

FIRST GEAR

NEW DRIVER NEWSLETTER

Presented by



JUNE 2022



By Rich Guida, Howes

Check out some simple tips and tricks to maximize fuel economy and defend your wallet.

With the cost of fuel skyrocketing, drivers will be looking to squeeze every ounce of fuel efficiency from their vehicles. As most drivers know, there are steps that can be taken when trying to stretch extra miles out of their diesel and keep more money in their wallets.

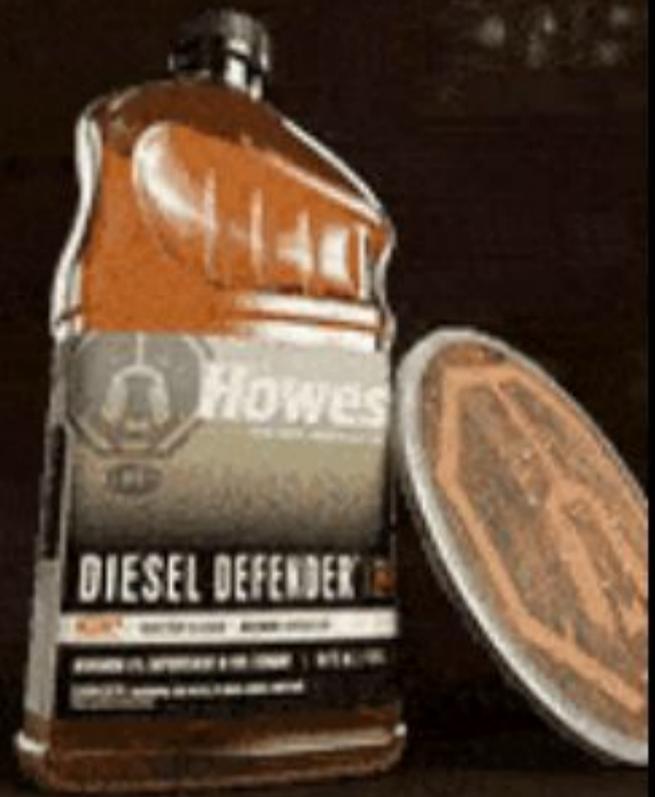
A little effort can go a long way, and these are just some of the tips and tricks that can make a real difference when trying to decrease trips to the pump.

- 1** **Monitor Tire Pressure**
Underinflated tires decrease your fuel economy. For every one PSI drop in pressure, your fuel mileage can be reduced by 0.3%. Properly inflated tires also have a longer lifespan and are safer on the road.
- 2** **Minimize Idling**
Only idle your truck when absolutely necessary. Just ten seconds of idling wastes more fuel than simply restarting the engine. One hour of idling burns about a gallon of fuel. Turning off your vehicle is one of the easiest ways to save fuel and increase the life of your engine.
- 3** **Balance Your Load**
Having a balanced load with proper weight displacement can make a dramatic difference. Whenever possible, look to have the weight evenly distributed to ensure the best results.
- 4** **Use an Additive**
Another surefire way to stretch your MPG is to use a proven diesel fuel additive like our **Diesel Defender**. With the strength of a horde of Vikings, Defender uses unmatched IDX⁴ Detergent to fight off deposits and keep them from returning. Clean injectors allow for even spray patterns that prevent unburned fuel from being wasted. In fact, Defender protects your system so well that we guarantee a minimum 5% improvement in fuel economy. That's a significant savings when tanking up could reach \$1500 or more. ●

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COMING SOON TO A STORE NEAR YOU

By Kim McDonnell

In August of 2021, DAS Companies, Inc., the parent company of RoadPro Family of Brands, entered into a licensing agreement to sell Cummins branded DAS products. What does this mean for you, the driver? Cummins and DAS are joining forces and building on the Cummins promise of innovation and dependability and leveraging DAS' extensive portfolio of more than 12,000 products serving the on-the-go lifestyle.

Cummins officially licensed merchandise will include apparel, power equipment, knives, CB accessories, flashlights, gloves, safety gear, tools, and cellular and travel accessories.



