

July 18, 2016

## What's New? By George Harding

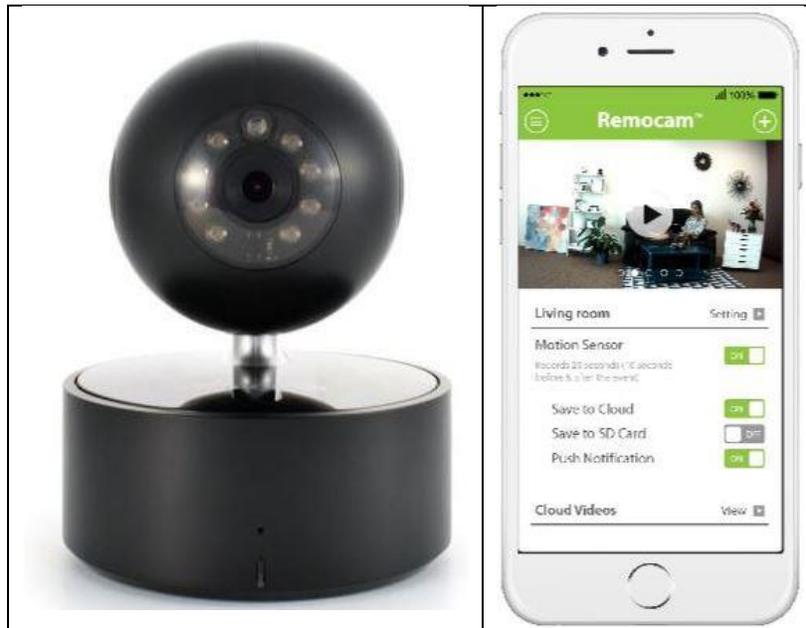
### Remocam ...

This is a home security device that uses WiFi, a camera and a smartphone to view a scene for you to see and transmit images of it.

The setup process is very simple. You plug the camera into a wall socket, download the smartphone app and connect to your WiFi network. The Start Up Guide is the simplest I've seen, a single piece of paper with the three steps described.

The connection step is a bit unusual. The smartphone app has a step that shows a bar code which you show to the camera. When the camera recognizes the bar code, you get a message to that effect and you are connected to the network.

Once set up, the camera records a video when it senses motion. It records 20 seconds, 10 before and 10 after the event.



You can look at any of the videos to see what event triggered the recording and delete it or save it to your phone or to the cloud to review later, or to a micro SD card (an extra purchase to be inserted in the camera frame).

You can look at the scene that the camera sees live on your smartphone, anywhere, anytime. The camera can be panned or tilted to see various parts of the scene.

The live camera view has a button for a siren, which may alarm intruders. There are also buttons that allow you to listen to what's happening in the scene or to talk to whoever is in the scene, be it family or pets.

Remocam can also control other devices, such as light bulbs.

Remocam                      [www.remocam.com](http://www.remocam.com)                      Price \$199

### **Automatic Adapter ...**

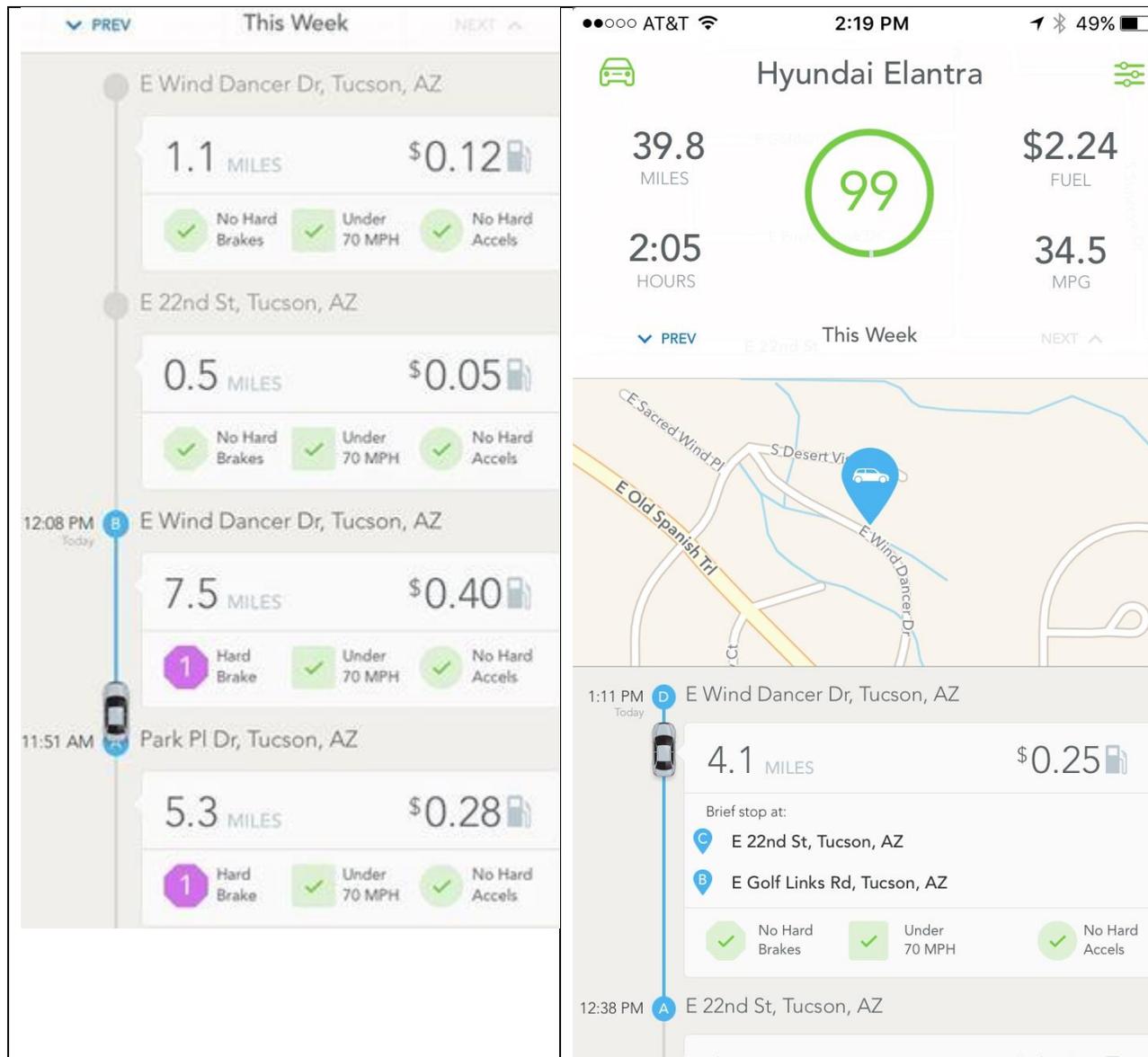
This is a really nifty product! It keeps track of your driving for you, allowing you to gather important information for personal and business use.

