - a mechanical switch that activates the alarm device if the vehicle is jacked up or towed.

- Trunk sensor - a mechanical switch that activates the alarm device if the trunk is opened while the alarm system is armed.
- Ultrasonic sensor - an electronic device that activates the alarm device if an ultrasonic field is disturbed inside the motor vehicle.
- Vibration sensor - a mechanical or electrical device that activates the alarm device if any part of the motor vehicle is bumped, causing vibration.

Cutoff Devices

- Ignition Kill Switch – Toggle switch is spliced into the ignition that disables the vehicle when the switch is "off."
- Fuel Kill Switch - Switch is spliced into the fuel system wiring that halts fuel supply when "off."

Locking Devices

- STEERING WHEEL BAR LOCKS - The most popular is The Club, a steel bar that clamps on the steering wheel and makes the vehicle impossible to steer. They are an effective deterrent because of their imposing presence on the steering wheel.
- HOOD RESTRAINT - A device that prevents full access to the under the hood components. These can include a chain which allows a hood opening of approximately four inches, a mechanical or electrical device that physically locks the hood down, or a mechanical or electrical device that prevents the factory-supplied hood mechanism from operating.STEERING COLUMN COLLAR - Protects entry to the ignition through the column.
- TIRE/WHEEL LOCKS - Tool wraps around the tire or wheel to immobilize the vehicle.
- GEARSHIFT LOCK - Locks gearshift in place, making it impossible to shift transmission into gear.

Tracking Devices

Electronic

These systems have a homing transmitter installed in the vehicle which allows the vehicle to be located after being reported stolen. Stolen vehicle recovery system - an independently operated system, such as LOJACK that automatically notifies a monitoring center if a motor vehicle equipped with the system is started by any means other than through use of an ignition key.

Window Identification System

A system under which the motor vehicle identification number (VIN) is permanently marked on at least two windows of the motor vehicle other than the small vent windows

Data Dots

Data Dots are the world's smallest state-of-the-art identification technology, the size of a grain of sand. Each kit contains 100's of tiny microdots each encoded with a unique security code registered to a vehicle owner. Each Dot is applied using a specially made adhesive and can be placed on every part of a vehicle including interior and exterior panels, stereo and engine. Data Dots are then permanently attached; they cannot be located easily other than when using a black light as the glue has an ultra-violet trace. Warning labels are then placed on the outside of the vehicle, advising a would be thief that the car is protected with the Identification System making it "Too Hot to Handle."