



# SHIFT

## Kawasaki Z1000



Naked bikes get their name because they come without any unnecessary bodywork or body panels. Styling for a naked bike is pretty hard to pull off, but then you don't really need any styling for something that looks so cool anyway, without any design language required. Even then, Kawasaki calls the Z1000's design "Sugomi" styling. The Japanese word

This is definitely not a chicken legged bike that just looks cool. The 1043 cc inline four motor provides the grunt with newly revised intake cams and more aggressively tuned ECU, while the four piston calipers at the front and a revised ABS pump pull in all that power on the braking front. The bike is also significantly lighter than the previous generation. Its not an



means an object or person that inspires awe and leaves a lasting impression because of the ability of the person or object. Its looks are undoubtedly cool in a raw, mechanical way, but it's the ability of the bike that lends the "styling" language any shred of credibility.

all new bike, but the major revisions make the Z1000 a worthy competitor against European rivals in the same category. At \$12,000 dollars, this has to be a pretty special bike, and the brand name isn't enough. The features on paper seem more than special, though.



## Revamped Robocop's Ride

Robocop used a Ford Taurus police car in the original movie, which was a cool car in a pretty cool movie. The upcoming remake, which looked promising in the trailers, is probably going to be below average and a sacrilege compared to the original. What we're concerned about, though, is Robocop's steed. If you were being sensible and you knew your stuff, you'd say it's the Taurus SHO, which is a brilliant car as well as a regular police vehicle in the US. You'd be right, because the Taurus is there. He also has a crotch rocket too, because, well, we don't know why or see any possible point to it. It's a wrapped Kawasaki Ninja ZX10 and in a move that 80's cheap sci-fi prop designers would be proud of, the Ninja is made to look like nothing in this world, but definitely something that was made here. Batman's bike looked futuristic and otherworldly, and it didn't look like it could be replicated with some cardboard panels and black spray paint. The Robocop bike, while not entirely uncool, looks like a proper bike that has been done over designed by a 4 year old. We don't mind that either, but one has to ask, what is the point of giving Robocop a bike at all?



### PROJECT CARS

## STARTLING AGILITY

As soon as you reach a certain age, certain urges to buy certain things kick in. No, I'm talking about a car, not the other urges you might have. Since you're young, you probably don't have a heap of cash lying around to buy an AMG Merc. You will eventually end up with an 80's or 90's uber

Of course it's not a thing to regret. Old cars are cool, they seduce you to get down and dirty without the possibility of hurting the wallet too much. Being the usual Bangali, the forced choice would be something Japanese, and since Japanese quite possibly stands for Toyota around

a thousand kilograms, less weight to haul around requires lower power for some bizarre fun.

They, although everywhere, can be made to stand out from the dreary crowd quite easily. Sure, you can go bonkers and chop the roof off, sticker-bomb the entire car and

added extras, nothing that you absolutely don't need; and lastly, no local steel bumpers! Must do's: Keep. It. Clean.

Since Starlets are quite old and are now only available



these parts, there isn't much room for choice.

Enter the Toyota Starlet, EP80s in particular. They are like the people who wear red or yellow pants outdoors; you can spot one in almost every single street, just that these cars are much, much cooler. Your answer to the cheap and cheerful. How cheap? They start from around 3.5 lakhs, cheaper than any other alternative that might let you taste some intra-city speed. Cheerful? Of course. These nifty little thrill-boxes weigh under

what not, but that in turn would blind people wherever it lays foot (wheels?). Or, you can be sensible and do it properly.

Rule of thumb, follow the KISS principle. Stands for "Keep It Simple, Stupid", just in case you're unaware. A simple, quality paint job, some decent wheels to go with it, and you should be good to go. As for the interior, bucket seats should add a lot to it's character, a small meaty steering replacement and, well, that's about it. Must not's: Do not skimp on the paint quality; no

used, they might come with a dying crummy little Toyota 1E or 2E series carburetor engine. They're weak, old, slow and a lot many adjectives stating how bad they are. But if you plan on using the car just as a daily driver for running errands, it should suffice, a heart transplant still is very much recommended though. It should save countless late night dates with your trusty mechanic.

