



New Teaching Materials for National Secondary  
Vocational School Curriculum Reform

# Car Culture

Chief Approver: Zhu Jun

Chief Editors: Li Qing and Liu Xinjiang

Associate Editors: Chen Kaibin and Ding Quan



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### 5. Fish-shaped Car

The tail of a fish-shaped car stretched backwards excessively and formed a gradient, which would generate relatively strong air swirls at a high speed. To overcome this defect, designers gradually tilted the rear windows of boat-shaped cars. The upper limit of tilt was hatchback type. The back of a hatchback car was like the back of a fish, so such cars were called “fish-shaped cars” (see Fig. 5-9). Fish-shaped cars resembled beetle cars from the back, but with discretion, you could discover that the back of a fish-shaped car had a less angle with the ground and a longer tail compared with beetle ones. Fish-shaped cars basically kept almost all advantages of boat-shaped cars, including large compartment, wide vision and high comfort. Besides, fish-shaped cars also enlarged the capacity of the trunk.

The first fish-shaped car was a Buick sedan born in the US in 1952. Later respectively in 1964 and 1965, Chrysler Plymouth and Ford Mustang also adopted fish shapes. Following Plymouth, various countries gradually put their eyes on fish-shaped cars. The disadvantages of a fish-shaped car included its excessively tilted rear window, increased area and declined intensity and thus structural defects. Because of its shape, a fish-shaped car would generate a lifting force at a high speed, which would reduce wheel grip and fail to fight against crosswind, thus resulting in deviation. To overcome this defect, designers added a tip-tilted “ducktail” in the rear, so as to reduce some lifting force. As a result, a “fish-shaped and ducktail” car model was born.



Fig. 5-9 Fish-shaped Car