

BRIEFING

EXPRESS LANE

Riders feel less strapped with seat belt adjusters

It's time for all the straight dope on seat belt adjusters. If you Express Lane readers will scour your memory banks, you'll recall something on Sept. 22 about Master Design Seatbelt Adjusters being field tested by... Express Lane readers! Master Link Marketing (800-841-1141) sent us four pairs of its seat belt adjusters, which sell for \$9.95 for a set of four.

We passed them along to our volunteers, all women, all rather short, all previously suffering because of a shoulder harness poised at the neck like a pirate's knife. Here's what three of them had to say:

■ Sue Stadnika, of Grand Rapids, affirmed that the seat belt adjusters were easy to put on and adjust. The adjuster works well in her 1993 Chevrolet Blazer. "But in my husband's Lumina, it's kind of useless," she said. Something about the height and position of the seats is the reason.

■ Margie Speck of Muskegon said she loves her seat belt adjuster. To get the best fit for her body, Speck disregarded the instructions and installed her adjuster farther out from the buckle than recommended. And she wishes the plastic device were made in a neon or day-glow color, which would ease its use day and night.

■ Joyce Olsen, also of Muskegon, did the same as Speck when it came to ignoring the instructions and moving the adjuster farther from the buckle. "It's hard getting into a car and you find yourself with the seat belt up around your neck, and then it works up into your face," she said. That problem is cured now.