

# Portland Observer Auto Review

News and reviews on new motor vehicles

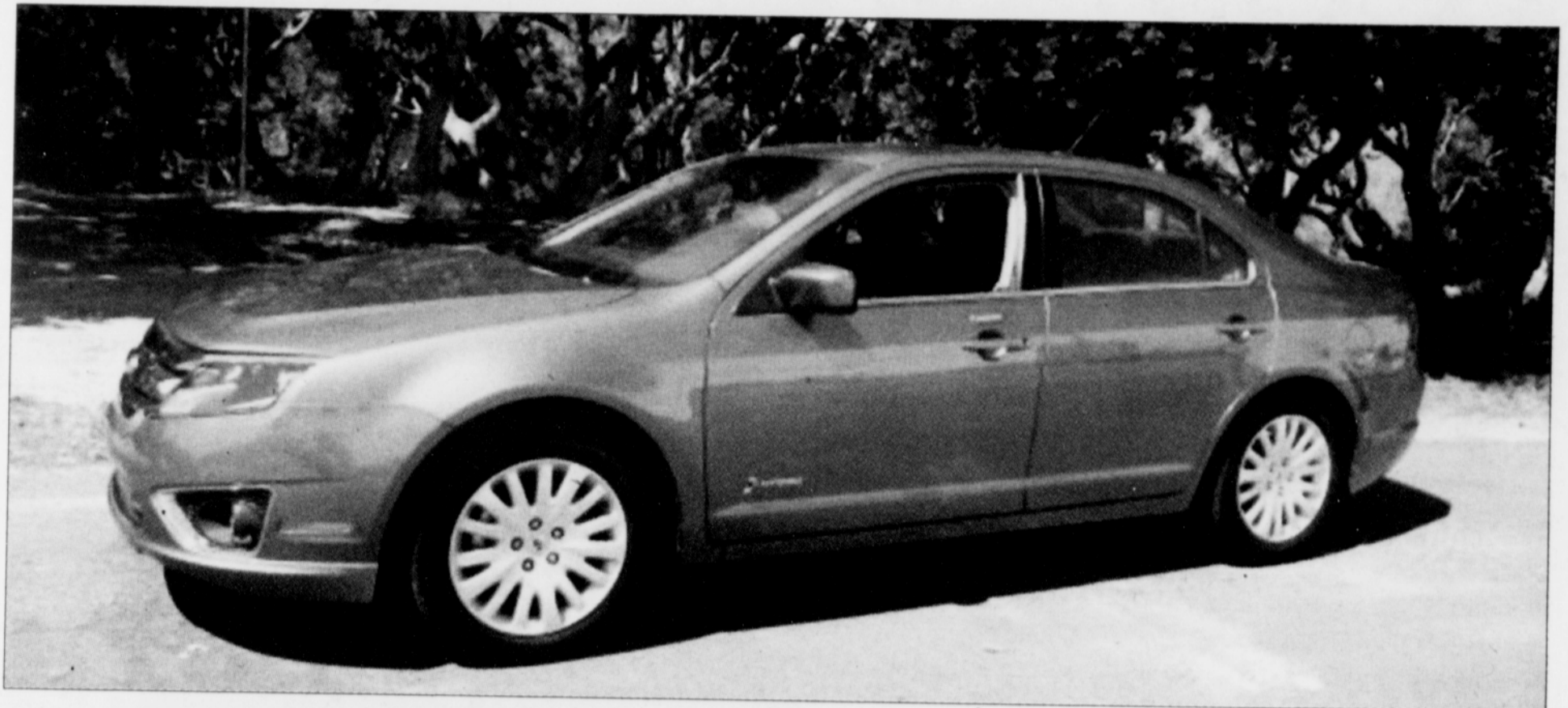
## 2010 Ford Fusion Hybrid

BY KATHLEEN CARR

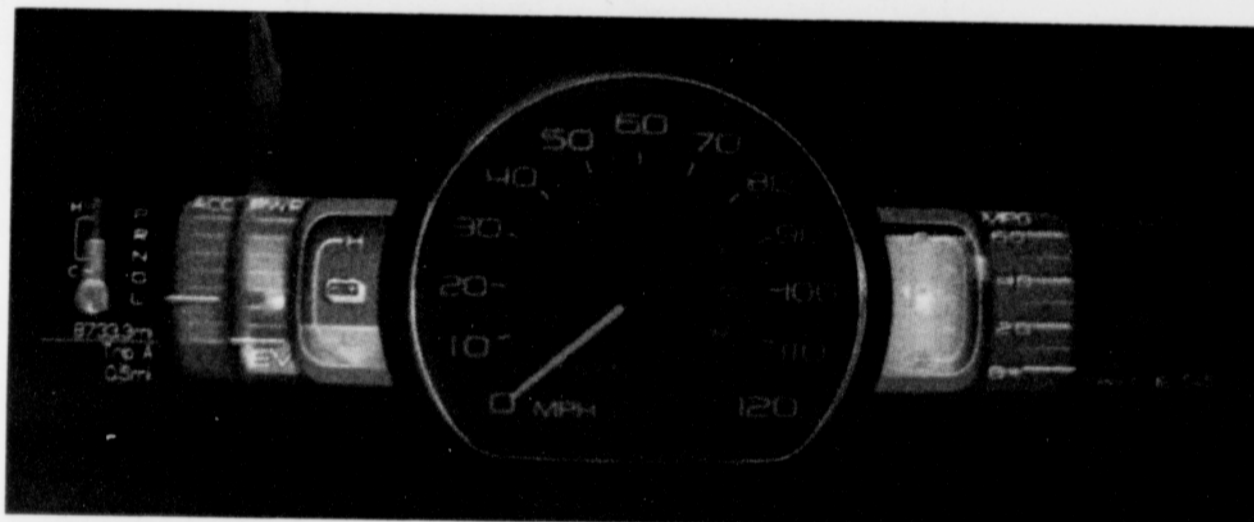
The all-new Fusion hybrid benefits from many of the changes that were made to the 2010 Fusion range. Externally, the Fusion gets new headlamps, a new front fascia, and a reworked version of the three-bar grille that Ford now uses. There is a new decklid and taillights. The hybrid gets "road and leaf" badging to differentiate it, along with unique eight-spoke, 17-inch wheels. The refresh makes the Fusion sharper looking, particularly since the weird headlamps of the original have been replaced.

The Ford Fusion Hybrid utilizes a 2.5-liter four-cylinder gasoline engine that produces 156 horsepower and 136 pound-feet of torque. It is paired with an electric motor that helps bump power output up to 191 hp. Power is sent to the front wheels via a continuously variable automatic transmission.

Fusion features improved interior materials quality and all-new entertainment and climate controls. Standard equipment includes 17-inch alloy wheels, rear parking sensors, a keyless-entry secu-



Vehicle Specifications: 2.5L HEV engine; E-CVT auto transmission; 41 city mpg, 36 highway mpg; MSRP \$27,270 Tested vehicle price \$27,995



