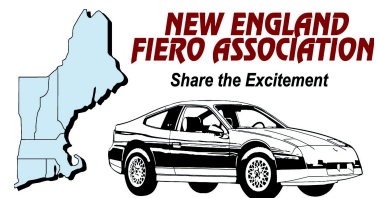


# FIERO PRIDE

January 2016



Joint publication of the New England Fiero Association and Mid Atlantic Fiero Owners Association

## Watkins Glen Teaser



Submitted by: Garry Dammons

Have you ever thought of taking your Fiero out to a real track? Well this Spring, make that wish a reality! Join a great Fiero crew at Watkins Glen for Opening Day Weekend April 16-17, 2016.

A full collage preview from last year's event will run in the February edition of FieroPride but if you are interested in further info in the meantime, please contact me at [basenface@aol.com](mailto:basenface@aol.com).

I will be leading a group up from Maryland and am a Watkins Glen returnee ready to help other Fiero owners figure out the ropes. Stay tuned for further info for 2016 and a look back at Watkins Glen 2015 in the February issue!

## Converting Your Air Conditioner

Submitted by: Gerald M. Antunes

As time goes by we have all thought about converting our A/C from R-12 to the newer R134a. The main reason is that the R-134a is much easier to get and cheaper to buy than the R-12. Not to mention the fact the environmentalists become friendlier. Besides, some states require you to have a license to buy or install the R-12.

To get you up to speed, I will give you some information I received from a specialist in the field and some research that I did.

A few years ago we had a work shop at Auto Air in Guilford, CT. The owner, Paul MacGregor gave a very good talk about how the auto air condition system works. He also went into the technical points of the R-12 vs R134a. It all made sense to me, but I am not an A/C specialist.

So, the question may be, when should you consider converting, or as those in the trade say, "retrofit" your system? Well, generally it makes the most sense when the A/C system requires major repairs such as a new compressor, condenser or evaporator. Otherwise, there is no reason to retrofit a car with R-134a, as long as the R-12 system is cooling properly.

According to Paul, if your system was designed to work with R-12, it will work best with the R-12. And if you have a leak in your system you should try to fix it first before considering changing to R-134a. Paul has a more technical reason for repairing the leak like the difference in the size of R-134a molecules.

If you still feel that you should make the change there are a couple of ways to do it. The first is to follow the vehicle manufacturer recommended retrofit procedure. This generally involves removing all the old mineral oil from the system, replacing the accumulator or receiver/dryer with one that contains X-7 desiccant, replacing O-rings (if required), installing or replacing a high pressure cutout switch (which many shops seems to forget), changing the orifice tube or expansion valve (if required), then adding the specified PAG oil and recharging the system with R-134a. On some applications, installing a more efficient condenser may be recommended for improved cooling performance. After the modifications are made, the system must be recharged to about 85 to 90% of its original capacity with R-134a.

Oh, by the way, Federal law also requires that you permanently install R-134a fittings on the high and

low service ports to reduce the chance of refrigerant cross-contamination the next time the vehicle is serviced. Labels must also be installed to identify the system is now converted to R-134a. That process is the best procedure and will insure that the whole system is now matched and will give you the maximum performance.

There is however, another process, one that I'm sure many of you may have already done or considered doing. It's much cheaper but less efficient and could cause damage to the entire system. This "quick & cheap" process is to go to your local auto parts store and buy a conversion kit that includes nothing more than an adapter fitting for the low pressure side of the system, put it on and recharge your system with a can or two of R-134a. And believe me, it works.

Now, here is where the problem comes in with that technique. First, the oil that is needed in that system is not the same for R-134a as is used for R-12. If you don't remove all the old oil and install the proper oil you will have a mismatch. Not Good!

Now, your car may be equipped with a Tecumseh, Keihin or one of the Panasonic compressors. These compressors have Viton seals. Again not compatible with R-134a.

You also have to consider the age and condition of your compressor. When you use R-134a the pressure in the compressor increases. Increased pressure means more work load which means more heat. Some of the light weight compressors may not be strong enough to handle that change. As a rule, expect anywhere from a 3% to 15% decrease in cooling performance when an R-12 system is converted to R-134a in this way. Systems with relatively large or efficient condensers will experience less of a drop in cooling performance with R-134a than those with smaller or less efficient condensers. The Fiero condenser is listed as being 24"x14"x2."