The apparel line will feature an extensive offering of hats, beanies, sunglasses, hoodies, sweatshirts, and long and short-sleeved t-shirts, all Cummins branded and made of high-quality materials. There will also be a selection of durable gloves that include full leather, split leather, dipped, and mechanic gloves. In addition, there will be a full line of safety apparel, including work vests and safety glasses.

The Cummins offering will also include heavy-duty knives made of high-carbon D2 steel with various blade options and textured handles for the perfect grip. If you need more than just a good knife, a multi-tool with multiple knife blades and a bottle opener, wire cutter, screwdrivers, and a 10-piece bit set are all neatly contained in a

formed nylon sheath with embroidered logo and belt loop.

Cellular accessories will include wall and car chargers, charge and sync cables, power banks, charging pads, and more. There will also be a line of cup, dash, and tablet mounts to keep your electronic devices safe and secure.

Cummins branded power inverters will include a 120W direct plug modified sine wave inverter and a 120W cup or strip inverter that can be plugged into a 12 Volt socket. For more power, a line of larger hard wired inverters with 4 AC outlets, port covers, USB and USBC ports, LCD screen, and remote control will be available from 3000W to 5000W.

While these are just a few of the products, you will see this Fall, more products for your on-the-go lifestyle are in development.

Cummins branded merchandise will be available in many retail locations in the near future. ●

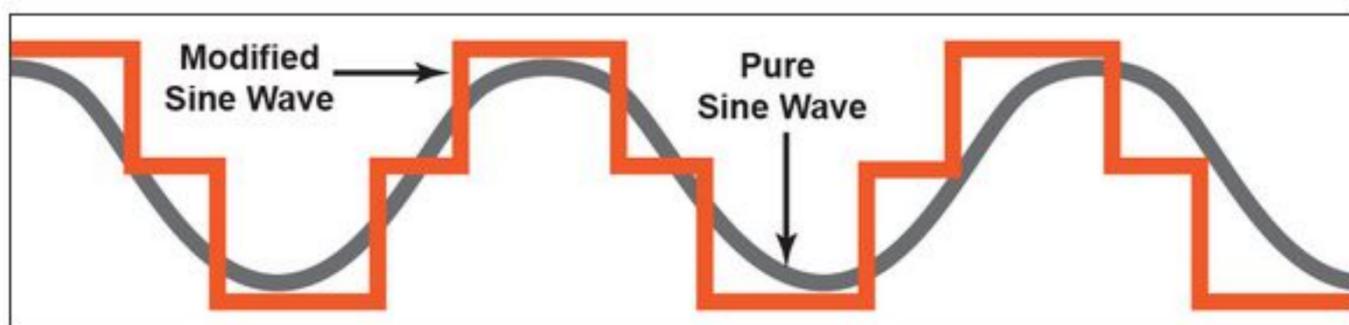




Simple Steps in Selecting a Power Inverter

By Al Kohl

There are two types of inverters available today - pure sine wave and modified sine wave. A pure sine wave provides continuous power, with the power wave looking similar to rolling hills, while the modified sine wave resembles more of a step pattern.



The pure sine wave is more efficient but will be more expensive than a modified sine wave. However, if you are running a CPAP machine, television, or something that needs a continuous stream of power, then pure sine is the way to go. Most appliances, however, only require a modified sine wave to function correctly.

To determine what size inverter you will need will depend on the type of products you will be using regularly, checking the amount of Watts that each appliance uses. Add up your wattage once you have a basic idea of what you will be using regularly (coffee maker, electric skillet, laptop). That will be the size you will want as a minimum.

You can also use Ohm's law to determine what you need. The simple formula is:

$$A[\text{mperage}] \times V[\text{olts}] = W[\text{atts}]$$

For example, if an item draws 12 Amps, it'll draw 1440 Watts:

$$12A \times 120V = 1440 \text{ Watts}$$

To ensure you have that adequate amount of power coming from the inverter, it is recommended that you then take that wattage result and multiply it by 1.2:

$$1440 \times 1.2 = 1728$$

In this scenario, you would want a minimum of an 1800 Watt inverter.

