



**For Immediate Release** March 3, 2014 **CONTACT**: Peter Kitchen 202-737-0766, peter@jagillis.com

# **ANNOUNCING THE CAR BOOK BEST BETS FOR 2014**

# 34<sup>th</sup> Edition: Jack Gillis and The Center for Auto Safety Reveal Best and Worst Among 2014 Vehicles

Washington, DC – Jack Gillis's *THE CAR BOOK 2014*, published in cooperation with the Center for Auto Safety, the nation's leading automotive safety advocacy organization, identifies this year's automotive Best Bets. For 34 years, Gillis, a noted consumer advocate and auto safety expert, and the Center for Auto Safety have compiled the information consumers need to purchase a safe and reliable vehicle. This 34<sup>th</sup> edition of America's foremost car buying guide contains the annually sought after "Car Book Best Bets" for 2014—totally unbiased and advertising free.

### JACK GILLIS'S CAR BOOK BEST BETS FOR 2014

FROM THE CENTER FOR AUTO SAFETY

#### **SUBCOMPACT**

Chevrolet Sonic (10) Kia Soul (7)

#### COMPACT

BMW 3 Series (10) Buick Verano (10) Cadillac ATS (9) Chevrolet Cruze (9) Dodge Dart (9) Toyota Corolla (7) Toyota Prius V (7)

### INTERMEDIATE

BMW 5 Series (9) Buick Regal (7) Chevrolet Camaro (8) Honda Accord (7) Hyundai Sonata (7) Volvo S60 (10) LARGE Buick LaCrosse (8)

Cadillac XTS (8) Toyota Avalon (7)

### SMALL SUV

Acura RDX (7) Buick Encore (9) Cadillac SRX (8)

### **MID-SIZE SUV**

Acura MDX (8) Hyundai Santa Fe Sport (8) Volvo XC60 (10)

### LARGE SUV

Buick Enclave (7) Chevrolet Tahoe (7) Chevrolet Traverse (9)

STANDARD PICKUP

Chevrolet Silverado (7) GMC Sierra (9)

Note on *Car Book* Ratings: The number beside the vehicle reflects the 1-10 comparative rating (10 being the best) the vehicle received overall. The rating includes: crash safety, fuel economy, repair and maintenance costs, warranties, insurance costs, rollover, safety features and complaint history. Because safety is a key element in the Gillis ratings, vehicles that do not have government crash test ratings are not given an overall rating.



# **Combining Front and Side Crash Test Results for an Overall Rating**

*THE CAR BOOK* was the first publication to provide consumers with access to crash test ratings 34 years ago. *THE CAR BOOK* Crash Test Ratings allows the government's crash test results to be compared on a <u>relative</u> basis, enabling consumers to identify the top performers from those at the bottom. The front 1-10 rating is relative to all other 2014 vehicles. The side 1-10 rating relatively compares cars and SUVs separately. The top 10% receive a 10 and the bottom 10% receive a 1. Because not all 2014 vehicles have undergone the test, *THE CAR BOOK* and the government includes the previous year's test results when the vehicle hasn't changed. The ratings are based on 2014 crash test results published as of December 2013. In addition, *Car Book* author Jack Gillis has <u>combined</u> the results of the government's front and side tests into an Overall Crash Test Rating that enables consumers to easily compare a vehicle's total crash test performance. The Overall Crash Test Rating weighs the front test by 60% and the side test by 40% which approximates typical accident types. Here are the best and the worst 2014 cars and trucks by size class.<sup>1</sup> According to the government SUVs and Minivans fall into the trucks category. *See THE CAR BOOK for the entire list.* 

#### **CRASH TESTS**

#### THE BEST AMONG 2013 CARS

SUBCOMPACT Chevrolet Sonic – 9 Kia Soul – 9 COMPACT Buick Verano – 10 Cadillac ATS – 9 INTERMEDIATE BMW 5 Series – 9 Chevrolet Camaro – 10 Subaru Outback – 10 Volvo S60 - 10 LARGE Buick LaCrosse – 9 Cadillac XTS – 10

