

- > Any thoughts on what kinds of ATM-parts can be salvaged from an old car?
 - o Hood ornaments: Just the thing for telescopes which have nothing else to recommend them, thus in wide demand. Also handy as peep sights.
 - o Glove compartments: Useful place to store star charts, eyepieces and Oreos. Caution: Only glove compartments from armored vehicles are raccoon-proof for more than 0.3 second.
 - o Tachometers: Every telescope should have a tachometer for each of its axes of rotation. Automobile tachometers will give a highly accurate reading most of the time, even when not hooked up.
 - o Fuel gages: Ditto.
 - o Windshield wipers: For observing in heavy dew or rain.
 - o Headlights, high beam: Save for retaliation against non-recycled automobiles driving through your observing site with lights at bolometric luminosity approximating the sun. The naive and the gentle may wish to save low beams as well, on the possibility that flicking your telescope's lights back and forth from high to low will induce automobilists to reduce unwanted illumination.
 - o Backup lights: Required by law in most localities when tracking solar system bodies in retrograde motion.
 - o Rear-view mirrors: Permit looking for objects below the horizon without turning your telescope upside-down.
 - o Bumpers and fenders: Useful in territorial disputes with other amateur astronomers over prime observing sites.
 - o Gear-shift knobs and levers: A nice shifter sticking out of the mechanism of your sidereal drive will impress all your friends at the next star party, particularly if you affix near its attach point a small placard bearing the text "hyperdrive", and modify your tachometer (see above) to read out in warp factor.