



BAUBLES AND BOLT-ONS

LIDAR DETECTOR/JAMMER

June, 2004

As noted, family sedans can be bland-looking, which is a plus in that they won't automatically attract the eyes of the law. Our shiny silver Mazda 6, however, had boy-racer cladding and a rear wing that tended to stick out in a crowd. This sporty demeanor may have contributed to our spirited driving of the 6. So we decided to see if a \$330 Laser DefuserPlus (price includes installation) from K40 Electronics (800-323-6768; www.K40.com) might give us an edge-and some time to slow in the event we ran into a cop armed with lidar. The DefuserPlus consists of a detector/jammer module and warning light and beeper pod, and it's available only from one of the manufacturer's authorized dealers. (Check the Web site for locations.) One of K40's local dealers here in Ann Arbor, Mr. Tunes, installed ours. The detector/jammer module was mounted just under the front bumper where a license plate would be; a replacement frame with an integrated bracket is available for states that require front plates. The installer mounted the warning pod discreetly behind the instrument pod fascia. The DefuserPlus detected an LTI 20-20 Marksman lidar gun at more than half a mile away and reduced the gun's effective range to 600 feet. That's more than enough warning and extra distance in which to slow down. If you live in an area with heavy lidar use, the DefuserPlus should help keep you one step ahead of the cops.