#### THE BEST AMONG 2013 TRUCKS

SMALL SUV Acura RDX – 9 Mazda CX-5 – 9 MID-SIZE SUV Mercedes Benz M- Class– 9 Volvo XC60 – 10 LARGE SUV Buick Enclave – 9 Chevrolet Suburban/ GMC Yukon XL – 9 Chevrolet Tahoe/Cadillac Escalade/GMC Yukon – 9 Chevrolet Traverse/GMC Acadia – 9

### THE WORST AMONG 2013 CARS

SUBCOMPACT Fiat 500 - 2 Nissan Versa - 1 Toyota Prius C - 2 COMPACT Kia Forte - 1 Nissan Leaf - 2 Nissan Sentra - 3 INTERMEDIATE Acura TL – 1 Chrysler 200 – 1 Dodge Avenger – 2 Ford Mustang – 3 Nissan Maxima – 1

### THE WORST AMONG 2013 TRUCKS

SMALL SUV Jeep Compass – 1 Jeep Patriot – 1 Nissan Juke – 1 Volkswagen Tiguan – 2 MID-SIZE SUV Ford Edge – 2 Honda Pilot – 2 Lexus RX – 2 Mazda CX-9 – 1 Nissan Murano – 2 LARGE SUV Ford Expedition/Lincoln Navigator – 3 Compact Truck Toyota Tacoma – 1 Standard Truck Ram 1500 Crew Cab – 3

STANDARD TRUCK

GMC Sierra - 10

Chevrolet Silverado - 10

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> It's best to compare cars within the same size classes. A subcompact rated "Best" may not be as safe as a large car with the same rating. Because we separated the side tests results its best not to directly compare the rating for cars with SUVs.



### **ROLLOVER**

*THE CAR BOOK'S* Rollover Rating, like the Crash Test rating allows for a comparison of government data in a relative comparison. For those cars which were not rated by the government, an independent calculation based on the government's formula was done.

#### Most Likely to Roll Over

Nissan Xterra Lexus GX Toyota 4Runner Chevrolet Suburban Jeep Wrangler Mercedes GL-Class Chevrolet Tahoe Ford F-150 Nissan Armada Toyota FJ Cruiser

### Least Likely to Roll Over

Chevrolet Corvette Mazda MX-5 Miata Subaru BRZ Scion FR-S BMW 6 Series BMW 4 Series Audi A5 Ford Mustang Chevrolet Camaro

### **AUTO COMPLAINTS**

*THE CAR BOOK* continues to provide the beleaguered car buyer's *easiest* access to hundreds of thousands of auto complaints compiled since 1976 by the U.S. Department of Transportation. Information on auto complaints was withheld from the public until the Center for Auto Safety filed a Freedom of Information Act request. *THE CAR BOOK* presents this complaint information in an easy-to-use index. Here are the year's most and least complained about automobiles:

Most Complained about	Least Complained about
Nissan Pathfinder	Mitsubishi Outlander Sport
Infiniti QX60	Infiniti Q60
Hyundai Santa Fe	Mazda Mazda2
Ford Focus	Toyota Yaris
Cadillac ATS	Buick Encore
Hyundai Veloster	Infiniti QX70
Ford C-MAX	Lincoln Navigator
Toyota Prius	Cadillac Escalade ESV
Subaru BRZ	GMC Sierra
Jeep Wrangler	BMC 6 Series
Nissan Altima	Mercedes Benz E-Class
Chevrolet Volt	Scion xD
Nissan Leaf	Scion tC
Dodge Journey	Mazda MX-5 Miata
Ford Fiesta	Nissan Juke
Kia Sorento	Lexus ES
Hyundai Sonata	Toyota Prius C
Mazda CX-5	Lexus RX

