

A love letter to the Honda S2000

AHBAR MILKY

At the end of world war II and after the reconstruction of Japan, the land of the rising sun began to find its economic footing as a manufacturer of consumer devices, electronics, and most notably, (at least for petrolheads) cars.

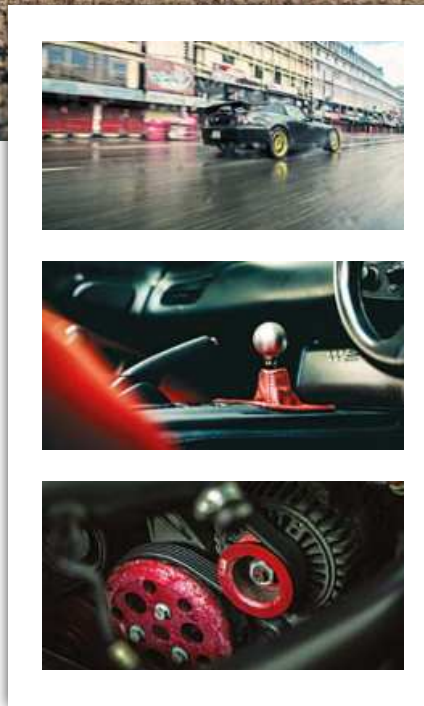
Following a directive by the Japanese government in 1955 for a "people's car", a cheap 150,000 yen (918,000 yen in today's money) four-seater with a top speed of a brisk 100 kmh, the auto industry had their work cut out for them. Subaru rolled out the 360, Suzuki unveiled the Suzulight. Honda, a feeble motorcycle company at the time, seemed to have missed the memo in the most glorious fashion and debuted the Honda S360 almost a decade later, follow in succession by the s500 and s800.

Turns out, a drop-dead 360cc chain-driven roadster was exactly the genesis Honda looked-for, as the S moniker was revived again in 1999, and thanks to movies like the fast and furious, the S2000 has a cult classic following.

The AP1 S2000 boasted the highest specific power output per litre of any naturally aspirated car, only to be dethroned by some red Ferrari a decade later. The facelifted AP2 with an extra 200ccs displacement up to 2200cc took over the dealership floors from 2003 to 2009.

And with my rotten luck of bringing rain to a shoot, feast your eyes upon this 2005 Berlina black AP2 S2000 Type S, or a CR (Club Racer) if you're a Yankee. The AP2 modernized a car penned in the late nineties.

The revised bumpers and lights are noticeably sleeker than before. However, the type S kit combined with the spoiler turns its demeanour and stance up to eleven. Think Johnny Tran's black Veilside s2000 from FnF but with RTX on. The prettier Type S wheels were replaced with a set of gold RPF1's housed in fatter and wider Advan Neova AD08 R's, with a tread pattern so bewitching, I might just name my firstborn after it. One peek at the engine bay quickly tells you that the previous owner in Japan clearly went nuts in a Toda racing garage, installing everything from their parts catalogue.



From a Toda high power exhaust system to a bright pink Toda pulley kit, which sticks out amidst the engine as one would imagine. Watching the bars in the digital speedo climb up to 8000 rpm is a treat to one's sensory organs. The bright red bucket-like seats will cradle you as the ohlins racing coilovers coupled with the Veovas keep the darty s2000 planted, rain or shine.

One major difference between the AP2 cars was the engine powerband.

Where the previous-gen redlined at an ear ringing 9000 rpm, the longer piston travel owed to the of the bored and stroked F22 took it down a notch at 8200 with a noticeable increase in low-end torque.

They say you shouldn't meet your heroes. However, if your hero is a Honda S2000, you should scratch that. It does not disappoint.

Although Honda killed off the S2000 in 2009 evidently to a growing demand for crossovers, the mid-engine, baby NSX-esque (JDM only) S660 kei car carries on the S legacy. Only by name though, as it traces a chunk of its DNA with the Honda Beat Kei car from the early nineties.

This is your last chance. After this, there is no turning back. You take the blue pill – the story ends, you wake up in your bed and believe whatever you want to believe. You take the red pill – you stay in Wonderland, and I show you how buyers of the Honda Vezel have the blood of the S2000 on their hands. Remember, all I'm offering is the truth – nothing more."

Special thanks to Saikat Saha for braving the rain in his S2000 on the day of the shoot.

