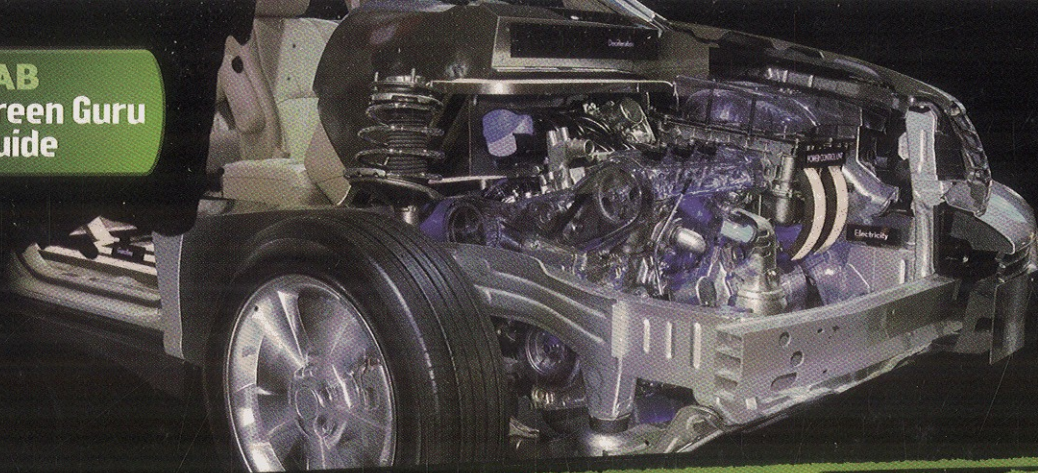




**TAB**  
**Green Guru**  
**Guide**



# **BUILD YOUR OWN PLUG-IN HYBRID ELECTRIC VEHICLE**

**SETH LEITMAN**

# Contents

|                                                                                               |           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Preface .....                                                                                 | xv        |
| Acknowledgments .....                                                                         | xxi       |
| <b>1 Why Plug-In Hybrid Electric Cars Can Happen Now! .....</b>                               | <b>1</b>  |
| What Is a Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicle? .....                                              | 1         |
| Why Should You Convert Your Car to a Plug-In<br>Hybrid Electric Vehicle? .....                | 1         |
| Understanding the Plug-In Hybrid .....                                                        | 3         |
| Internal Combustion Engine .....                                                              | 3         |
| Hybrid Electric Vehicles .....                                                                | 6         |
| Electric Vehicles .....                                                                       | 8         |
| What Is an Electric Vehicle? .....                                                            | 8         |
| Electric Motors .....                                                                         | 9         |
| Batteries .....                                                                               | 9         |
| Controllers .....                                                                             | 10        |
| Convert That Hybrid! .....                                                                    | 12        |
| Reduce Our Reliance on Oil and Clean the<br>Environment at the Same Time! .....               | 12        |
| July 2007 EPRI-NRDC Definitive Study: PHEVs Will Reduce<br>Emissions if Broadly Adopted ..... | 12        |
| California Air Resources Board / ZEV States Report .....                                      | 13        |
| U.S. DOE Argonne National Lab .....                                                           | 13        |
| PHEVs Are Cheaper to Run and Maintain .....                                                   | 14        |
| 20 to 25 Cents per Gallon?! .....                                                             | 14        |
| Purchase Costs .....                                                                          | 15        |
| The Bottom Line .....                                                                         | 15        |
| Payback? .....                                                                                | 15        |
| Safety First .....                                                                            | 15        |
| You Can Do It! .....                                                                          | 16        |
| <b>2 PHEVs Save the Environment and Energy .....</b>                                          | <b>17</b> |
| How Do PHEVs Save the Environment? .....                                                      | 17        |
| Save the Environment and Save Some Money Too! .....                                           | 19        |
| Fuel-Efficient Vehicles .....                                                                 | 19        |
| So Who's to Blame? .....                                                                      | 20        |
| Toxic Liquid and Solid Waste Pollution .....                                                  | 23        |
| Toxic Input Fluids Pollution .....                                                            | 23        |
| Waste Heat Caused by Inefficiency .....                                                       | 24        |
| Electric Utilities Love PHEVs .....                                                           | 25        |
| Chapter Summary .....                                                                         | 26        |

