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Car makers making bicycles?

DeLorean Bicycle

Price: \$5,500

Back to the future references stop here. The DeLorean bike, like the DMC-12 car, is completely made of stainless steel, the link between legendary car and new bicycle making sure the two wheeler is lightweight and resists corrosion. The Columbus XCR tubing makes it tough as hell too. Will it reach 88mph for a blast around time? We're not sure, but we had to give that reference.



Mercedes-Benz Racing Bike Sports Selection 2009/2010

Price: \$7,085

Carbon, carbon everywhere. The monocoque, fork, pedals, all are made of carbon, while the twenty gear SRAM RED gear system makes this one seriously capable bicycle. The DT Swiss wheels are lightweight and looks great. The SL65 AMG of bikes? Considering the price you pay for it, yeah, seems like it.



Audi 'duo' Wooden Bikes

Price: \$7,460

Built in collaboration with Renovo, the three bikes in Audi's "duo" range (duoSport, duoCity and duoRoad) have frames made of hardwood; a unique approach, considering other makers go for carbon fiber for their high-end bicycles. Tires are puncture resistant and the gear systems run on a grease free drive belts. Depending on the bike you choose, you can get either eight speed Shimano Nexus (duoCity), eleven speed Shimano Alfine (duoSport) or twenty speed SRAM RED (duoRoad) gear systems. Plus, it looks brilliant.



Porsche Rennsport (RS)

Price: 8,485

Porsche designers don't have much to do when it comes to actually designing cars (because all their cars look exactly the same for year after year), so in their free time they design other stuff. Sunglasses, phones, watches, as well as sport bicycles. The sleek looks of the RS comes with a carbon laden frame, rolling on twenty nine inch Crank Brothers wheels designed to maximize grip and comfort, not to mention stability. Like the original Porsche 911, the power source (in this case, you), is air-cooled.



Spyker Aeroblade

Price: \$15,850

Spyker is a quirky Swedish car maker known for their rolling works of art, so when they design a bicycle, you know it's going to be pretty cool. Spyker was an aero plane manufacturer, and the bike's name refers to the spokes, like the propeller blades of a plane. Titanium frame, aluminum fork, leather handlebar and seat, fourteen speed Rohloff hub gear system. Sharon Stone won't have space to sit in this one, though, so you should get the Spyker C8 Lavolette if you want to recreate the opening scene of Basic Instinct 2.



Colnago for Ferrari Di2 Limited Edition

Price: \$16,116

Road-racing bicycles manufacturer Colnago is widely renowned for its various collaborative projects with Ferrari. Only fifty of these were made since 2010, and apparently makes use of technological advancements from Formula 1. We doubt how that makes any sense other than carbon fiber tech, which results in a bike that weighs only 6 kg. That's lighter than Luca di Montezemolo's (Chariman, Ferrari S.p.A) ego.



BMC impec Automobili Lamborghini Edition

Price: \$26,000

Launched around the same time as the Lamborghini Aventador, the BMC impec is a bespoke variant of the regular Swiss made BMC impec. The specialty? The Argos Orange paint on the bike is the same that graces the Aventador, and there are Lambo logos scattered around. Only thirty were made, justifying the price with exclusivity.



Aston Martin One-77 Superbike

Price: \$39,000

Aston making bikes? Bond would be horrified at the thought of cycling to his next assignment, but the amount of tech in this bike might just sway him; featuring biometric sensors gathering rider data like ECG, respiration rate, body temperatures and such, as well as the carbon frame and Shimano Dura Ace gear system. Disc brakes, carbon wheels and leather rounds off this high tech superbike and almost justifies the insane price. Well, no, not even then.



BMW i Pedelec

Price: TBA

BMW is going green with its lineup of environmentally conscious vehicles, dubbed Project i. Part of that project is the i Pedelec, an electrically assisted bicycle designed to be the ultimate urban solution for people who can balance themselves on two wheels. Its designed to slot into the back of the new BMW i3 hatchback, which means you might be able to buy the cycle and car as a bundle. The 200W electric motor and a 350Wh battery assists the rider when its on electric mode, the conventional pedals can be used to recharge the battery.



SHAHER REAZ



Jazztastic Fun

Brand new Honda Jazz reviewed

2012 Honda Jazz
 1500cc, 5 speed manual, full power options, rear spoiler & sideskirts, fog lamps, remote key, 185/55 R16 tyres on alloys. And a handbrake lever where it should be - beside the driver seat.
 0-100kmph under 9.5 secs.
 Price: under 18 lakh

SPECS

We lost count at eight but I think there were ten. 10cupholders. What do you do with 10 cupholders? Thanks to the Americans and their oversized sugar laced get-fat-quick drinks, the entire world is catering to their need for cupholders. And to sell cars these days, everyone needs to give cupholders.

Why count cupholders? I was stuck with my sub editor in the new Honda Jazz in Dhaka's infamous mid-day traffic. We were heading to our photo location, and trying to stretch the legs of the supermini hatchback at our disposal. C'mon, we had a quarter tank of fuel left to play with and sitting in traffic isn't playing. But we had no choice.

