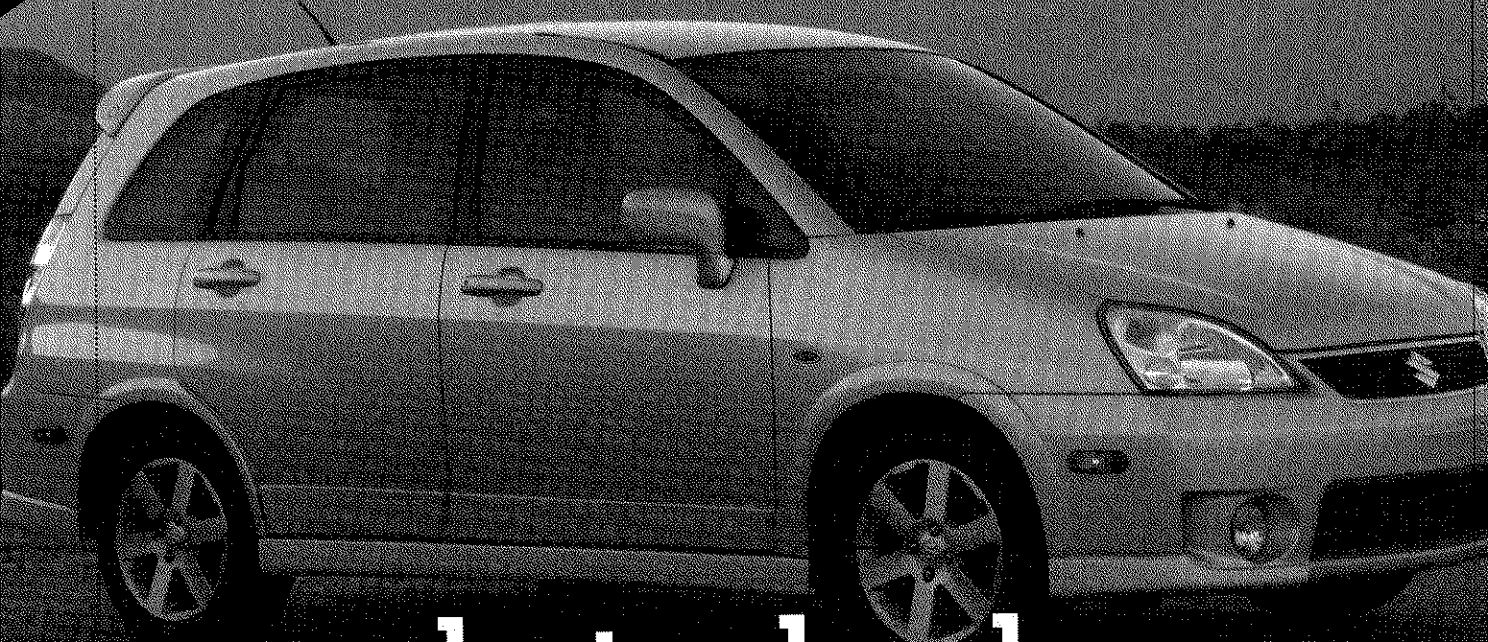


&gt; By Gary Wollenhaupt



# hot wheels (seriously!)

Need a ride? *CO-ED* looks at **three** inexpensive cars that you can **trick out** to your heart's desire.

## Suzuki Aerio SX

Base price: \$15,499

[suzukiauto.com](http://suzukiauto.com)

The Aerio SX packs some serious power under the hood, it's got plenty of space and it looks hot. Wait, actually, that's just a self-description. But the car is pretty cool, too. Don't think of the Aerio as a tall wagon; instead, tell yourself it's a small SUV, especially when you buy it with the optional QuadGrip system for traction in slippery conditions. Normally, power is sent to the front wheels, but when the front loses grip (say, on a snow-covered street or a rain-slick driveway), the system routes power to the rear wheels. Best of all, there's no button to turn it off or on; everything's automatic. You may not even notice it's working except for the fact that you're plowing ahead while other cars are spinning their wheels. Laugh at them as you drive by. And wave. That's polite.

So you're set when it rains, but you should really look at the Aerio as a sports car. A 2.3-liter four cylinder pumps out 155 horsepower, the most in its class. The power comes on low, so you can merge into

traffic from low speed with confidence, instead of having to rev the engine and wait for the *oomph* (an all-too-familiar feeling to Honda and Toyota drivers). Outside, the rear spoiler, with its integrated brake lights, and standard 15-inch aluminum alloy wheels give the car street cred right out of the box. Yo yo yo! Sorry, I hear street cred and go all "street."

Inside, you get a lot of bang for the money. The six-disc in-dash CD player features seven speakers, including dash-mounted tweeters

and an adjustable 100-watt subwoofer located below the driver's seat. Air-conditioning, 12-volt accessory plugs, power locks and mirrors and a tilt wheel are also standard. And the SX comes with a keyless remote, complete with a panic mode for beeping the horn in case of an emergency.

You can also pick any color for the interior ... as long as it's black. Hey, to offer this much car for so little money, they had to cut corners somewhere.

## {trickitout} SUZUKI AERIO SX



The **Cryo Charger** turbocharger boosts power using carbon dioxide from a tank rather than exhaust gases, making it cheaper and easier to install than a standard turbo design. [www.engineering.com](http://www.engineering.com)

A lifetime **K&N** air filter is a cheap way to bring more horse power and miles per gallon out of a better-breathing engine.



A **removable roof rack** system and modules carry up to 80 pounds for sports gear or carving into the dorm.



Turn the wild, wild road into the optional **rear spoiler**. Now go tame wild spirit, young stallion!

Give your SX some **hude** with factory **five spoke wheels**. Tude not hude.