|                                                                                           |           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <i>The Legacy of the Internal Combustion Engine</i>                                       |           |
| Is Environmental Problems .....                                                           | 26        |
| A Proactive Solution .....                                                                | 26        |
| <b>History of Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicles .....</b>                                  | <b>29</b> |
| Early Hybrid and Electric Vehicles .....                                                  | 29        |
| Lohner-Porsche PHEV .....                                                                 | 29        |
| The Introduction of Plug-In Hybrids .....                                                 | 29        |
| Electric and Hybrid Vehicle Research, Development, and<br>Demonstration Act of 1976 ..... | 30        |
| Partnership for a New Generation of Vehicles .....                                        | 30        |
| Who Really Killed the Electric Car? .....                                                 | 30        |
| September 11 and Our New Understanding of Electric Cars ..                                | 32        |
| Hybrid Electric Cars Come to the Market .....                                             | 32        |
| Toyota Prius .....                                                                        | 32        |
| Honda Insight .....                                                                       | 34        |
| Honda Civic Hybrid .....                                                                  | 34        |
| Ford Escape Hybrid .....                                                                  | 34        |
| PHEVs Come to Market Thanks to Andy Frank<br>(the Father of PHEVs) .....                  | 35        |
| Hybrid Center at the University of California–Davis .....                                 | 36        |
| The California Cars Initiative (CalCars) .....                                            | 36        |
| CalCars Demonstration Conversions .....                                                   | 38        |
| Plug In America .....                                                                     | 38        |
| EPRI-DaimlerChrysler Plug-In Hybrid<br>Development Program .....                          | 38        |
| CARB Support for PHEVs .....                                                              | 39        |
| Economic Stimulus for PHEVs .....                                                         | 39        |
| Conversion Companies .....                                                                | 40        |
| Hybrids Plus PHEV .....                                                                   | 40        |
| A123Systems and Hymotion .....                                                            | 40        |
| The PHEVs Available or Soon to Come onto the Market .....                                 | 41        |
| Toyota's Plug-In Hybrids Jumping In from Japan (First) ....                               | 41        |
| GM and the Chevy Volt .....                                                               | 42        |
| Fisker Karma Plug-In Hybrid Sport Sedan .....                                             | 45        |
| AFS Trinity's "Extreme Hybrid" .....                                                      | 45        |
| Ford Motor Company and the Escape PHEV .....                                              | 47        |
| Phoenix Motorcars .....                                                                   | 47        |
| Conclusion: PHEVs Are Here Today! .....                                                   | 47        |
| Game Changers .....                                                                       | 47        |
| <b>4 What Is the Best Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicle for You? .....</b>                  | <b>49</b> |
| Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicle Purchase Decisions .....                                  | 49        |
| Conversions Save You Money and Time .....                                                 | 49        |
| Buying Ready-to-Run .....                                                                 | 50        |
| Buying a Ready-to-Run Converted Toyota Prius from an<br>Independent Manufacturer .....    | 51        |

|                                                                           |           |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Conversions of Production Hybrids .....                                   | 51        |
| Converting Existing Hybrid Electric Vehicles .....                        | 51        |
| Some Conversion Examples .....                                            | 52        |
| PHEV Conversion Decisions .....                                           | 57        |
| Your Chassis Makes a Difference .....                                     | 58        |
| Your Batteries Make a Difference .....                                    | 58        |
| The Procedure .....                                                       | 59        |
| How Much Is This Going to Cost? .....                                     | 60        |
| <b>5 Power Trains and Designing Your PHEV .....</b>                       | <b>63</b> |
| How Does That Hybrid Electric Car Work in the First Place? .....          | 63        |
| Types of Hybrid Drive Systems .....                                       | 63        |
| Series Hybrids .....                                                      | 63        |
| Hybrid Electric Vehicle Parallel Design .....                             | 65        |
| Series-Parallel .....                                                     | 65        |
| Designing Your PHEV: Choosing a Mounting Method .....                     | 66        |
| Hybrid Electric Vehicle Drivetrain Components<br>and System Details ..... | 66        |
| How to Make and Design That PHEV .....                                    | 66        |
| Classic Mounting Method .....                                             | 67        |
| Alternative Mounting Method .....                                         | 69        |
| Drivetrains .....                                                         | 71        |
| Difference in Motor vs. Engine Specifications .....                       | 73        |
| Design Your EV .....                                                      | 76        |
| Calculation Overview .....                                                | 76        |
| Power Electronics and Electric Machines .....                             | 76        |
| Parasitic Loss Reduction .....                                            | 77        |
| Buy Your EV Chassis .....                                                 | 78        |
| Why Conversion Is Best .....                                              | 79        |
| The Other Side of Conversion .....                                        | 80        |
| Keep Your Needs List Handy .....                                          | 80        |
| Buy or Borrow the Manuals .....                                           | 81        |
| Design That Prius as a PHEV! .....                                        | 81        |
| <b>6 Engines and Electric Motors in the PHEV .....</b>                    | <b>85</b> |
| Internal Combustion Engines .....                                         | 85        |
| Fossil Fuels .....                                                        | 85        |
| Integrated Motor Assist on the Hybrid Electric Cars .....                 | 86        |
| Manual Integrated Motor Assist .....                                      | 86        |
| Electric Motor .....                                                      | 89        |
| Voltage .....                                                             | 89        |
| What Is So Great about an Electric Motor? .....                           | 89        |
| DC Electric Motors .....                                                  | 90        |
| DC Motors in General .....                                                | 90        |
| DC Motors in the Real PHEV World .....                                    | 91        |
| Motor Case, Frame, or Yoke .....                                          | 91        |
| Types of DC Motors .....                                                  | 91        |

