

Equinox a sight to see, both inside and out

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By definition, an equinox happens twice a year. But in the Baltimore area, this 2005 Chevy Equinox makes sure that the only thing happening twice is the double takes it gets from commuters as it slides on by.

Amy Goetz, 29, is a hard-working single mother from Timonium who has always been attracted to the custom car lifestyle. The decision to purchase a new vehicle was made for her when her Chevy Blazer Xtreme started experiencing severe engine trouble. In November 2007, after test driving a few models, she purchased an Equinox.

Goetz spent little time getting acquainted with her new SUV. In fact, she even removed her subwoofers from the Blazer and replaced them in the Equinox before leaving the dealer's lot.

"I was thinking about how you haven't seen any hooked up in the area I live," said Goetz. "I thought it would be something new to the car scene and at least I would have something that no one else has."

Goetz, who just a few years before admitted a classic amateur mistake when she purchased the same size aftermarket wheels as the stock

STATS BOX

- » **Engine:** 3.4-liter LNJ V-6
- » **Transmission:** AF33 automatic
- » **Wheels:** 22" BIGG hyper Chrome Rims (current)
- » **Audio/visual:** two "07" L7 12" Kicker solo baric subwoofers, ported custom box, two Rockford Fosgate BD1000s, two headrest monitors, two sunvisor monitors, 13" roof-mounted monitor, Pioneer video head unit
- » **Exterior:** custom front grille, Westin Safari bull bar, chrome door handles

wheels she was replacing for her 2000 Pontiac Sunfire, was hoping to make a statement. She wanted a vehicle that had as much to look at on the outside as it did from within. Beginning with a few cosmetic upgrades like 20-inch Sachi rims, she quickly worked her way inside. The result was an integrated audio and video system featuring a Pioneer in-dash video head unit with LCD monitor sunvisors and a set of LCD monitor headrests all connected by Rockford Fosgate power wires. Dangling from the roof, a 13-inch LCD screen welcomes spectators when Goetz lifts the rear gate.



TREY PALMISANO/EXAMINER PHOTOS

Amy Goetz's Chevy Equinox features a custom front grill, 22-inch rims, a safari bar and chrome door handles.

Additionally, the monitors were wired to run off one video source so that every passenger can watch the same show.

For Goetz, being seen and heard were not adversarial concepts. Her audio system includes the installation of two 12-inch Kicker subwoofers and two Rockford Fosgate amplifiers installed by Audio Connection in Towson and Pasadena.

Perhaps the most difficult challenge came when Goetz had fiancé Rob Briggs change out the headliner's cloth material for black suede. To accomplish the feat, each plastic pillar had to be dismantled, and the sunroof had to be removed along with her overhead LCD monitor. The cloth headliner had to be turned 90 degrees and slowly pushed through the back as her well-entrenched subwoofer box was preventing a smooth exit. That left the foam matting, which Briggs had to remove with a sander then painstakingly stretch the suede across the top, ensuring that none of the fabric bunched at the various angles it covered.

Goetz herself took charge on a handful of projects, including popping the taillights out to repaint them, creating a smoky transparent effect. A year into the project and Goetz has already gone through multiple wheels and subwoofers — every change finding its way on the car through a deal on an aftermarket product she couldn't pass up. All said, the Equinox boasts over \$10,000 worth of upgrades and earns itself a reputation.

What do you drive? A 2005 Chevy Equinox.

CHECK OUT MY RIDE



Why do you drive it? Because it's a long walk from Timonium to Hamilton, and I can't afford to have a daily driver plus a car to modify on the side.

What makes this SUV so special? It's special because it's the first car I got on my own with no help from anyone, and no co-signer. Plus, I have yet to see another Equinox out there that is modified.

What is your most memorable driving experience? Coming home from the Ocean City car show in June 2005 in my first car after placing third in my division and making it on TV, and some idiot rear ended me while I was stopped in traffic on Route 50. I got out of the car to see the damages and the guy who hit me kept saying it wasn't his fault.

What was the first car you owned? A 2000 Pontiac Sunfire. It was brand new with 8 miles on it when I bought it.

What music are you currently listening to in your car? Mainly, Wordsmith. He is a local rapper from Baltimore, and the car club that I'm affiliated with was in his music video.

And your first ticket? What was it for? Repair orders for my tint, music being too loud, exhaust being too loud, and my car was too low. Even though he couldn't get me on all of the stuff, he sure did try.

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Inside, the Equinox sports six monitors wired to run off one video source.