

Cadillac Elmiraj – The Bridge Between Sculpting and Math

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

a step back to a previous iteration, and 3-D scanning makes it relatively easy to do.”

3-D scanners project a light pattern onto the vehicle surface while a camera looks for distortions that represent curves or contours, and records where the object is in space and its orientation. Each scan is digitally stitched together until the complete vehicle is captured. That data can be uploaded into a computer-controlled milling machine to create a full-scale model. A portion of the vehicle can be transferred to a 3-D fabricator for a rapid prototype part.

GM executes tens of thou-

sands of scans every year, Caldwell said. Laser-based and structured white and blue light scanning is also used in engineering applications, competitive benchmarking and in assembly plants for troubleshooting part irregularities.

“Thanks in part to 3-D scanning, we can translate surface from a scale model to a full-size model in less than one week now,” said Bill Mattana, senior manager of Global Surface Creation at GM’s Warren Design Center.

“Not only is Elmiraj a stunningly beautiful concept car, it served as a tremendous opportunity for extending our use of 3-D scanning.”

California Car Thieves Busy

The National Insurance Crime Bureau released a first-edition vehicle theft report on large and mid-sized classifications. The report is based on National Crime Information Center (NCIC) vehicle theft records for the period Jan. 1, 2009, through Dec. 31, 2012, and is limited to 2010, 2011 and 2012 model-year vehicles.

The large vehicle class contains nine makes and 10 models, while the mid-sized class has 16 makes and 20 models as defined by *Automotive News*. This report reviews large/mid-sized thefts and produces a combined class top 10 most stolen list.

During this reporting period, a total of 31,586 large and mid-sized vehicles were reported stolen in the United States. By far, the mid-sized class had the most theft activity with 22,090 thefts or 70 percent of the combined large and mid-sized total.

In the combined top five list, the Toyota Camry saw the most theft activity with 4,619. It was followed in descending order by the Chevrolet Impala (3,608), Nissan Altima (3,103), and Chevrolet Malibu (3,035). The Ford Fusion rounds out the top five with 2,819 thefts.

The state where the most large and mid-sized thefts occurred was California (5,094), followed by Florida (3,306), Michigan (2,604), Texas (2,247) and New York (1,769).

When reviewed by Core-Based Statistical Areas (CBSA), large and mid-sized thefts were most reported from the Detroit-Warren-Livonia area (2,405), New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island area (2,165), Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, Calif. (1,818), and the Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach area (1,586).



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