|                                                 |            |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Series DC Motors                                | 92         |
| Shunt DC Motors                                 | 93         |
| Compound DC Motors                              | 93         |
| Permanent-Magnet DC Motors                      | 94         |
| Brushless DC Motors                             | 94         |
| Universal DC Motors                             | 95         |
| AC Electric Motors                              | 95         |
| Transformers                                    | 96         |
| AC Induction Motors                             | 96         |
| Polyphase AC Induction Motors                   | 96         |
| Wound-Rotor Induction Motors                    | 99         |
| Today's Best PHEV Motor Solution                | 99         |
| Conclusion                                      | 99         |
| <b>7 The Controller</b>                         | <b>101</b> |
| Controller Overview                             | 101        |
| Solid-State Controllers                         | 102        |
| Battery Management Systems                      | 103        |
| BMS Technology Complexity and Performance Range | 105        |
| AC Controllers                                  | 105        |
| Elithion Controller Package                     | 106        |
| Selector                                        | 106        |
| Separate High-Voltage Front End for Controller  | 108        |
| DC Controllers                                  | 109        |
| 2CH00xxx BMS Controllers CAN Specs              | 110        |
| CAN Bus Protocol                                | 110        |
| CAN Tools                                       | 110        |
| Transmitted CAN Messages                        | 111        |
| CAN Displays                                    | 111        |
| Standard Traction Pack Messages                 | 111        |
| BRUSA Charger Control Message                   | 113        |
| Battery Management System (BMS) Controller      | 114        |
| Received CAN Messages                           | 115        |
| Contact Control Message                         | 116        |
| Request and Response CAN Messages—PID Support   | 116        |
| Conclusion                                      | 117        |
| <b>8 Batteries</b>                              | <b>119</b> |
| Battery Overview                                | 119        |
| Active Materials                                | 120        |
| Overall Chemical Reaction                       | 121        |
| Discharging Chemical Reaction                   | 121        |
| Charging Chemical Reaction                      | 122        |
| State of Charge                                 | 123        |
| Equalizing                                      | 124        |
| Outside Your Battery                            | 124        |
| Basic Electrical Definitions                    | 124        |

|                                                         |            |
|---------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Voltage .....                                           | 124        |
| Current .....                                           | 124        |
| Power .....                                             | 124        |
| Efficiency .....                                        | 124        |
| Battery Capacity and Rating .....                       | 125        |
| Power Density (Orgravimetric Power Density) .....       | 125        |
| Energy Density .....                                    | 125        |
| Volumetric Power Density .....                          | 125        |
| Battery Performance .....                               | 125        |
| Other Factors Regarding the PHEV Battery .....          | 126        |
| Battery Installation and Maintenance Guidance .....     | 127        |
| Safety .....                                            | 128        |
| Dynamometer Testing of PHEV Conversion Prius Vehicles   |            |
| Using A123 Systems .....                                | 128        |
| Today's Best Battery Solution .....                     | 129        |
| Tomorrow's Best Battery Solution—Today .....            | 131        |
| USABC Continues to Come to the Rescue .....             | 131        |
| The Big Picture on Batteries .....                      | 131        |
| Battery Types .....                                     | 131        |
| Conclusion: The Future Is Amazing! .....                | 136        |
| Lithium Ion and Nickel–Metal Hydride Are the Current    |            |
| Battery Technology Success Stories, but Lead            |            |
| Is the Least Expensive to Get the Job Done Today .....  | 137        |
| <b>9 The Charger and Electrical System .....</b>        | <b>139</b> |
| Charger Overview .....                                  | 139        |
| Battery Discharging and Charging Cycle .....            | 140        |
| The Ideal Battery Charger .....                         | 140        |
| Manzanita Micro Moving from Electric to PHEV Too! ..... | 140        |
| Other Battery-Charging Solutions .....                  | 142        |
| Rapid Charging .....                                    | 142        |
| Replacement Battery Packs .....                         | 143        |
| Beyond Tomorrow—V2G .....                               | 143        |
| What's the Point of Charge Control? .....               | 144        |
| Charge Control Hardware .....                           | 146        |
| V2G Reports That Can Be Generated for Consumers .....   | 146        |
| The Real-World Battery Charger .....                    | 146        |
| The Manzanita Micro PFC-20 .....                        | 146        |
| Elithion Charger .....                                  | 147        |
| Your PHEV's Electrical System .....                     | 148        |
| Main Contactor .....                                    | 148        |
| Main Circuit Breaker .....                              | 148        |
| Safety Fuse .....                                       | 153        |
| Safety Interlock .....                                  | 153        |
| Low-Voltage, Low-Current Instrumentation System .....   | 153        |
| Wiring It All Together .....                            | 154        |