2014

Ford Escape Scion FR-S Audi A5 Cadillac XTS

### **WARRANTIES**

### <u>Best</u>

- Hyundai
  - Basic 60/60; Powertrain 120/100; Corrosion 84/100; Roadside 60/Unlimited; Scheduled Maintenance (Free) 0/0
- Mitsubishi
  - Basic 60/60; Powertrain 120/100; Corrosion 84/Unlimited; Roadside 60/Unlimited; Scheduled Maintenance (Free) 0/0
- Cadillac
  - Basic 48/50; Powertrain 72/70; Corrosion 72/Unlimited; Roadside 72/70; Scheduled Maintenance (Free) 48/50

### <u>Worst</u>

- Smart
  - Basic 48/50; Powertrain 48/50; Corrosion 0/0; Roadside 48/50; Scheduled Maintenance (Free) 0/0
- Mazda
  - Basic 36/36; Powertrain 60/60; Corrosion 60/Unlimited; Roadside 36/36; Scheduled Maintenance (Free) 0/0
- Nissan
  - Basic 36/36; Powertrain 60/60; Corrosion 60/Unlimited; Roadside 36/36; Scheduled Maintenance (Free) 0/0

# **MAINTENANCE**

*THE CAR BOOK* lists vehicles with the best and worst maintenance costs. For example, *THE CAR BOOK* tells you that replacing a fuel injector will cost about \$105 on the Dodge Dart, but will cost around \$411 on the Mazda Mazda3—over three times as much! The BMW 3 Series ranked as the least expensive in preventive maintenance for the first 60,000 miles, and the Mercedes CLA-Class ranked among the most. Gillis provides these types of comparisons for nearly all of the 2014 models.

### **PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE**

BMW and Cadillac are the least expensive to maintain in the first 60K and 48K miles.

<u>Least Expensive</u>	<u>Most Expensive</u>
Scion xD	Mercedes-Benz CLA-Class
Scion tC	Mercedes-Benz C-Class
Range Rover Evoque	Mercedes-Benz GL-Class
Toyota Yaris	Mercedes-Benz M-Class
Toyota Avalon	Mercedes-Benz S-Class
Toyota RAV-4	Mercedes-Benz GLK-Class
Toyota Corolla	Subaru BRZ
Toyota Prius	Scion FR-S

Page 4



## **REPAIR COSTS**

High Costs - Over \$7,500 for 9 typical repairs	Low Costs - Less than \$3,300 for 9 typical repairs
BMW 7 Series	Ford Fiesta
Lexus LS	Jeep Patriot
Mercedes-Benz S-Class	Hyundai Accent
BMW X5	Nissan Versa
Land Rover Range Rover	Ford Escape
Audi Q7	Nissan Leaf
Mercedes-Benz M-Class	Kia Forte
Infiniti QX60	Jeep Wrangler
BMW 6 Series	Mazda Mazda6
Chevrolet Corvette	Chevrolet Sonic
Infiniti QX70	Hyundai Elantra
Lexus IS	Ram 1500
Lexus GS	Toyota Yaris
Jaguar XF	Fiat 500
Lexus ES	Kia Rio
Volkswagen Touareg	Ford Focus
Land Rover Range Rover Sport	Ford C-MAX

THE CAR BOOK also reveals which cars are ...

- Likely to receive a discount or surcharge on insurance
- Most and least fuel efficient
- Have the most advanced safety and crash avoidance systems

*THE CAR BOOK* provides valuable details on every aspect of buying a car. From showroom strategies to resolving those inevitable problems after you buy, as well as showing you the true cost of leasing vs. financing and Car Bargains, it provides an effective alternative to showroom haggling. In the car rating pages consumers will learn where the car was made and how it rates against its competition. Gillis also includes information on head and legroom, interior volume, and cargo space. With a detailed analysis devoted to each car, he includes everything you need to make a smart and safe choice.