Don't forget that all of the "O" rings will need to be changed. The Orifice Tube should be changed or removed. In fact, you should consider changing to a Variable Valve orifice tube to help increase the flow rate during engine idle or at low speeds like stop & go traffic.

Now, with this small amount of information you may be able to make a more informed decision as to what is the best process for you.

## Aux. Gauge installation for 84 and 85 models

*Bruce Homeyard has been collecting Fiero information from various places, including the Pennock's Forum, for years. Bruce hopes the information is helpful. This article was written by an unknown author.*



The 120 MPH speedometer and aux. gauge package was not offered until 1986. These units can be easily installed in the 1985 models with little trouble. The 1984 models are a little harder, but can be done. This wright up is for the 1985 year with comments and tip for other years. Items needed for this modification is a 120 MPH gauge cluster, the aux. gauge cluster with the pigtail wiring, and a vinyl radio/vent pod that fits around the aux. gauges.

The old instrument panel is easy to remove. I found removal of the steering wheel gives you a little more room to work. Next remove the vinyl piece around the shifter and then the vinyl piece around the radio/vent. Mount the Aux. Gauge cluster above the vent.

### Now for the wiring

The problem here is that the 84 & 85 did not come with the wiring harness to plug the aux. gauge pig tail into. Also on the 1984 model you have to change the oil pressure sensor to one used from 1985 through 1988, Here is a neat way to install the required wiring with out cutting and splicing wires. The connector behind the dash pod and is located on the right hand side (see Gauge Cluster plug). Use five (5) different colored wires, 22 gauge, about three (3) feet long. Remove about 2 inches of the insulation and tin the wire. The wire can be slid up the backside of the plug's pin and put a small spot of solder on the back side so it will not effect the pin when it's pushed into the back of the dash.

Rap electrical tape around the four wires. Run the new harness through the back of the dashboard. Install the 120 MPH gauge cluster. I recommend you test this part of the installation at this time. Place a small piece of electrical tape over the ends of the new wiring harness. If everything checks out it is now time to finish the job.

I used a five (5) pin connector that can be found in my junk draw or you could just splice the wires

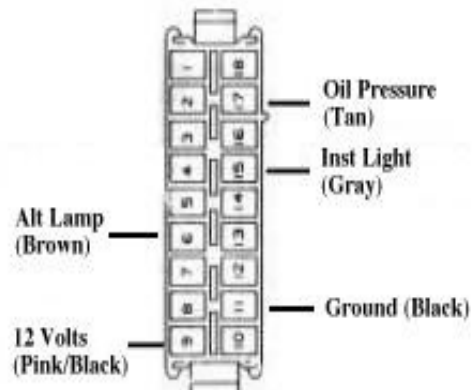
together. Wire this connector to match the leads from the aux. gauge cluster (compare "Gauge Custer plug" with "Auw. Gauge Wiring"). install the vinyl piece around the radio/vent and Aux. gauges. Last to be installed is the vinyl piece around the shifter, and your done.

If your Fiero was equipped with an oil pressure switch (1984 models) you need to fined or buy an oil pressure sending unit for 85 or latter year. This will give you a sending unit that is 0 to 90 ohms verses an on/off switch. Remove the wire connector from the sending unit, remove sending unit, install new sending unit and replace the wire connector.

If you are going to add the Aux. Gauge package and leave the 85 MPH pod in place you will have to remove the tan wire from pin 17 on the C206 (sometimes called C3) connector. You can not drive two oil pressure gauges at the same time.

Also if you have a 4-cylinder engine you will have to remove the resistor from the your TACH and solder it back on the GT TACH to keep the proper RPM. (Thanks to John Wells who provided information on 1984 models)

This is only a guide. Check your wiring drawing for your year and model. Use a voltmeter and ohmmeter to look and check for the correct signals.



## Joy Movie Update!

Submitted by: Gwen Randolph

As referenced in the November Fiero Pride, my '88 T-top Coupe is in a movie with Jennifer Lawrence, Robert DeNiro & Bradley Cooper. *Joy* opened in theaters Christmas Day. We went to see it the day after Christmas.

