

CAR HACKS

**Craig
Stewart**

- 126 tips & tricks to improve your car
- Quick and simple cleaning hacks
- Use household objects as storage
- Entertain the family on long journeys





Add a curry hook

The curry hook has usurped the now ubiquitous cupholder as the most awe-inspiring, why-didn't-they-think-of-that-before, best-thing-since-sliced-bread element of a new car's interior. 'Oh look,' new-car buyers cry as they inspect an interior in the showroom, 'it's got a curry hook! Where do I sign?' Well, perhaps that's an exaggeration, but there's no doubting the usefulness of a small plastic hook sprouting out of the centre console in the passenger footwell. Whether it's for the transport of the bag of takeaway Indian food – the source of the device's name – and stopping a korma from ruining the upholstery when sweeping round bends on the way home, or to keep any other bag handy and upright, the curry hook has a practical benefit.

It will come as no surprise that a simple hack is possible in order for one of these divine objects to bring its perks to your car. Strong self-adhesive hooks are available in various sizes from most DIY stores, and while most are white you can find darker ones too that will make a better match with car interior plastic. Simply find a suitable spot on the centre console in the passenger footwell, clean the area with spirit and stick the hook on according to the manufacturer's instructions.

The perfectionist car hacker could colour-match the self-adhesive hook to their car's interior with a combination of plastic primer and spray paint, or even get it plasti-dipped. And it's worth mentioning that you can add that top hacker's tool, the good old binder clip, to the curry hook and carry things that don't have handles too.



Make boot dividers and add boot storage

The car boot is the most obvious bit of storage space in a car, but its cavernous nature is both a blessing and a curse. When transporting large quantities of gear it's fantastic, and the more van-like the space is the more stuff can be crammed in. However, when carrying few items, or a single bag of shopping, it's not too helpful – driving the car, no matter how carefully, will toss the items around the boot's expanse.

Boot dividers are the answer, and many manufacturers offer tailored boot-sectioning devices as option at point of sale or as aftermarket extras. However, these are often extortionately priced, no doubt because they're tailored to one specific model. Tailoring isn't necessarily required, though. Here are three household objects that can be used to hack some perfectly workable boot dividers.



LAUNDRY BASKETS

Laundry baskets are ideal for collecting various small objects in or a couple of shopping bags. Putting in as many as will fit in your boot will stop any chance of them tipping over, but to be honest you'd have to be participating in a round of the World Rally Championship to tip all the contents out of one.

SHOWER CADDY

A portable shower caddy – those sectioned plastic tubs with a handle in the middle – are ideal for ferrying individual bottles and smaller objects. For example, car spares could be deposited in here, such as engine oil and other essential fluids, spare bulbs, tyre inflator and lithium battery charger.



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