### **INSURANCE**

Most expensive to insure BMW 7 Series Chevrolet Camaro

# Least expensive to insure Acura MDX Acura RDX

**PRESS INFORMATION** 



**Chevrolet Cruze** Chevrolet Malibu **Chevrolet Sonic Dodge Challenger Dodge Charger** Ford Fusion Ford Taurus Honda Insight Hyundai Accent Hyundai Elantra Hyundai Sonata Kia Forte Kia Optima Kia Rio Kia Soul Mazda Mazda2 Mazda Mazda3 Mitsubishi Lancer Nissan Altima Nissan Versa Scion FR-S Scion tC Scion xB Subaru BRZ Subaru Forester Subaru Impreza Subaru Legacy

**Buick Enclave Chevrolet Corvette** Chevrolet Impala **Chevrolet Silverado** Chevrolet Suburban **Chevrolet Tahoe** Chevrolet Traverse Ford Expedition Ford F-150 **GMC** Sierra GMC Yukon XL Honda Odyssey Honda Pilot Lincoln MKX Lincoln Navigator Nissan Murano Nissan Pathfinder Nissan Xterra Toyota Sequoia Volkswagen Tiguan Volvo XC60 Volvo XC 90

#### **ECONOMY**

**FUEL** 

#### Least Efficient= <18</pre>

Toyota Corolla Toyota Yaris

Nissan Titan Toyota Sequoia Toyota Tundra Ford Expedition Land Rover Range Rover Nissan Armada Ram 1500 Land Rover Range Rover Sport Mercedes-Benz GL-Class

### Most Efficient =>30

Nissan Leaf Toyota Prius Toyota Prius C Ford C-MAX Honda Insight Toyota Prius V Lexus CT Mitsubishi Mirage Chevrolet Volt



Infiniti QX80 Lexus GX Nissan Xterra **Chevrolet Suburban Chevrolet Tahoe** Ford F-150 Honda Ridgeline **Nissan Frontier** Subaru Tribeca Toyota Tacoma

Smart forTwo Honda Civic Mazda Mazda3 Nissan Sentra **Chevrolet Spark** Ford Fiesta Toyota Yaris Mazda Mazda6 Hyundai Elantra Mini Cooper Nissan Altima

### **SAFETY FEATURES**

THE CAR BOOK assigns each car a safety index based on the number of safety and crash avoidance features that it offers. Each safety feature is weighted according to how much protection it actually provides. Jack Gillis uses his years of experience to help you discern the safety features that will truly keep you safe from the gimmicks.

<u>Least Safety Features</u>	<u>Most Safety Features</u>
Jeep Wrangler	Lexus GX
Mazda MX-5 Miata	Buick Verano
Mini Cooper	Mercedes-Benz E-Class
Ford Mustang	Buick Encore
Volkswagen Beetle	Mercedes-Benz S-Class
Smart ForTwo	BMW 7 Series
Mazda Mazda2	BMW 6 Series
Chevrolet Corvette	Mercedes-Benz GLK-Class
Chrysler 200	Lexus RX
Dodge Avenger	Jeep Cherokee

# **HISTORY OF THE CAR BOOK**

In both the 1980 government publication and the 1981 *Car Book* that was published in cooperation with the Center for Auto Safety, Jack Gillis was the first to compile complex safety and performance data on new model cars. THE CAR BOOK gave consumers access to information they were previously denied. THE CAR BOOK translated complicated data, such as crash test scores, into a simple index. Since Gillis began providing consumers with access to this information, the auto industry has been forced to respond: Cars have become safer, warranties have improved and the government has adopted a simpler system for its crash ratings.

# To arrange interviews or receive review copies, contact: Peter Kitchen in Washington, DC at (202) 737-0766 or peter@jagillis.com



*THE CAR BOOK* is available through the Center for Auto Safety at <u>www.autosafety.org</u> or by sending \$29.00 (includes postage and handling) to 1000 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Suite 1010, Washington, DC 20005. Sales benefit the non-profit Center for Auto Safety, an independent consumer group founded in 1970 to improve vehicle/highway safety and quality. Book sellers contact Baker and Taylor.