You will also want to consider start-up wattage. This means that while your inverter will run to 1800 watts continuously, make sure that it will peak at the start-up amperage, which is double your basic need.

To install the inverter, the shorter the wires to your battery, the better. Always makes sure you have an inline fuse to help with the surge. Place the inverter in a well-ventilated area and keep that area clean and away from moisture and water.

Ensure that you wire the inverter properly, and if you are not sure how to do so, have it professionally installed. If the inverter is not installed correctly, it may cause a fire or damage your appliances.

For more information, visit RoadPro's website and select [power inverters](#). ●



A RoadPro Pro Driver Council member, Al Kohl is a 43-year veteran in the trucking industry. He drives team with his wife Jenn for a small mid-west freight company, and they travel with their three fur babies. They also manage a Facebook group called Cooking on the Truck.



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What You Need to Know About Truck Navigation

By Linda Pappalardo, Rand McNally

Not all GPS devices are created equal. Developed by the U.S. Department of Defense in 1994, Global Positioning System (GPS for short) devices have existed for car use for years, but devices that accurately route trucks came about much later. Unlike car GPS units, truck-specific GPS devices take into account road restrictions, the type of load carried, truck configuration, and other metrics. Truck GPS devices help prevent Commercial Motor Vehicles (CMV's) from getting stuck on roads, under bridges, or other inappropriate places, thus preventing traffic incidents. They keep CMVs off weight-restricted roads and bridges, which in turn protects the structural integrity of our highways. Truck GPS devices also route to keep hazardous loads off restricted roads, further improving public safety.

Truck-designated routes

There are a variety of federal, state, and local laws that govern where CMVs may or may not travel.

Federal law governs:

- 1) the weight of vehicles on the Interstate System
- 2) the width of vehicles on the National Network
- 3) and the maximum length of others on the National Network

States may restrict or allow commercial motor vehicles as may local municipalities. Physical restrictions occur due to low vertical clearances, such as bridges and underpasses, or due to weight and/or length requirements. Legal restrictions reflect truck-prohibited roads. Other restrictions may occur based on loads being carried, such as hazardous materials.

Benefits of GPS devices – More than navigation

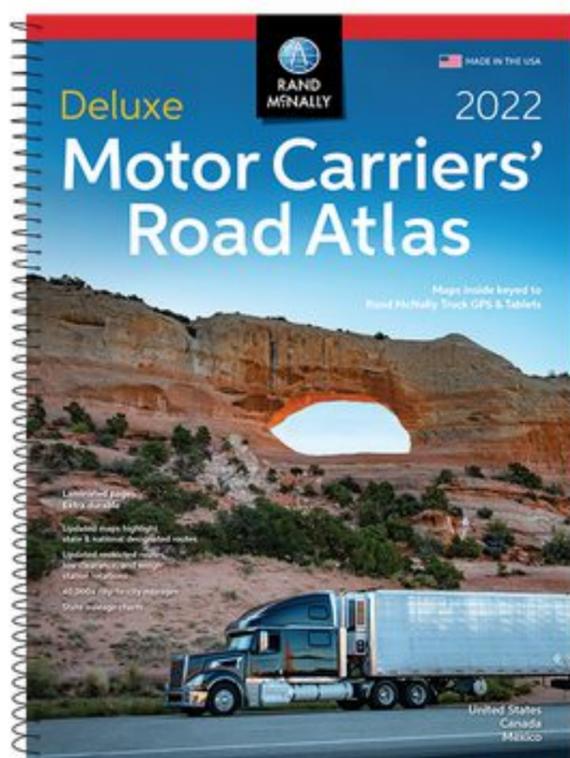


recently released TND™ Tablet 1050 features a high-definition 10-inch heavy-duty screen, a rugged removable guard for protection against damage during falls, as well as a built-in dash camera, and connected Wi-Fi services.

A truck-enabled GPS device contains information about truck-restricted roadways and designated routes, as well as takes into consideration the size of the truck (length, weight, height, and load type) as it routes. But many do much more than provide navigation; tablet models have Wi-Fi connected services such as real-time weather, fuel prices, and traffic in addition to navigation. Many come ELD-ready.

