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How to park a manual car in a parking lot

You'd be amazed how many people lose their car in the parking lot. How can you misplace a car? Believe it or not, it happens. And more often than you think. Even though they weigh thousands of pounds and can be large enough to spot from a great distance, people often lose their cars in crowded parking lots, cities, or various other situations. If this has never happened to you, congratulations, but you can still get a chuckle from some of these crazy lost car stories. A man in Scotland borrowed his friend's BMW to attend a concert in Manchester, UK, then proceeded to lose the car in a parking lot for six months. After half a year of sitting in a parking garage, the estimated ticket was around \$6,000. If only he had a free app that could find his parked car, he could have saved a lot of time and money.If that story wasn't bad enough, a 76-year old German man forgot where he parked his Volkswagen Passat back in 1997. He reported it stolen, and it was found 20 years later in a parking garage that was about to be demolished. These stories certainly make us feel better about those times we misplaced our car for a few minutes in a crowded parking lot. Every so often, we hear a story of how a Ferrari Ezo was left to rot or an E30 BMW M3 was found in the middle of the woods. Stories like these have become increasingly common, and it isn't unheard of to find exotic cars worth millions of dollars being left abandoned in places around the world. Of course, many of these cars were left behind due to the illegal activities of their owners, but if smartphone apps that can find your lost car existed years ago, we'd probably see far fewer barn find cars today. All images via eBay Has this ever happened to you. You park your car in a crowded lot, go about your business, then come back to have completely forgotten where you left it? Finding your car in a crowded parking lot isn't easy, and we've all had our fair share of difficulty finding parked cars in the past. Fortunately, a new Android application called Find My Parked Car will help eliminate the problem of losing cars in busy parking lots. Perhaps all of those stories wouldn't have happened if those owners had used this app. We've already found the app to be useful. Since we get to drive different cars every week, it can sometimes be difficult to remember what car we were just driving after parking it up for a few hours. Automakers love to send us bright, flashy colors that are easy to spot, but other times we test cars that are white or silver and blend in with every other car in the lot.We once took a Toyota Corolla iM to Disney and immediately found it thanks to its Spring Green Metallic paint. On another occasion, Toyota sent us a white Highlander that took nearly ten minutes to find in a not-so-crowded gym parking lot. With Find My Parked Car, even the white cars are now a cinch to find. This is a wonderfully simple app to use, solving the decades' old problem of how to find a parked car. Once installed, just park and mark the position on the app. Find My Parked Car will use the phone's GPS and mobile networks to remember precisely where the car is parked. Then, when it's time to go back to the car, just click the "Find Car" button on the app and it will give you turn-by-turn directions back to your vehicle.The app is completely free and can be installed on phones running Android 4.0 and higher. Download it from the Google Play Store here and never lose your car again. As a beginning driver, you are learning new procedures and functions. Everything you do behind the steering wheel of your car has to be conducted with safety in mind (your safety as well as the safety of other drivers and pedestrians). Whether you are taking private driving lessons from a driver's education company or at your high school, or learning from your parents, you need to learn how to park in a parking space correctly. Locate a large parking lot that isn't too full so that you can practice with empty areas and areas that have cars already parked. You want to practice parking in the empty area first, until you get comfortable before attempting to park next to someone else's car.Pull up to an empty parking stall slowly, until your front left tire is even with the painted stall line nearest to you. Signal your intent to turn left. Slow down until you're almost stopped, and begin to turn your steering wheel to the left. As you're pulling your car in, keep track of your distance from the painted stall line to your left. With your car in Park, check your distance from both painted lines.Straighten your steering wheel out and continue to pull into the parking stall slowly. If there is a concrete curb ahead of you, pull your car up until your front tires bump this curb. If your car is a low-clearance car, however, stop before you reach the curb so that you don't damage the underside of your car. Continue practicing in parking spots with no adjacent cars until you feel comfortable parking.Move to an area of the parking lot which has some cars already parked. Look for an empty stall that has two sedans or smaller cars parked on either side; it will be harder to pull in and reverse out if you are between two large