

**AUTOMOBILE DRIVING SELF-
TAUGHT. AN EXHAUSTIVE
TREATISE ON THE OPERATION,
MANAGEMENT AND CARE OF
MOTOR CARS**

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Automobile Driving Self-Taught. An Exhaustive Treatise on the Operation, Management and Care of Motor Cars by Thomas H. Russell

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THOMAS H. RUSSELL

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MANAGEMENT AND
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Automobile Driving Self-Taught.



An Exhaustive Treatise on the Operation,
Management and Care of Motor Cars.

-BY-

THOMAS H. RUSSELL, A. M., M. E.

Former Editor of "Modern Machinery"; Author of "The
American Cyclopaedia of the Automobile"; Author of
"History of the Automobile," "Automobile Motors and
Mechanism," "Ignition, Timing and Valve Setting,"
"Motor Boats: Construction and Operation," etc., etc.



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Preface

As comfort and safety in automobiling depend to a very large extent upon the skill of the driver, it should be the aim of everyone who undertakes to drive a car to acquire a knowledge of the approved methods of driving.

The object of this book is to present such information in a convenient, practical manner, so as to make it comparatively easy for any motorist to acquire skill in the management and care of his machine. Study and practice combined will surely develop the expertness which is needed nowadays at the wheel, being demanded alike by the interests of the automobilist and of the non-motoring public. The careless or ignorant driver is a menace, not only to the safety of the public, but also to that of his passengers. The daily experience of every motorist demonstrates the need for carefulness in driving and there is no longer any excuse for ignorance.

The methods of driving prescribed in this work are those that have been found best in actual experience on the road. From these pages the motorist can learn how to start, drive and manage his car under all conceivable circumstances. The best methods of caring for the car when not in use are also plainly shown, as well as the manner in which a car should be laid up when necessary.

Several chapters are devoted to the causes and remedies for various difficulties that may be met with in starting the engine, also those due to loss of power. Causes of involuntary stops are likewise indicated and the proper remedies pre-

scribed. The properties and economical use of gasoline are discussed and many valuable hints and tips for the gasoline consumer are given. Then the operating mechanism of a modern car is described and the various forms of change speed gear are made clear by non-technical text and plain illustrations. There is also an interesting chapter on the choice of a car, intended for the benefit of those who contemplate entering the ever-growing ranks of the automobile fraternity.

Thus it will be seen that this work is not only a complete textbook for self-tuition in the art of automobile driving, but also a handy reference book in cases of trouble due to difficulty in starting, involuntary stops, loss of power, etc., and a storehouse of practical information on the care and maintenance of the motor car.

T. H. R.

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PART I.

AUTOMOBILE DRIVING.

The best way to learn to drive a car is a question that must be decided by individual circumstances. It is generally agreed, however, though not regarded as essential, that the novice should begin with a small light car, if convenient, and acquire confidence in the use of such a machine before undertaking the management of the heavier, costlier and more complex cars. This does not necessarily imply that the man who has never driven an automobile must needs first buy a light car before indulging the desire of his heart to own a powerful, commodious touring machine. Facilities for learning to drive on a small car abound in our cities and towns nowadays, and automobile agents are usually ready to put prospective customers in the way of receiving preliminary instruction on light machines at expert hands. For his own comfort and safety's sake, as well as for considerations of public safety, no man should attempt to drive a car of any size until he has informed himself pretty fully on its details of construction and methods of control.

It should be clearly understood that some of the general instructions under this head of "Driving," as well as many of the hints and "tips" which follow, have been written to apply especially to cars of moderate power, such as novices are usually recommended to learn upon. It must be remembered also that thousands of cars made in earlier years of the automobile industry are still in daily use and are constantly changing ownership, so that the mechanism, driving and control of such cars properly receive due consideration in these pages.

At the same time the vast majority of the instructions ap-