Hardware varies also; screen sizes can range from 5-inches to 10-inches. Rand McNally's

Printed maps as a back-up



While truck-specific GPS devices have become an essential tool in cabs, many professional drivers also opt to carry a printed atlas for a big-picture reference as well as fail-safe back-up. Rand McNally's Motor Carriers' Road Atlas is a handy complement to their GPS devices and has been a favorite of drivers for over 40 years. The atlas highlights state and national designated routes, and contains charts of restricted routes, low clearances, and weigh station locations by state. The atlas pages are also keyed to all their GPS devices, making planning and cross-checking between the two a breeze.

Technology is advancing with a quickly changing commercial trucking industry. Truck-specific navigation optimizes routing, maximizes driver productivity, and reduces fuel and maintenance costs. Real-time weather and traffic help avoid delays. A truck-specific GPS is no longer a luxury to the professional driver, but an invaluable tool that saves time and money, and makes the job safer. ●



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Fiscal Responsibility

By Craig Daniels

Welcome to the wide world of trucking or the WWT, as said by many. This is your first career for some of you instead of your first job. Some of us may have had good-paying jobs before becoming a truck driver, but maybe due to economic situations or other factors, we came into trucking, liked it, and decided to stay.

If this is your first real job, I congratulate you on making a good career choice in an industry that has the potential to serve you and your family for many years. Hundreds of thousands of drivers have worked, saved, invested for retirement, and put thousands of children through college. It is challenging, and some serious decisions have to be made. 401(K), IRA, ESA, and several other alphabet soup acronyms can help you.

Starting to save and invest early can set you up for a handsome retirement at a much younger age than others.

The competent help of an accountant, tax professional, or benefits administrator at your company can point you in the right direction while spending quality time in a financial interview. Starting to save and invest early can set you up for a handsome retirement at a much younger age than others.

It can also help if you are injured and forced to retire for medical reasons. Saving for a current or even an as yet unborn child's college and starting a retirement for them can be inexpensive at such an early age.

For those of us who are a little older, we have to choose between the lifestyle we have and the retirement lifestyle we want and invest accordingly.

Watch your miles, driving record, and your health.

Owner-operators can make these decisions with the added benefits of reduced tax liability. A W-2 employee will still get tax benefits, but it comes out of our gross salary and lowers the net income (AGI on your tax form). Still, an owner-operator can claim it as an employee benefit (yes, they will need a W-2 for this) for a family member.

Being established into a career instead of working a job has some real benefits down the road, and retirement planning is just one of them. Don't be so ready to jump from one company to another unless and until you investigate what the full benefits package really is. This is income that doesn't appear in the CPM column on your check stub. On the other hand, don't continue to stay somewhere that lowers your pay below the norm to "pay" for these benefits.

Watch your miles, driving record, and your health. Then watch your spending, especially at first, until you get some time in and get a higher pay rate. Plan ahead with investments, get competent advice, and – to borrow a phrase from Dave Ramsey – "live like no other. so that you can live like no other." ●



Craig "1oring" Daniels has been driving for Crete/Shaffer/Hunt for the last seven years and is a million-mile safe driver. Daniels is an Army veteran who went into heavy equipment repair after serving, and that led to almost twenty years of building roads by running asphalt plants, rock quarries, and paving crews. He tried his hand at his own business as a subcontractor, but he started driving truck when the economy tanked in '09. He has been led to help and guide others along the way in what he calls divine intervention. He has trained and mentored other Crete/Shaffer/Hunt drivers, helping new family members with policies and procedures unique to the company. He has been exposed to some special people who have taught and continue to teach him the force's ways and is proud to call a few good friends he values and takes their knowledge to heart.





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This is a YouTube video player interface. The video title is "RoadKing Brand 2022". The video content is split into two panels. The left panel shows a man wearing a headset, looking forward. The right panel shows a close-up of a car's dashboard with a RoadKing navigation system and a smartphone mounted in a holder. The phone screen displays a call log entry for "George". A large red play button is centered over the video. At the bottom left, there is a "Watch on YouTube" button with the YouTube logo.

roadprobrands.com