|                                                                         |            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Wire and Connectors .....                                               | 154        |
| Connectors .....                                                        | 154        |
| Control Connector C4227A—Ford Escape Hybrid PHEV .....                  | 155        |
| HV Connector C4227C .....                                               | 157        |
| Contactors .....                                                        | 157        |
| Routing .....                                                           | 162        |
| Grounding .....                                                         | 162        |
| Conclusion .....                                                        | 164        |
| <b>10 Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicle Conversion .....</b>              | <b>165</b> |
| Conversion Overview .....                                               | 165        |
| What's the Objective? .....                                             | 166        |
| Before Conversion .....                                                 | 167        |
| Conversion .....                                                        | 167        |
| PRIUS+ History .....                                                    | 167        |
| Battery Pack .....                                                      | 168        |
| Lead-Acid Batteries .....                                               | 170        |
| High-Voltage Circuit .....                                              | 170        |
| Colors of High-Voltage Wiring .....                                     | 170        |
| Electric Vehicle Charger .....                                          | 175        |
| Toyota-Related Controls .....                                           | 176        |
| Battery Tap Emulator Board .....                                        | 177        |
| Control Board .....                                                     | 178        |
| Battery ECU SOC Spoofing .....                                          | 178        |
| Installing the CAN-View .....                                           | 181        |
| Disassembly of the Dashboard .....                                      | 181        |
| Simple CAN Bus Scanner .....                                            | 183        |
| CAN-View Version 4 .....                                                | 183        |
| CAN-View Configuration .....                                            | 183        |
| OEM HV Battery Modifications .....                                      | 192        |
| Component Locations .....                                               | 195        |
| Names and Functions .....                                               | 196        |
| Battery Cooling System .....                                            | 196        |
| Battery HVAC .....                                                      | 200        |
| Mount PFC Charger .....                                                 | 203        |
| Install Battery Box .....                                               | 203        |
| Interlock Box .....                                                     | 203        |
| Regulators .....                                                        | 208        |
| High-Current System .....                                               | 209        |
| Test Data Display .....                                                 | 210        |
| Paint, Polish, and Sign .....                                           | 210        |
| Put Yourself in the Picture .....                                       | 214        |
| <b>11 Maximize Your Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicle Enjoyment .....</b> | <b>217</b> |
| Licensing and Insurance Overview .....                                  | 217        |
| Getting Licensed .....                                                  | 217        |
| Getting Insured .....                                                   | 218        |

|                                                           |            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Safety Footnote .....                                     | 218        |
| Driving and Maintenance Overview .....                    | 218        |
| Driving Your PHEV .....                                   | 218        |
| Caring for Your PHEV .....                                | 220        |
| Battery Care .....                                        | 220        |
| Lubricants .....                                          | 220        |
| Checking Connections .....                                | 220        |
| Emergency Kit .....                                       | 220        |
| Will This Conversion Affect My Warranty? .....            | 223        |
| Cell Board Troubleshooting: Diagnostics and Repair of     |            |
| Cell Boards for Standard Battery Management Systems ..... | 224        |
| Observing Behavior .....                                  | 224        |
| Testing without a Test Fixture .....                      | 224        |
| Testing with a Test Fixture .....                         | 225        |
| Replacement .....                                         | 225        |
| <b>12 Sources .....</b>                                   | <b>227</b> |
| Less Is More .....                                        | 227        |
| Clubs, Associations, and Organizations .....              | 227        |
| Manufacturers, Converters, and Consultants .....          | 241        |
| Suppliers .....                                           | 244        |
| <b>Notes .....</b>                                        | <b>259</b> |
| <b>Index .....</b>                                        | <b>265</b> |