

CONCEPT WATCH



It's possibly the replacement for the G37. The Infiniti Q60 concept seems to be a rebuttal to the Lexus RCF, and could signal a new era of Japanese luxury coupes battling for top position. A gorgeous machine, this.

SHIFT

PROJECT CARS

RED HOT

1993 HONDA CIVIC EH



SHAER REAZ

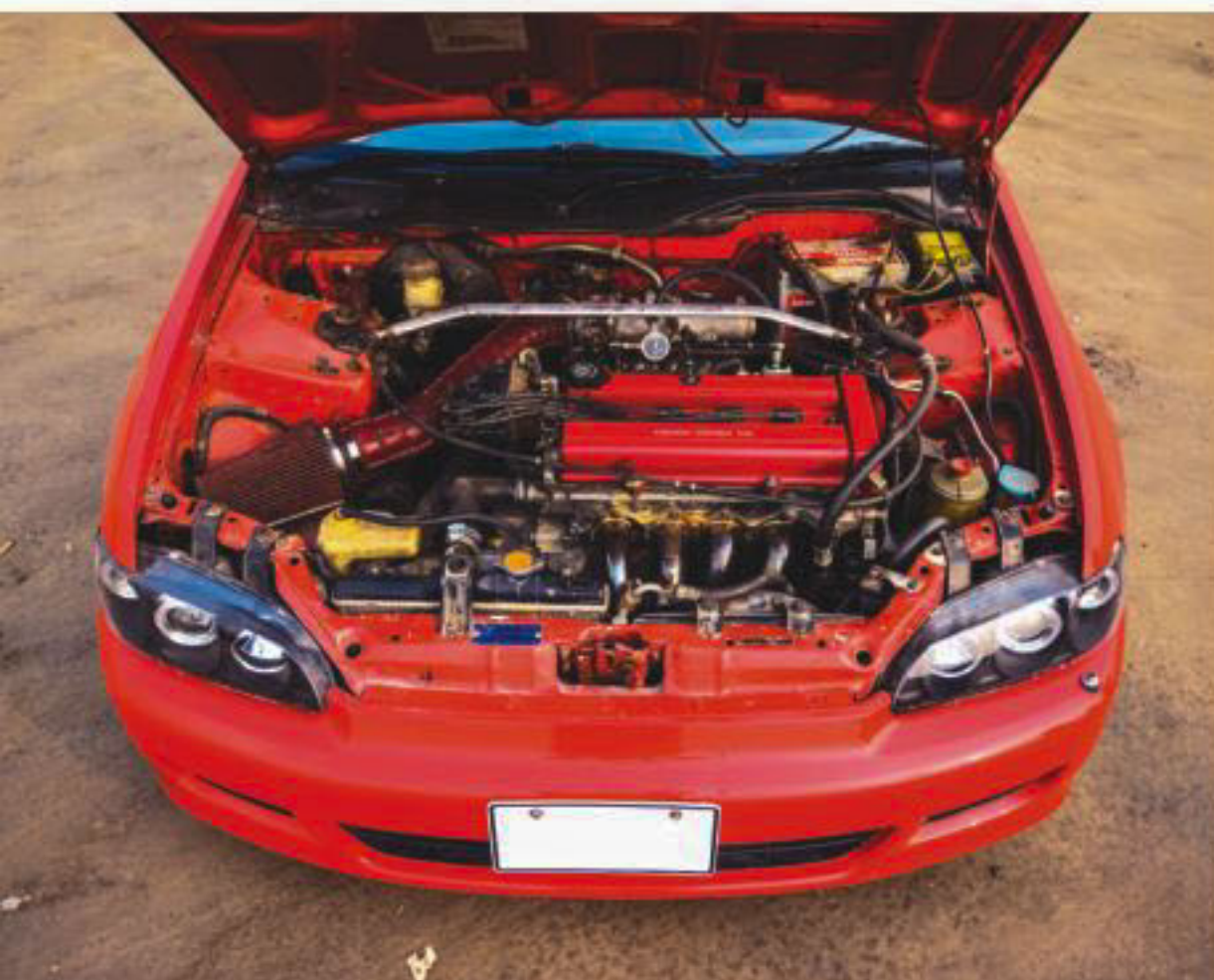
SHIFT ZONE

The Honda Civic. Ever the choice of customisation for a huge number of people in the tuning scene worldwide, the Civic is well-represented even in Bangladesh. Quality builds are not as few and far between as before, and we largely have the internet to thank for that. Seeing the East and the West come up with new styles faster than anyone can keep track of, gives us a variety of builds to take inspiration from. Saad Mujtaba's Civic is a result of that. Enjoy.