SUVs. Ask your instructor to demonstrate parking between two vehicles as you watch.Practice parking between two vehicles or next to one vehicle, pulling your left tire even with the painted parking line. (You have been practicing pulling into a stall nearest to you.)Begin practicing parking in a stall on your right side in order to learn how to gauge the distance between the right side of your car and the painted stall line. Pull up to an empty spot slowly until your right tire is even with the painted line, signal your intent to turn right and turn into the stall and straighten your steering wheel out. Pull up to the curb, stop and put your car into Park. Check your car's distance from both painted stall lines. Learner's permitLicensed driver over the age of 21 in passenger seatLarge parking lot with some parked carsLocation for curb parkingAs you practice pulling in next to parked cars, you need to learn to gauge the distance between the front of your car and the side of the car you're next to. Make sure the car stops before you begin to park so you can double check the pavement marking that designates your parking spot.If it "looks like" you're too close, you probably are. Reverse and correct your angle, either to the right or left. Before you physically reverse the car, look back to make sure there are no cars or pedestrians behind you. Remember the concrete curbs, both the ones that run the length of the parking lot and the short, individual ones for each parking spot. If you put your car into Drive as you're leaving and you pull out over those curbs, you may cause significant damage to the undercarriage and radiator of your car. Don't wait to stop and reverse and correct your angle if you're already too close to the side of another car. You'll dent or, at the very least, scratch that car as you're pulling in. Parking a car in a parking space, also called angle parking, is an important skill for any driver to master. Safe parking in a parking spot, as well as pulling out of a parking spot, will be required during a driver's test. So it's worth knowing how to do it, and worth doing right. And it can be a little harder than it looks, especially for a beginner driver. Stay as far to the opposite side of the driving lane from the parking spot as possible before beginning the parking procedure. Approach the parking spot at a speed of no more than 5 mph. Begin to turn the wheel toward the parking spot when your line of sight is even with the painted parking spot lines. Pull fully into the spot, making sure to stay between the painted lines. Do not park too close to either line or you may not be able to open your car doors without hitting the car next to you. Attempt to park your car centered between the painted lines. Straighten the car wheels as the hood of your car nears the front of the parking spot. Back out of the space again by pulling straight back until the hood of your car is even with the back bumper of the cars next to you. Turn the wheel in the direction you want the back end of your car to go and continue in reverse slowly. As you enter the driving lane, turn your steering wheel in the opposite direction you've been steering, and then straighten out once you're moving forward. View Photos Steve Siler Like most premier vintage-car shows, The Quail: A Motorsports Gathering during the annual Monterey Car Week is an arrangement of precious cars on luscious lawns, museum cars sans museum. It's also \$600 per head to attend. But anyone who's ever been to The Quail also knows that the show doesn't wait to start until you walk through the gates—no, the spectacle begins as soon as you drive into the "parking lot," the manicured fairways of the Quail's golf course, where you'll see hundreds of rare and occasionally priceless automobiles mixing it up with rented Dodge Journeys and Kia Optimas. And it is there that many of the most interesting cars of the day can be seen and enjoyed ... for free. View Photos Steve Siler And so this year, in addition to bringing you coverage of the show itself—which was fabulous, of course—we also spent a good couple of hours prowling the parking areas to capture some of the four-wheeled fantasy rides that the fancy folks left outside. Think of it like an Easter egg hunt, only with finding vintage Ferraris and rare Aston Martins as the goal. View Photos Steve Siler View Photos Steve Siler This content is created and maintained by a third party, and imported onto this page to help users provide their email addresses. You may be able to find more information about this and similar content at piano.io Imagine misplacing your car in one of Disney World's 15,000-space parking lots. Now imagine that you finally remembered that your red Kia Rio was parked in the Daffy Duck section, but so are 500 other red Kia Rios. That's the type of challenge facing employees at Auto Warehousing Co. in Tacoma, Wash., a staging area for Japanese- and Korean-made automobiles entering the U.S. At any given time, 25,000 cars fill the lot. When a dealer places an order for a car to be accessorized, workers find the vehicle and then take it to a warehouse to be processed and shipped via truck or rail. Intermec Technologies' Intermec 751 To identify the right cars, employees use Intermec 750 Color Series mobile