

SOUP IT UP

Device cuts seat belt slack

CG-Lock attaches to the safety belt to keep driver in place.

By Larry Edsall

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When Bruce Mather started competing in weekend autocross events, he soon realized that the seat belts in his car couldn't be cinched tightly enough to keep him from sliding around on the leather-covered seat as he steered through the cones that defined the parking-lot race course.

He noticed other drivers twisting their seat belts into knots to keep them in place and thought there must be a better solution that was less expensive than installing an all-out racing harness system in a car that served as a daily driver for the rest of the week.

So Mather and some friends spent four years developing the CG-Lock, a device that attaches to a standard automotive seat belt to keep the driver tightly in place.

The CG-Lock attaches to a

standard three-point lap-and-shoulder belt. When tightened, it takes slack out of the lap portion of the belt. The lock releases with pressure on the spring-loaded slide, or if the seat belt latch is released.

Although designed for auto enthusiasts, Mather says the device also is being purchased by more conventional drivers, including long-distance truckers and law enforcement agencies.

Truckers like the product because it holds their backs and bottoms in proper position, for

more comfort and less fatigue at the wheel, Mather says.

"Police sometimes have to go at high speeds and make very hard maneuvers," he says, and benefit from the lock just like an autocross racer.

The CG-Lock is intended as a "driver control device" and not sold as safety equipment. But Mather says his company, Hockessin, Del.-based Mather Automotive Innovations Inc., used federal government safety regulations as a guideline for crash testing simulations. The

company wanted to confirm that CG-Lock would not interfere with seat belt safety issues, including those in cars equipped with pre-tensioners that automatically tighten the belts in the event of a crash.

For more information about the CG-Lock, call (302) 234-8110 or check out the www.CG-Lock.com Web site.

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