Sip of the Week

July 25, 2014

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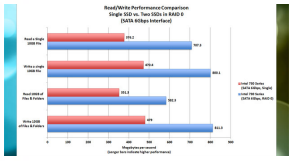
Sippets

Birthday Freebies: Got a Birthday Coming Up? - The Best Retail and Restaurant Birthday Freebies

Car Tip: How to Change Your Car's Oil—It is Extremely Important Regularly to Change Your Oil



Fastest Hard Drive: Want the Fastest You Can Get? Pair SSDs in a RAID 0 for a Huge Speed Boost

Find a Day Trip: Need Something to Do? - Find Family Friendly Day Trips in Any State with This Tool

Two American Classics: Celebrating Coke's 72-Year History With Disney at the Famed Club 33

VIDEO OF THE WEEK: These Bugs Were Following Me

Titera's Titbit: *Puerto Rico*

On July 25, 1898, during the Spanish-American War, U.S. forces launch their invasion of Puerto Rico, the 108-mile-long, 40-mile-wide island that was one of Spain's two principal possessions in the Caribbean. With little resistance and only seven deaths, U.S. troops under General Nelson A. Miles were able to secure the island by mid-August. After the signing of an armistice [More]

Sip of the Day

AUTOMOTIVE: Six Car Sounds You Should Not Ignore

1. A Diesel-Like Clattering in Your Car

Worst-Case Scenario: Detonation, also know as pinging or knock. **Bad Stuff That Can Happen**: Damage to spark plug electrode, pistons/piston rings, and/or knock sensor. **Why**: Things like bad gasoline or incorrect ignition timing cause the fuel to go boom too early. If left unchecked, you risk serious engine damage. **What to do**: Switch to higher octane gas, which resists detonation, and check the timing.

2. Drumming Underneath Your Car When it's Moving, Increasing with Vehicle (Not Engine) Speed

Worst-Case Scenario: Failing universal joint or driveshaft bushing. **Bad Stuff That Can Happen**: U-joint fails completely, driveshaft digs into pavement, and the car pole-vaults and crashes. **Why**: Both the U-joint and bushings simply wear out. The noise comes from the driveshaft flopping around like an ailing fish. **What to do**: Inspect the driveshaft for worn or broken parts, replace them, or get to a mechanic.

3. A Million Fingernails Scrapping on a Chalkboard When You Start Up the Engine or Accelerate from a Stop

Worst-Case Scenario: Loose accessory drive belt. **Bad Stuff That Can Happen**: Your enraged neighbors will kill you. **Why**: The belt is slipping on the pulleys, either due to age and wear, or improper tension. **What to do**: Inspect the belt for minor cracks or fraying. Replace as needed.

4. Sharp Tapping Like a Clunky Washing Machine, Increasing with Engine RPM

Worst-Case Scenario: Connecting-rod knock. **Bad Stuff That Can Happen**: Broken rod blasts hole through the engine block; metal parts and flaming oil shoot out. **Why**: Usually a failure of a rod bearing due to oil starvation. **What to do**: Stop driving immediately. If caught early, the bearing can be replaced.

5. Grinding Metal—Think Snowplow on Pavement

Worst-Case Scenario: Brake pad or shoe material completely gone. **Bad Stuff That Can Happen**: Destroyed brake rotors or drums. Car may pull to one side under braking and possibly crash. **Why**: Brake pads should make a squeal when the pad has worn down to the danger zone. But sometimes we don't notice this sound. **What to do**: Fix the brakes.

6. A Whine Like an Empty Ice Machine When You Turn the Steering Wheel, Especially at Low Speed

Worst-Case Scenario: Failing power-steering pump. **Bad Stuff That Can Happen**: Loss of steering assistance. **Why**: Low power-steering fluid or a pump groaning to death. **What to do**: Check the fluid level, top off as needed, and get ready to buy a new pump.

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