*A lot of the movie was shot in the Boston area last winter while the Boston area was receiving lots of snow. My T-top was hired for three days on three different locations. Our son worked one day and my husband, Phil, worked two. They and the car were paid for their time.*

Just had to see my T-top on the big screen and to see if it appeared in more than the scene in the trailer. [Joy trailer](#) To our surprise it did. In one scene you didn't even have to play the "Where's Waldo" game to find a Fiero. Same Kmart scene, but my T-top was totally out in the open and looked pretty good,

but then I'm prejudiced. Phil was the driver the day the scenes were shot in that closed Kmart so all the cars in that parking lot were working on the movie. While the scene was being shot outside, Phil and the other drivers were stationed inside the Kmart building. Phil said that scene took all day with several different configurations of people and cars. That's the movie biz apparently.

Our son remembered where the Fiero was parked they day he was on set on another location, but it was out of frame.

In a scene filmed on another day when Jennifer is walking along a city street, Phil remembered where the T-top was parked that day too, but it was also out of frame.

Not sure either of them would be involved in another movie due to the long hours, but I think they enjoyed remembering their days on the set while watching the movie. BTW, we enjoyed the movie and not just because my Fiero is in it.

## Yes, a Christmas Cruise

Submitted by: Gwen Randolph

Because of the warm weather we in the New England area were enjoying, the Tri-State Cruisers from the CT area started a phone tree/email notification during the week of December 7 to let everyone know that they would be holding a cruise on the afternoon of Sunday, December 13. The Tri-State Cruisers hold one of the largest cruise nights every Saturday during the season in the Putnam, CT area and raise money for Paul Newman's Hole in the Wall Camp, which is located not far from the cruise site.

Phil & I decided to take my 88 T-top because he had already started his winter project on his 38 Packard. It's fun to have choices.

Entering the field they gave us a card with a number and a place to fill out our information before placing on the windshield. Our number was one hundred something. By the end of the afternoon we were told there were 252 cars on the field. Wow! Some were even decorated for the season.

Have to say it was a fun day listening to the occasional Christmas song mixed in with the regular cruise night music while talking to people. Even Santa showed up. His chariot a red Harley Davidson motorcycle. Lots of people took pictures with him.



## ***What's Happening – 2016***

**January 23, 2016 – Annual NEFA Holiday Party.** In case of bad weather the party will be held on Saturday, January 30, 2016. Place and time information to go out soon so save these dates.

**March 26 – April 3, 2016 - International Auto Show at the Javits Center in NYC.** More information to come.

**April, 2016 – NEFA Dust Off Cruise** – We'll meet in Sturbridge & cruise around the area, coming back to the Sturbridge area for lunch. More information to come.

**May, 2016 - 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Pontiac Oakland Spring Show** – Sponsored by the Nutmeg Chapter P.O.C.I. Show is held in Wallingford, CT. Date and more information to come.

**June, 2016 – NEFA is planning a trip to the drive in movie in the eastern MA area.** For anyone not wanting to go home after the movie, some of us are planning to stay in Sturbridge, MA. More information to come.

**June 18, 2016: Save the date for the 22nd Annual Fieros at Carlisle Show. More information to follow.**

**June 23 – 25, 2016 – Barrett-Jackson Auction** – Mohegan Sun Casino, Uncasville, CT. For ticket prices more information see [Barrett-Jackson](#).

**July, 2016 – Annual NEFA Picnic** – the picnic will once again be held at Phil & Gwen Randolph's house in Coventry, RI. Several members seem to enjoy the pool. More information to come.

**August 13, 2016 – NEFA Annual Swap Meet at the Fiero Store**, Manchester, CT. The swap meet is getting bigger every year so join us in 2016. Come show off and share your Fiero. Wonderful raffles like the popular hand painted Fiero chair. All monies after expenses goes to charity. Bring a picnic lunch. NEFA supplies the soda and water. A big thank you to the Fiero Store for opening the doors to their spacious warehouse and for being such good partners.

**September 16 – 18, 2016 – Pontiac Celebration Show – Warwick, RI.** A great weekend raising money for two great children's charities – The Tomorrow Fund & Alex's Lemonade Stand. The three previous Celebration shows donated at least \$8,000 each time. Plan to visit RI in 2016. More information to come as the date gets closer.

**October, 2016 – Annual NEFA Leaf Peeper Cruise** – Discussion about doing a weekend trip to the Kent, CT area. More information to come as plans are finalized.

