

Unlocking Car Made Easier in 2013 Malibu

Getting into the 2013 Chevrolet Malibu is now as simple as pushing a button.

The Malibu sedan is equipped with four-door passive entry making life a little easier for those searching for keys in the bottom of a purse or trying to find them when your arms are full.

Chevrolet placed small buttons on all four doors allowing the driver to unlock the door with one press and all four doors and the trunk with two presses.

An option on the Malibu LTZ, four-door passive entry is a common feature on luxury vehicles, but scarce on cars in the midsize segment.

Using Malibu's closed-loop wireless communication system, the car verifies that the proper key fob is within acceptable range – about three feet – and allows the driver to unlock the vehicle. Each key fob is uniquely mated to its vehicle, so there is practically no chance of false unlocks.

“Available passive entry on all of the doors was a feature we wanted to offer our Malibu customers,” said Phil Carlisle, Chevrolet Malibu product manager.

“It's small things like this that can go a long way in making everyday use of your vehicle easier.”

Pressing a button on the door handle – as opposed to automatically unlocking the door upon approaching the car – offered better functionality, according to

General Motors engineers.

“This system truly keeps the driver in full control of the car,” said Ron Asmar, lead engineer for Vehicle Access.

“We investigated fully passive systems where the key fob would automatically unlock the door when a person was within a certain distance, and decided against it.

“We wanted to make sure that the system prevented the car from unlocking just because the person and fob were close to it, such as when walking through the garage to take the garbage out.”

The 2013 Malibu is Chevrolet's first global midsize sedan and is sold in nearly 100 countries on six continents. It is the first 2013 midsize car to earn a 5-Star Overall Vehicle Score from NHTSA and a 2012 Top Safety Pick by the



The new Malibu's 'Press Button.'

Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.

In North America, the Malibu has three powertrains, including the Malibu Eco, which uses fuel-saving eAssist technology to enable EPA-estimated fuel economy of 25 city/37 highway.

Malibu also offers a fuel-efficient and powerful Ecotec 2.5L four-cylinder engine and an Ecotec 2.0L turbo with 259 horsepower.

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Model T's Home, Now a Museum, Opens to Public

Birthplace to the legendary Model T and built in 1904, the Piquette Avenue plant was Ford Motor Company's first automotive assembly facility.

Today, it's the Ford Piquette Avenue Plant museum and education center, and it has reopened to the public for 2013, making it the only early American plant of its kind open to the public.

On Piquette's third floor – virtually unchanged from a century ago – visitors have a chance to see where Ford built its first 12,000 Model T cars.

Henry Ford designed the Model T at the Piquette location and visitors can see his “secret room” and his original office, as well as a short documentary about the plant and a number of early automobiles, including a rare Piquette-built Model T.

“The museum provides a rare insight into Detroit's early automobile history,” said Nancy Darga, executive director of the museum.

“Staffed by volunteers, the museum complex is open to the public from April through October.”

Located at 461 Piquette Avenue at the corner of Piquette and Beaubien in the Milwaukee Junction area of Detroit, the museum has a gift shop and off-street parking.

The museum is open Wednesday through Friday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.; Saturdays from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m., and Sundays from noon until 4 p.m. It's closed on Mondays and Tuesdays.

The facility also is available for private parties, weddings and corporate functions.

More information is available at www.tplex.org.

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rstemple@edrinke.com

Nicole Dodge
nhuminski@edrinke.com

Jim Pfeiffer
jpfeiffer@edrinke.com

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