city code pad, auto headlamps, foglamps, cruise control, dual-zone automatic climate control, eight-way driver and six-way passenger power seats, a tilt-and-telescoping steering column, eco-friendly cloth upholstery, a leather-wrapped

steering wheel, an auto-dimming rear-view mirror, a specialized gauge cluster, the Ford Sync electronics interface (includes voice commands, Bluetooth and iPod control) and a six-speaker stereo with six-CD/MP3 changer, satellite ra-

dio and steering-wheel controls.

The Dual LCD SmartGauge Cluster with Eco Guide that provides real-time information to help you squeeze the most efficiency from your Fusion Hybrid. While it could be a little overwhelming for the easily distracted, after getting familiar with the cluster, I found the gauges to be plenty informative without having to look directly at them.

The 2010 Ford Fusion hybrid is the best gasoline-electric hybrid yet. It has the best-integrated gas-electric power system in a great mid-size sedan. It will take some adjusting on the consumer to get use to the quietness of this vehicle because I had to ask myself "is it started?"

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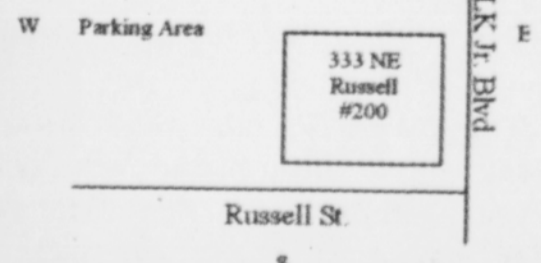
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