**November, 2016 – Annual NEFA Meeting and Election of Officers.** More information to come as date gets closer.

**Five Surprising Classics  
That Rose in Value in  
2015**

Ray Paulk found this little tidbit on the Hagerty News website. [Hagerty](#)

**Birthdays**

*A new feature we are introducing in 2016 is to celebrate member birthdays. This month we wish a Happy Birthday to our January members.*

***Greg Clauss - NEFA***

***Steve Hazelton - NEFA***

***Rick Mahoney - NEFA***

***Greg Murad - NEFA***

***Lynne Salter - NEFA***

***Chris Tail - NEFA***

***Larry Wheeler - NEFA***

***Ron Yeager - NEFA***

**NEFA Renewal Time**

The Fiero Pride is the official newsletter of the New England Fiero Association

Family membership is \$10.00. Make your check out to NEFA and send to:

New England Fiero Association

Ray Paulk, 19 Bens Way, Hopedale, MA  
01747

or \$10.65 by PayPal at [www.fieropride.com](http://www.fieropride.com). Click on the "Join NEFA" link on the main menu.

Contact Ray Paulk, Membership Director at [88GT@fieropride.com](mailto:88GT@fieropride.com) if you have any questions.

*All memberships expire on December 31*

**MAFOA Renewal Time**

The FieroPride is the official newsletter of the Mid-Atlantic Fiero Owners Association.

E-Membership for 2016 is \$15 for monthly

E-News/Quarterly E-Editions and a Print Membership (4 Printed Quarterly Editions plus monthly E-News) is \$25.

Join MAFOA at [www.mafoa.com](http://www.mafoa.com) or by mailing a check to Membership Director, Bruce Homeyard @ 2776 N. Charlotte St; Gilbertsville, PA; 19525

Contact Bruce Homeyard, Membership Director at [fierobruiser@gmail.com](mailto:fierobruiser@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

## Classifieds

### Fieros:

**1985 Fiero SE** - 59k original miles. Automatic. Located in York, PA. Telephone: **317-657-6777**. 10/15

**1987 Show ready Fiero GT** - V-8 Archie Ramjet 350 & F40 6 spd. Less than 2,000 miles on conversion. Fresh panel off green pearl metallic paint, Corvette brakes, front battery & coilovers front & rear with drop spindles up front. Air Conditioning, T-Tops & Mr. Mike leather seats. Alpine stereo, new carpet & headliner. Mods too numerous to list in this ad. Completely documented with DVD maintenance manual. Many extras go with it such as a new set of T-tops, extra new set of Mr. Mike seat covers & much more. \$12,000. Contact Tom Corey, Melbourne, FL [Tcorey1@cfl.rr.com](mailto:Tcorey1@cfl.rr.com) for pictures & complete list of mods. 10/1/2015

**NOTE:** For those of you who were at the 2014 Pontiac Celebration Show in Warwick, RI, Tom's Fiero took 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Higher Custom/Modified class. You can see a picture on Page 4 of the December 2014 Fiero Pride.

<http://fieropride.com/newsletters/2014-12.pdf>. 10/15

**1984 Fiero for parts** - No title-Automatic-not running. \$150 OBO. **1984 Fiero for parts** - Have title. Automatic. Front end missing....was in crash. \$150 OBO. Call Tom Senick 484-862-7305 or [fierotom@hotmail.com](mailto:fierotom@hotmail.com) Cars and parts located in Bethlehem, PA. 10/15

### Parts:

**Mirror Control Repair Plate** - Reinforcement backing plate repairs broken-out remote control bezel on driver's door mirror. Kit includes easy to follow instructions, plate, extra bezel nuts, & two extra door panel clips just in case you break one. \$9.00 covers kit & shipping. Tom Derr @ **(717) 763-5748** or [tom6derr@yahoo.com](mailto:tom6derr@yahoo.com).

**Coil overs & 2.5 alternator** - a pair of rear coil over springs taken off a 88 Fiero. May fit other years. Manufacturer unknown. Great shape. \$100 for the pair. Picture provided if interested. Also, 100 amp alternator for a 87-88 Fiero 2.5. AC Delco reman - brand new - in box with fan & pulley attached. Sells new for \$125+. Will take \$80. Contact Andrew @ [Fieroworks@comcast.net](mailto:Fieroworks@comcast.net) Milford, NH.