computers/scanners from Intermec Technologies Corp. in Everett, Wash., that support the 802.11b wireless standard. The devices scan the car's vehicle identification number and then link to an Auto Warehousing database that tells the worker where the car should go and what accessories to add."The Intermec scanners have definitely made my job a lot easier," says Leroy Stubblefeld, rail operations lead and an Intermec end user. "They are very easy to use, and we haven't had any problems with coverage around the yard. I like the fact that the screens are bright enough to be seen in the direct sunlight, and they hold up well when dropped or used in the rain. The software is very easy to use and has helped us reduce our rail shipping errors to almost zero."The scanner signal travels to the facility's database via 17 access points -- a mix of powered and nonpowered antennas -- spread over the 144-acre facility. But even that blanket coverage doesn't prevent some signal issues. "You may have some directional issues when you kneel between two solid metal vehicles and try to maintain your signal strength," explains CIO Dale Frantz. "The ability to have better antenna or receiving capabilities on the scanners ... would be helpful," but Frantz says he is willing to wait for those improvements.A radio frequency application, for instance, provides a more powerful signal, "but it introduces a bunch of other problems," he says. Because Auto Warehousing is a port facility, national security issues come into play, and it's difficult to obtain the appropriate licenses from the Federal Communications Commission. "Each generation of [802.11b scanner] equipment seems to improve connectivity," Frantz says. "In a couple of years, Intermec's next generation of equipment will presumably be better than the last."And as for finding an application to more easily locate that specific car in a sea of red Kia Rios, "We're exploring RFID tags right now," Frantz says. While active radio frequency identification tags have been too expensive for his company, Frantz is working with Intermec on passive tags that would bring the per-unit cost down. "That would be really helpful for us."See the complete Faces of Mobile IT special report. The Faces of Mobile IT Different types of mobile workers, such as road warriors, telecommuters and blue-collar workers, need different forms of IT support. Stories in this report: Editor's Note: The Faces of Mobile IT Editor's Note: Corporate America is addicted to mobile connectivity. In this special report we hear the stories of different types of mobile workers -- the devices they use, the features they'd like -- as well as the stories of the IT workers who have to support them. Wireless Worker: White-Collar Road Warrior These road warriors are savvy wireless users, which in turn creates support issues for IT. Tethered to Tree Lightninging the Load With Data Sharing Wireless Worker: Globe-Trotter Different protocols, standards and security issues create unique support issues for workers who skip from country to country. Wireless Worker: Blue-Collar Worker In choosing portable devices for use in the fields, IT must find one that has the right technology, is sturdy enough to handle tough working conditions and comes at the right price. At Home With a Palm Wireless Worker: Telecommuter Stay-at-home workers are powered by laptops sitting atop docking stations, cordless phones outfitted with voice over IP and the often-mandatory instant messaging. Close Contact With IP Communicator Wireless Worker: Campus Nomad Most workers who spend their days roaming corridors and campuses want high connectivity paired with low-tech mobile devices. PDAs for Warehouse Support Wireless Worker: Call Center Agent Voice-over-IP and wireless and computer telephony integration options are making it easier to set up call center agents to work at home. Setting Up Security With a 'Locked-Down' PC QuickStudy: ZigBee ZigBee is a short-range, low-power, wireless personal-area network technology optimized for low-cost sensor and control devices used in homes, office buildings, and medical and industrial settings. The Real Magic of Wireless Technology Your end users expect real-time data anywhere they happen to be. It's your job to make that magic happen, says columnist Mark Hall. Research Insights Click here to view these survey statistics. Online Exclusives Cool Wirelless Stuff. Sure it may be practical and help improve efficiency. But what good is a wireless gadget if it's not fun? Computerworld staffers share some of their favorites, from a universal charger to a \$1,200 digital sound system. The War Driver Returns: Computerworld's David Ramel hits the road again to check out the state of wireless security -- and comes up with some surprising conclusions. Executive Briefing: Read about the threats from mobile and wireless technology in the enterprise, and the strategies developed to deal with them, in this online special report. Lone Warrior: What about the one-person shop? Learn how power PDA user Bert Latamore thrives on being completely mobile and self-sufficient -- until there's trouble. The Wireless Security Value Chain Click here to view this webcast. Copyright © 2006 IDG Communications, Inc.

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