The product is two-fold, a physical plug-in for your diagnostics port and a smartphone app.

The plug-in goes under your dash and connects with all the information that your car is furnishing. You are probably unaware of the vast array of data that is available.

You are probably aware of the warnings given by the Check Engine light. Few people understand what these warnings mean, because they do not give any info other than the warning to check engine. Your mechanic can interpret the codes that are available through the diagnostic port.

Automatic's smartphone app gives you the number of the warning and an explanation of what it means.



But there's so much more. Automatic keeps track of where you go, the distance you traveled, how much the trip cost in fuel and whether you made hard braking stops, exceeded 70 mph or accelerated very rapidly. This information is shown in the smartphone app.

You can examine any of the trip segments to see what route you took, the average speed, the time and the fuel cost. You can tag any segment at business, if needed to isolate costs. You get a map that shows the route, and can be expanded to show surroundings, as with any smartphone map app.

The data collected is shown by week, this week, previous week and so on.

Another piece of data that Automatic collects is where your car is now. If you forgot where you parked, Automatic will not only show you where it is on a map, but will also give you walking directions to find it!

A very valuable service provided by Automatic is help in an emergency. If a heavy collision is detected, an agent will call to help with emergency services, contact family and stay on the line until help arrives.

Automatic also keeps track of your fuel situation and gives a warning when low fuel occurs.

This is an interesting and valuable product. It provides extensive and easy to understand information through the free smartphone application.

The packaging for Automatic is unusual in that when the contents are removed, it turns into a drinking cup! Very green!

Automatic Adapter

[www.automatic.com](http://www.automatic.com)

Price about \$100

### **Belkin Netcam HD ...**

Home security devices are very popular these days, both because of the interest in safety at home but also because of the expanding universe of IoT (Internet of Things) applications.

Like many other such products it includes a camera and uses WiFi to transmit data to a smartphone application. If WiFi is not available, one of the cell networks services can be used instead.

Setting up the Netcam is easy. The camera has a power cord and a switch. The switch is used in the setup process. You first download the smartphone app and follow the instructions.

The first instruction is to turn the camera switch to setup and look for a Belkin Netcam network on your smartphone. The next instruction is to select your home WiFi network and enter the password.

Next, the camera switch is set to Operate. Then you must set up an account online which is used to transmit data from the camera to your smartphone.

Once this is done, you can receive an image on your smartphone of what the camera sees. You get a full screen image live, with only a second or so of delay and at what appears to be a speed of 10 or 15 fps.

The screen shows three options for you: picture, video and sound. Picture lets you take a photo of what the camera is showing. Video starts a video of the scene, and sound lets you hear what is occurring or speak to the scene.



Oddly, the scene shown by the camera cannot be expanded, as is usual for most smartphone images.

The Netcam camera provides alerts when it senses motion in the scene. These show up on your smartphone. There appears to be no way to control the frequency of these alerts. When motion is sensed by the camera, an 8 minute video clip is created. These can be saved locally or to Belkin's cloud.

Belkin offers Cloud + Premium Services which records the motion-triggered clips and saves them to the Belkin's cloud service. A free 30 day trial is available and longer periods may be purchased.

The camera has "night vision" by the use of infrared LEDs, so you can see what's going on even though it is dark in the scene.

There is a two year limited warranty.

Netcam HD by Belkin

[www.belkin.com](http://www.belkin.com)

Price \$130