INSIDE
 Let's begin with the interior. I like the way it looks. Everything is within arm's reach. I love buttons and there's quite a few to

OUTSIDE

We're stuck in a jam but I'm comfortable. It's a cozy place to be in. But we stop quickly to snap off some shots. It looks very modern; angular flourishes mold with the soft meaty curves over the wheel arches. It's a little wider and longer than the previous generation, giving it a squatter stance. The machine carries on with Honda's futuristic design language which is all very good especially in our metallic blue version. But I don't want to waste the hours posing when I could be driving. This is a 5-speed manual and that makes it a rare offering in our market. I like to row my own gears, thank you very much.

RIDE

So to the driving then. The car is a 1.5 with about 118 horsepower at 6600rpm and 106lb/ft of torque. That's not 'v-tec'

The ride is well damped, although the large 16 inch tyres do thump over the many, many potholes of the day. Stick to the 16s cause they look good. We wish there was a gunmetal grey option for the alloys. The brakes are discs all around (vented up front, solid rears) and they provide an assuring feel, and ABS makes sure your braking turns are controlled. The steering, though, is anesthetized. It doesn't give much road surface feedback but it will require the minimum effort from you to respond. And that's all you need from a car like this. You might want to watch out for those big mirrors though, it's easy to clip another car or pedestrian with it as the rest of the car feels compact and nimble.

WRAP-UP

So why go for this? At 18 lakhs there's few others in this segment offering this much



No actual goat was disturbed in the making of this review



Mini spaceship amongst regular traffic



What the Jazz could look like if you want to be a "racerz"

play with, placed in an intuitive layout. Five minutes in and I knew where everything was. Lots of circles were incorporated into the design but the design works. A USB jack dangles below so your phone can be plugged in to play your music. Dangling isn't good though, it should retract into a slot. But that's the only one of two niggling faults with the interior. The other is the hard plastic dashboard top. But rap it with your knuckles and it feels solid, albeit clunky. The finish feels upmarket for a car of this price range. Best part? The amber dials crafted into three round enclosures. The interior is hugely spacious, belying the fact that you're in a compact car; four people and assorted small children can fit comfortably. There's space in the back for a goat, considering Eid is coming. The panoramic glass roof option is all the rage right now in Bangladesh and it'll feel even bigger, but unfortunately that version is all sold out here.

just kicked in, yo' territory but it's not a slouch either. The first gear is quick but the juice goes away quick as well. Things happen from second onward, with sharp, slick gear changes. I don't get what the complaint is when people say manuals can be tiring in our traffic; I could drive this thing all day. The clutch pedal action is fluid and forgiving. We head for some clear roads and I floor it. That's the fun thing about manuals, the response is immediate. The car isn't a sports car but it will make you smile with its eagerness to sprint. It's a little like an excited dog, ready to jump at your command.

kit. Airbags, ABS, bodykit, and a brilliantly designed trunk space. 337 litres worth of storage will take your eventual CNG tank quite well. But fuel efficiency is very good. The Jazz rides and feels a lot like the previous model but I guess Honda decided, why fix it if it's not broken. Some users have reported getting an average of 9-10 kmpl although we didn't get to really test that. I drove a beat up older Jazz that gave an average 8kmpl in the city. Except our test drive Jazz wasn't saving too many baby seals as I was enjoying the calm and pressing on. The car is named for a reason: Jazz is a medley of many instruments making a universally appealing music. The car is just like that. It's a great car for everyday use. Quick, comfortable with styling that will age well in ten years' time. It's universally appealing.

WORDS & PHOTOS:
 EHSANUR RAZA RONNY WITH SHAHER REAZ

If you've got some money lying around...

2014 Rolls Royce Wraith

Rolls Royce Phantom Drophead Coupe not fast enough? Too girly? Too much drama involved, making it too undignified to be a "proper" Rolls coupe?

If you own enough money to buy a small African state, you might consider taking a look at the upcoming Rolls Royce Wraith. It'll give you better mileage than a small African

country, but only marginally.

Powered by a twin turbo 6.6 litre V12 engine and based on the Rolls Royce Ghost (which in turn is based on the BMW 7 series) platform, the Wraith is being marketed as the fastest, most powerful Rolls Royce ever to be sold in Britain. Its fast alright, with a purported 0-60 mph time of just 4.4 seconds,

which is amazing considering it looks like a ton of bricks arranged in a very pretty manner.

It IS very good looking, in a way only a Rolls Royce can pull off (Bentleys try, but aren't quite there yet, as of now). Its basically a two door Ghost, with a sleeker roofline and softer, rounder edges. The Ghost

looked great, but the Wraith looks more purposeful.

The doors are hinged at the back, like the Phantom DHC, and when viewed from the front with the doors open, the Wraith looks like its inviting you to the drive of your life. Or asking you to be quite broke for quite a long time. Either way, we think it'd be worth it.



SHAHER REAZ