**4-14" aluminum Fiero wheels with tires** - \$80 OBO. **(2) 1988 seats -gray** - \$80 OBO. Various other parts. Make offer. Call Tom Senick 484-862-7305 or [fierotom@hotmail.com](mailto:fierotom@hotmail.com) Cars and parts located in Bethlehem, PA.

**Tires** - (2) Winter Force 195/75R14 92S M&S studded, very low miles mounted on Cavalier rims. (2) Hankook 195/75R14 92S M&S studded, very low miles mounted on Amercian Racing wheels (not perfect). \$50 each set. Additional set of matching wheels with good tires to throw in \$10 each. Were on my Formula when I drove nothing but Fieros year round. Buy all 4 and have traction on all 4 wheels. If you need to drive a Fiero year round in the NE; this is the only way to really go in snow. Located in Gilbertsville, PA. Pick up only. 610-334-1186 or [Fierobruiser@gmail](mailto:Fierobruiser@gmail.com) for pic. 1/16

### Fiero Toys, Literature & Collectibles:

**Fiero Toy Box** - Are you interested in Fiero collectibles? Ray Paulk has over 500 unique Fiero toys in his personal collection and tons of toys in inventory, but don't expect cut rate prices as most Fiero toys are rare and hard to find. If you are interested you can contact Ray at [Ray@RaytheRealtor.com](mailto:Ray@RaytheRealtor.com).

**Over 2,000 items cataloged** - Dealer Brochures, Owner's Manuals, Workshop Manuals, Magazines, Pamphlets, Models, Die Cast, Pull-back Fieros, Slot Cars, Matchbox, Hot Wheels, Body parts, wheels, sunroofs, ash tray covers, many steering wheels, consoles. Tom Derr @ **(717) 763-5748** or [tom6derr@yahoo.com](mailto:tom6derr@yahoo.com).

### NEFA Merchandise & Apparel

Polo shirts with the NEFA logo embroidered on the left front. Nice quality shirts at a reasonable price.

You may have seen a few members wearing these shirts. Contact NEFA Merchandise Director RogerCoulson @ [Roger@Fieropride.com](mailto:Roger@Fieropride.com) if you are interested.

Check out the NEFA website <http://fieropride.com/> and click on the NEFA Merchandise button to view the NEFA T-shirts for size & colors available or the NEFA window sticker for your Fiero at \$1.00 each. And don't forget the NEFA pint glasses. Just the right size for your favorite cold beverage.



## Repair/Painting:

**Andy's Fiero Works**  
Body repair, painting & reconditioning

**Making your plastic.....Fantastic**  
Milford, NH 603-672-8036 Fieroworks@comcast.net

Company owned & operated by Andrew Virzi, NEFA's Treasurer

Do you have something Fiero related to sell or have a Fiero related service you want to advertise? This is the place. Send your contact information to:

**Gwen (NEFA) @ [Gwen@fieropride.com](mailto:Gwen@fieropride.com)**

or

**Jen (MAFOA) @ [Jennifer.G@fieropride.com](mailto:Jennifer.G@fieropride.com).**

**The FieroPride goes out to a wide audience.**

**The Fiero Store**

**SPOTLIGHT**  
Fiero Club Edition

<p><b>Notchback Sail Panel Inserts</b></p> <p>These stock replacement notchback sail panel inserts are molded from high temp acrylic and come with mounting tape. Simply pull your old insert out of the frame, clean the frame's mounting surface and stick on the new inserts.</p> <p><b>50398 Black Notchback Sail Panel Inserts (blank) \$89.95</b>  <b>50398 GT Notchback Sail Panel Inserts (GT) \$99.95</b>  <b>50398 SE Notchback Sail Panel Inserts (SE) \$99.95</b></p>	<p><b>Exhaust Tip Shields</b></p> <p>Replace your bent, tarnished or missing exhaust tip shields with quality chrome reproductions. Each shield protects your fascia from the heat and exhaust emitted by each tip. Fits directly on the rear fascia, above each exhaust tip.</p> <p><b>69513 Notchback Exhaust Tip Shields (pair) \$19.95</b>  <b>69515 Fastback Exhaust Tip Shields (pair) \$19.95</b></p>	<p><b>Black Fleece Blanket</b></p> <p>This 100% polyester black super soft fleece measures 48" x 58". It includes a removable handle for easy transport and features a 2 1/2" high Fiero logo along one edge. Perfect for tailgating or snuggling on the couch!</p> <p><b>51908 Black Fleece Blanket \$19.95</b></p>
<p><b>84-88 Dash Cover</b></p> <p>For those with a warped dash or cracking corners, The Fiero Store now offers a full plastic dash cover. This is meant to glue over your original dash to bring it back to like-new condition. Comes molded in black with a factory type texture.</p> <p><b>92150 84-88 Dash Cover \$119.95</b></p>	<p><b>84-88 Shift Console Cap</b></p> <p>Restore your bowed shift console pod to its original form. This shift console cap glues over your original pod to bring it back to like-new condition. Each cap includes instructions and may require paint to match your interior.</p> <p><b>62775 84-88 Shift Console Cap \$43.95</b></p>	<p><b>84-88 Rear Wall Speaker Panel</b></p> <p>This 3pc rear wall speaker panel is made from ABS plastic with an original type texture. It will accommodate a pair of 6.5" diameter speakers with a mounting depth of up to 2". Paint or wrap to match your interior. Easy installation, no need to remove the seats.</p> <p><b>92100 NoSpeaker 84-88 Rear Wall (without speakers) \$159.95</b>  <b>92100 Speaker 84-88 Rear Wall (with speakers) \$219.95</b></p>
<p><b>Recline Handles &amp; Mechanism Covers</b></p> <p>Is it time to replace your cracked, broken or missing seat recline handles and mechanism covers?</p> <p><b>67344 Pair Seat Recline Handles (pair) \$24.95</b>  <b>66789 Pair Seat Mechanism Covers (pair) \$34.95</b></p>	<p><b>Valve Cover Grommets</b></p> <p>Most Fieros on the road today have rubber PCV and air breather grommets that are more than twenty years old. These leaking or dry rotted grommets cause hazardous oil leaks, poor PCV sealing, and messy engine compartments.</p> <p><b>62531 4cyl PCV Valve Grommet \$11.95</b>  <b>64270 Air V6 Air Breather Grommet \$7.95</b>  <b>64270 PCV V6 PCV Valve Grommet \$7.95</b>  <b>64270 Set V6 Valve Cover Grommet Set \$12.95</b></p>	<p><b>84-88 Center Wheel Caps</b></p> <p>These brushed aluminium reproduction wheel caps fit in the center of each of your 14" or 15" wheels. They are silver in color and are approximately 2" in diameter. Available with or without the Pegasus logo. Sold individually or in sets for greater savings.</p> <p><b>68514 1 Center Wheel Cap (1, without logo) \$8.95</b>  <b>68514 4 Center Wheel Cap (4, without logo) \$29.95</b>  <b>67616 1 Center Wheel Cap (1, with logo) \$14.95</b>  <b>67616 4 Center Wheel Cap (4, with logo) \$49.95</b></p>
<p><b>84-88 ABS Door Panels</b></p> <p>The Fiero Store is proud to offer these new speaker door panels that replace the factory panels and are made of ABS plastic with a texture that is similar to your other interior trim parts. They will accommodate a pair of 6.5" diameter speakers with a mounting depth of up to 2". Paint or wrap to match your interior.</p> <p><b>92050 NoSpeaker Door Panel Set (without speakers) \$199.95</b>  <b>92050 Speaker Door Panel Set (with speakers) \$259.95</b></p>	<p><b>Black Fiero Towel</b></p> <p>This 100% cotton terry velour towel measures 16" x 26". It is fully hemmed and features a 2 1/2" high Fiero logo in the lower right corner. It has a metal grommet and hook to hang from your golf bag, bowling bag, or shop bench.</p> <p><b>51905 Black Fiero Towel \$12.95</b></p>	<p><b>Rear Trunk Weatherstrips</b></p> <p>The Fiero Store is proud to offer rear trunk seals for both notchback and fastback Fieros. Each weatherstrip fits around the rear compartment to keep water out of your trunk.</p> <p><b>50154 Notchback Notchback Rear Trunk Seal \$69.95</b>  <b>50154 Fastback Fastback Rear Trunk Seal \$99.95</b></p>

**[www.fierostore.com](http://www.fierostore.com) Toll Free Order Desk: 800-343-7648 Customer Support: 860-645-1837**