If you look hard, you might even find a couple already with the newer, more powerful Toyota 4A series engine, but if not, you can

always repl ace the old engine with what else than the ever so popular Toyota 4E-FE. Want even more power? There's a turbocharged variant, the 4E-FTE. You will need to hunt around the great outback of our go-to automotive haven, popularly known as Dholaiakhal, to find either of these used engines in good enough condition.

Resident short(!) shifter, (pun intended) Hasan Zihad, made his 1992 EP80 Starlet stand out, more in terms of aesthetics than mean corner munching machine. A bright red and black paintjob, couple of classic JDM stickers, decent set of wheels and a simple bodykit, and voila, you're done.

WORDS & PHOTOS  
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## Starlet EP80s: The driving experience

The Starlet is a small car, which requires a surprisingly small amount of power to feel zippy and fun to drive. The dimensions of the car make it easy to thread in between slow moving traffic, making it feel faster than it really is.

On our road test, the EP80 Starlet had a stiffer suspension than

the stock versions, but the rebound rate seemed to be a bit too high, making the car bouncy over small bumps and dive into potholes. However, the lower stance and stiffer underpinnings made the Starlet's steering very tight and precise, reducing the large amount of bodyroll that can be felt in a

stock Starlet (which feels like a small boat under attack by large waves).

This particular Starlet is somewhere in between a stock Starlet and the Starlet GT (which is equipped with a turbocharged 4EFT), with power upgrades like an air intake, which makes it more

responsive, and the combination of lower, stiffer stance and loud noise making it feel faster than it really is.

If you want proper performance, the Starlet GT is the way to go. If you want usability and better performance at the same time, take a regular Starlet and spice it up a bit.

## Winter Is Coming

Game of Thrones references to winter stops at the title. Winter is knocking on our doors, and there are plenty of things one needs to keep an eye on, so the car can work through the relatively cold winter season we get here in Bangladesh.

### Engine warm-up

Start the car, leave it on for a while, let the engine warm up. It gets the engine oil running everywhere and the clearances opened up just right. That's the right thing to do at all times, right? This is a myth, sort of. Cars have this optimum temperature at which they run best. A cold engine is not at optimum and suffers from wear and tear. But, this being a strong, capital lettered BUT, warming up isn't quite necessary. Just start the engine and drive off gently. What's important is don't rev too much or don't go too fast. Basically, don't stress the engine till the temperature gauge shows it has reached the optimum level. Of course, older cars, especially carbureted ones, might need a couple minutes to get the fuel and oil circulating before the vibrations die out.

### Radiator contents.

Our ridiculously short winters are comfortably cool.



Furry animals in the engine bay: never a good thing.

So the car is at its best in this weather. The radiator doesn't get stressed out and keeps the engine nice and cool enough. What you do need to do is give the radiator fins a good washing every couple of weeks or so, to wash out accumulated dust. Dry winter air is dusty and clogged radiator fins will cause you a loss of cooling action when summer comes around next.

### Take charge.

Car batteries last for about three to five years, so it's best to keep track of how old yours is. The cold

weather causes the engine to work a little harder. Also, batteries don't really like either too cold or too warm. An old battery will be less effective in either extremes and won't hold much charge. Considering how most cars in Bangladesh are automatics, you won't be able to push start it, so it's important to make sure the battery holds enough juice during the chill. Have it checked now, as the cold starts to set in. The moment your car shows signs of reluctance to start, have both the starter motor and battery checked.

### Furry things in the engine bay.

Cats, and mice, but never together, usually seek refuge in warm places during winter. The warmest places outside for stray animals and rodents are usually cars, more specifically, the engine bays. They don't do much harm while they're in there (unless the rats start chewing at the cables), but if any of them are near the alternator or radiator, they can go up in smoke and fur when the engine is turned over. At night, park in a fully covered garage with little scope for entry for the furry animals. In the morning, before starting the car, pop the hood and start tapping away on the fenders and the firewall in the engine bay to scare away any animals that might have sheltered there during the night.



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