

DASHBOARD OF THE FUTURE  
MARCH 18, 1997

PRINCIPLES OF ENGINEERING  
PERIOD 3

With the up and coming technology everything is changing in the automotive industry. The shape and the design of the cars are changing and becoming more adaptive to the driver and its passengers. So the reason that I used this design is because here in 1997 the cars are looking more aerodynamic, controls are being moved to or directly around the steering column, and the use of the heads up display and the use of an on board computer that knows where you are at all time and if you get lost it is able to tell you how to get back on track to get you to your destination.

Options that are included in my design are the usual parking brake, brake and gas, AM/FM radio with tape deck and CD player. Major changes to the vehicle are the moving of most of the control buttons to the steering wheel, the heads up display, the display screen and the in-car computer. The windshield has a more aerodynamic shape to it to insure less drag while driving. The body of the car is more rounded to lessen the impact in a side collision by cushioning the driver or passenger, by the sides being further away from anyone. I also included a security system that must be turned on and off by pushing your thumb on to the scanner. The system can change as the car changes owners. The controls on the steering wheel control the radio, windshield wipers, headlights, heating controls and a push button gearbox, etc. But the most unusual change to the car is the use of water power to power it. The vehicle will be equipped with a 30 gallon tank that will be located toward the rear and the hydropower engine toward the front.

I included the things I did because more and more accidents are being caused by drivers taking their eyes off the road to change the radio station or to look at how fast they are going. So if you use heads-up display and move most of the controls to the steering wheel this will reduce the need to take your eyes off the road for any extended period of time, which should reduce the number of accidents. I powered the car with water because there is an unlimited supply and it wouldn't be expensive and most of all wouldn't be explosive.

In the future this design could be used for anything from a family car to a full sized pickup truck. Or it could be modified to fit another type of vehicle.