Photos by Ahbar Milky



Helpline numbers, location sharing apps and services that you may need in an emergency

JINAT JAHAN KHAN

Following the disturbing crimes and sexual harassment cases against women and children, it has become more important to know the emergency helpline numbers and to learn how to share location or notify close ones in an emergency state. Here is a list of some national helpline numbers, apps to share location and a guideline how to activate emergency SOS system.

National helpline numbers to prevent violence against women and children in Bangladesh

109: An emergency helpline, maintained by the National Helpline Service for Violence against Women and Children. This has been set up to combat violence against women and children and to prevent all sorts of sexual harassment. For any kind of harassment and abuse on the roads or at home, one can seek help here.

999: This national emergency service connects a person with Police, Fire and Ambulance emergency responding teams

directly. People can ask for emergency aid, according to their state or need.

333: A national helpline to seek help to prevent violence against women, to stop child marriages and to save women from other social issues and problems.

All these numbers are toll-free and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

How to activate the Emergency SOS System in Androids and iPhone

Depending on your Android phone, you can find 'Emergency SOS' in Settings directly or you need to go to 'Privacy', 'Security', 'Password and Security', 'Privacy and Emergency', or 'Privacy and Safety' submenu. To activate this system, you have to add at least one emergency number of your friend or relative. You can even add a local helpline number for emergency. After activating the SOS system, you can make emergency calls by pressing the power button three or five times consecutively. The one that is suitable for your mobile phone will be mentioned just on the top of the 'Emergency SOS' option. In addition, you can send an SOS message, pictures and audio recordings of surroundings by activating other default options of this system. For iPhone, 'Emergency SOS' is either in 'Settings' directly or in 'General' submenu. If it's iPhone 7 or older, then press the side button for 5 times. For iPhone 8 or newer, press the side button and one of the volume buttons until it gets activated. Open the Health app of this system to add emergency contacts and some basic medical information of yours

such as blood group and any disease that you have.

Common apps that can help share location in an emergency

Facebook Messenger: Open the Messenger conversation of a friend with whom you want to share your location. Tap the four-dot icon on the left side of the text box to open up the Options menu. You'll get the 'Location' button. Click on it and then tap on 'Share Live Location' for 60 minutes. Turn on your device's Location Service and allow your Messenger to access your device's location. And for the iPhone, give Messenger 'Always' location access.

Snapchat: To share location on Snapchat, you need to go to your profile and tap on 'My Friends'. Click on the friend's name with whom you want to share your location. Go to their profile and select 'Send My Location'. And your friend will get your location information. Remember to do some edits beforehand to avoid hustles in an emergency state. Go to your Snapchat profile, then to the Settings option, and select 'See My Location'. Turn off the 'Ghost Mode' and select who can see your location. You also need to turn on the location of your device. Note that it only works for bi-directional friends.

Google Maps: Open the app and tap the blue dot that represents your current location. You'll find a 'Share Your Location' button. You can send your location to your friends via Facebook Messenger, WhatsApp, text message or

email. Before sending the link or sharing your location, you can customize the time limit. In general, it's for 1 hour, but through + and – signs you can increase or decrease this time. You can even share your location indefinitely by choosing 'Until you turn this off'. Again, turning on 'Location' or 'Location Service' of a device is a must.

Location sharing apps

Glympse
Glympse is a simple location sharing app. It's very easy to handle. There is no need to log in or create any account to use this app. Just copy the Glympse link of your location and send it via text message, email, or any third-party apps such as Facebook, WhatsApp etc. Recipients can see your location on a map in real-time only if they have any web-enabled device. Note that it may not be useful for you if you don't have a good internet connection.

My GPS Location

This is another location sharing app which can easily check your current address using a GPS. Just like Glympse, there is no need to create an account and you can send your location via text messages, email or any third-party apps. This app even shows the latitude and longitude of your current location. In an emergency, you can send the link of your location via SMS, even if there is no data connection.

Illustration-Zarif Faiaz



NOW YOU KNOW

Why crossovers are dominating the car market

Modern crossovers are slowly replacing the classic family sedan. They are larger, offer more cargo space, have more legroom, and a commanding driving position. However, what held back older crossover from becoming more popular was their high fuel economy and instability at higher speeds. Modern crossovers such as the **Mitsubishi Eclipse Cross** employs Active Stability Control to keep the car balanced at high speed and fuel-efficient turbocharged engine to achieve favorable fuel economy.

