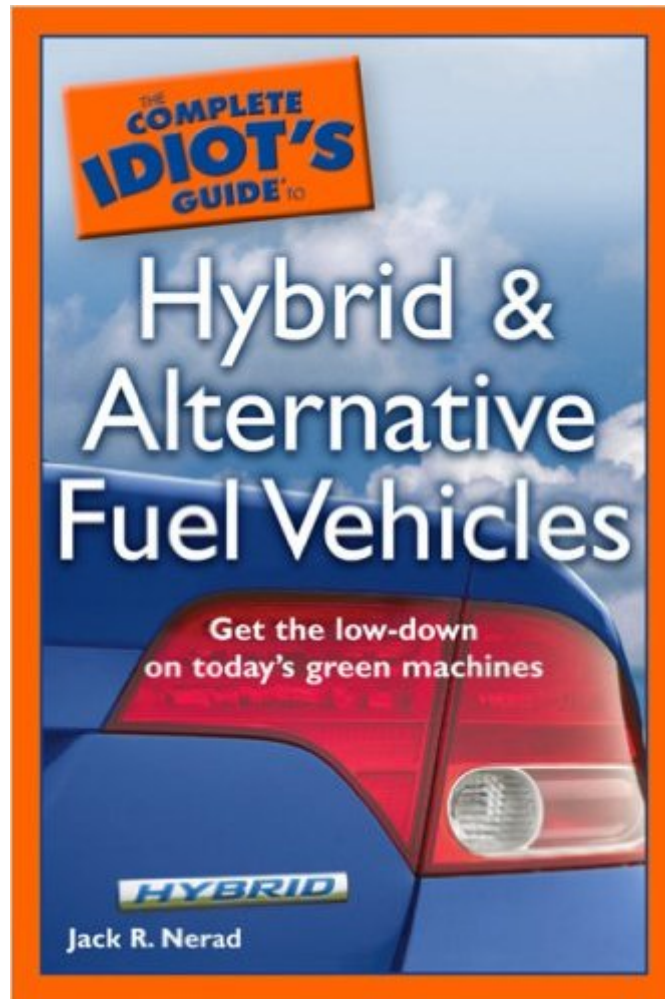


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# The Complete Idiot's Guide To Hybrid And Alternative Fuel Vehicles



## Synopsis

New hope for motorists. With the rise in gasoline costs, the hybrid car has exploded into the fastest-growing segment of the American car industry. This book sorts out the dizzying array of choices faced by American motorists. In clear, jargon-free language, Nerad explains the nature of each kind of car and their advantages and disadvantages, so consumers can make a practical choice. \*The only book that includes all alternative fuel vehicles, including the hybrid

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book appears to have been written in early 2007. He is aware of the coming change to EPA Fuel economy standards but doesn't know the details. It's good that he mentions the coming change at all, since anyone comparing 2008 cars to those he's writing about must be aware of this fact!The book consists of 12 chapters:1. Challenges to our mobility2. Brief history of alternative fuels3. Green for sale today4. Gasoline-Hybrid vehicles5. Flex Fuel/E85 vehicles6. Natural gas vehicles7. Clean diesel and bio-diesel8. New tech gasoline vehicles9. Electric cars10. What about my car11. Which vehicle is right for you12. Coming attractionsI am primarily interested in hybrids, so I read chapters 1-4 closely (56 of the 189 pages in the book).In Chapter 1 he proceeds to debunk global warming, and explain that we will never run out of gas (at least not until the next century). I think he's trying to be even-handed and explain all the pluses and minuses to each theory, but his reasoning is pretty un-supported (we'll find more oil reserves in the future, because we always have in the past).In Chapter 2 he debunks steam cars and turbine gas cars. Again, he doesn't know very

much about steam cars, but his general info is just OK. In Chapter 3 he explains how nuclear power plants might make electricity so cheap they can put charging stations everywhere and not meter their usage. I live next door to one nuclear power plant already, let's pray he's wrong about there being more of these monstrosities (IMHO). Chapter 4 begins by poking holes in the "bybrid hype". Huh? I haven't heard much of anything about hybrids, much less the hype.

Jack Nerad won't tell you "buy this car" or "this is the answer to all your problems." What he does is far better than that. He provides a wealth of information on the true state of our oil reserves, how car emissions affect the environment, the spectre of global warming, and so on. And he does it by providing, in as unbiased a manner as possible (where unbiased means providing relevant information no matter which "side" it seems to come down on---it doesn't mean the current trend of trying to pretend that every theory out there is equally valid so as to avoid angering anyone), as much information as possible. There's so much packed into this little book that I constantly found myself repeating tidbits to my husband; I'm not a car person, but I found this stuff fascinating. For instance, it's illuminating to learn a few things about automobile history. I daresay most folks buying cars and arguing over the viability of various types of engines today have no idea that the first cars didn't have gasoline engines, and that this is hardly the first time in history that automobile manufacturers have worked feverishly on things such as electric or hybrid cars. Or that the Prius was operating on the roads in Japan for several years before it debuted in the US. I was also surprised to learn about "clean diesel" technology in use in other countries, that our regulators are having trouble figuring out what to do with. This may not seem relevant right now since it isn't available here now, but if it becomes available I'd like to be able to approach it knowledgeably, rather than with the knee-jerk media-fed "ewwww, diesel" reaction.

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