



Brass Era Cars Identification Guide

Complete Reference for Collectors, Enthusiasts & Historians (1896-1915)



Quick Identification by Manufacturer

Ford (1903-1915)

- Distinctive brass radiator with vertical slats
- Two or four-cylinder engines mounted under hood
- Planetary transmission (Model T)
- Right-hand drive until 1908
- Simple, utilitarian design philosophy

Cadillac (1902-1915)

- Refined brass appointments and trim
- Single-cylinder engines (early models)
- Luxurious leather interiors
- Distinctive Cadillac script on radiator
- Superior build quality and finish

Stanley Steamer (1897-1924)

- No front grille (steam condenser underneath)
- Distinctive boiler mounted under seat
- Steam gauge prominently displayed
- Quiet operation with minimal vibration
- Rapid acceleration capabilities

Pierce-Arrow (1901-1915)

- Elegant, flowing body lines
- Integrated headlamps in fenders (later models)
- Exceptional brass work and detailing
- Large, powerful engines
- Premium leather and wood appointments

Oldsmobile (1897-1915)

- Curved dash design (famous early model)
- Single-cylinder, rear-mounted engine
- Tiller steering (early models)
- Simple, reliable construction
- Distinctive Oldsmobile badge

Electric Vehicles (Various)

- No radiator or exhaust system
- Battery compartments under seats
- Quiet operation
- Often marketed to women
- Limited range (20-40 miles)