



Accessorise your vehicle at your own peril

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Do you consider your car an asset? Most people would answer yes. And they would be correct in one sense and wrong in another.

Markets experts say an asset, yes, but a depreciating one at that! Meaning the longer you own it and the more you drive it, the more its value will decrease.

Despite meticulous care and regular service and maintenance, there is not much one can do to increase the value of a car over time.

How about if I fit expensive magnesium wheels? Surely my R10 000 sound system will ensure a better trade price?

If your intention is to drive the car till the wheels come off - sure, why not? At least then you would have years of enjoying the value these accessories added to your driving experience.

So, as much as these things would enhance the owner's emotional connection with his or her vehicle, the truth is that it would not add any monetary value to their car at the time of them selling it. Not tomorrow, never!

Custom accessories, in particular, will most certainly not be your friend when you want to sell the vehicle to a dealer. As shocking as this may be, things that may influence the resale value positively is the colour of the car, the condition of the interior and the upholstery, and small scratches.

Too many accessories, if you want to recover it as an investment, would simply



take the car out of its trade/market price bracket.

Low kilometres for the specific year model and a full service history with a reputable service provider may generate a slightly better deal when you decide to trade your car, though.

On a different note: South Africans love their bakkies and many of them are often fitted with an infinite number of off-road accessories.

First and foremost, the advice is always that you have to start with a clear picture of where you want to go with your bakkie, because this will direct the type of accessories to be fitted.

Often the first of these accessories are larger rims, off-road tyres and suspension kits, including protection plates for transfer cases and differentials.

Although this will improve ride comfort significantly on both tar and gravel, it will add a lot of extra weight to the vehicle. Incorrectly fitted accessories can have a negative effect on the vehicle's centre of gravity.

Bumper kits and bull bars that can accommodate winches are another popular accessory.

Snorkels, which will improve the engine's breathing by getting in cooler and cleaner air, is a must if you plan adventure trips that

present regular river crossings. Dual battery systems to power a fridge and extra lighting has proved its weight and cost in gold, certainly.

Most important is to do your homework. Many service providers and 4x4 accessory brands are chasing your money.

Overcapitalising on accessories is not a pleasant experience. Do not overspend on accessories. Remember, some accessories may in fact render your warranty invalid...

But what should I do then if I want to personalise my car?

The simple answer is: less is more. Fit accessories that you would be able to remove without damage to the car.

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