Shaer Reaz—Sub-editor, Shift



PHOTOS: TASDID CHOWDHURY



The Honda customisation scene worldwide has two major areas of inspiration: the Osaka *kanjo* racer crowd, the height of the JDM street racing scene, and the Californian import tuning culture, which was inspired by the JDM way of doing things, evolving over the years and encompassing many different phases. Elsewhere, in Thailand, Malaysia and Bangladesh, Hondas were built in a fusion of these two styles, and Saad Mujtaba Zaman's red EH Civic is a perfect example of that.

Saad's Civic is just a small part of his automotive journey on the streets of Dhaka. While the other items in his impressively diverse collection of cars can vie for the attention of any gearhead, the Civic you see in this feature today is what he is seen in, most of the time.

At the heart of the Honda is an engine choice that is becoming increasingly popular with Honda owners in Dhaka: the B20B. The high revving, non-VTEC 2.0 liter engine puts out somewhere around 150hp, and while the horsepower figures may not be that far off from that of the B16A, the bigger displacement engine has a lot more torque and infinite potential. As far as power output goes, the B20B has room for improvement when matched with the proper parts, and compared to the high-strung B16A, it responds much better to tuning.

On the move, the Civic has the typical project car noise and olfactory triggers. Its far removed from the clinical sterility it came with from the factory,

and the Civic has dollops of soul and character because of that. The engine note at full roar sounds raw and savage, especially in the higher RPM range, and it is evident that Saad loves the mechanical thunk-thunk of shifting gears. The low slung, body hugging Recaro bucket seats keep you in place, helped by the extremely green, hundred percent JDM Takata harnesses. Rounding up the interior is the magnificently appropriate Nardi-Personal Neo Grinta steering wheel.



On the outside, the red-white-black combo works so well, the Civic is instantly recognisable as Saad's ride. Lowered and slightly cambered using a set of aftermarket coilovers, the Civic's suspension setup eliminates wheel gap and tightens up the handling, the white Enkei CR Kais tucking into the fenders neatly. The only body mods are the front bumper from the EG6 Civic hatch and the subtle rear spoiler.

The whole appearance of the Civic takes after the Osaka Civic tuning scene.

When we ask Saad about his inspiration for the build, he laughs, saying he fell in love with the black Civic coupes used in the truck heist scenes in the Fast and the Furious. As he was growing up, the automotive experimentation took his experience in building project cars to a whole new level, and now he's thinking of ways to improve the Civic further. It'll have more power, more exterior pieces, and we'll definitely be seeing him again.

Haojue BIKER TIPS

KEEP YOUR DISTANCE

Riding a motorbike in a crowded city is difficult on its own, but add the winter riding effect to it and it turns into a hefty challenge for any rider. The winter chill forces most bikers to opt for scarves, hoodies and windbreakers to protect their faces from suffering a cold blast to the face and other bodily parts. Chances are, if you aren't careful, a sudden blast of cold air might whip up your scarf and block your vision, putting you in danger.

The idea is to be ready at all times, always covering your brakes so that you are somewhat prepared. If your line of sight is compromised under any circumstances, be ready to clamp on the brakes. Don't panic though, because you don't want to brake hard enough to launch yourself off the bike.

Another precaution you could easily take is to secure all the flaps and loose ends of winter gear so that they don't fly about while riding.

Also, it's always safe to keep a minimum amount of distance between you and the traffic around you, even when you're stopped. Keep that in mind and you can deal with the unexpected.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM SEMA 2014

SEMA is the automotive equivalent of the AVN Awards. Oiled up objects, sweaty people walking around, body enhancements and droolworthy things on display. You'd expected an automotive show held in Las Vegas to be over the top, and it truly is.

Liberty Walk Aventador: nutter in baby blue, signature Liberty Walk stuff.



SEMA can never be itself without the fine ladies.

Sleeper Camry dragster: 850 bhp underneath the bodysell of a regular Camry.

Ken Block's Mustang: featured in Gymkhana 7.



Lifted Jeep on massive wheels: only in SEMA.



The Lexus RCF came out very recently, and already the tuning shops have taken wrenches to it.



THE MOST "JAPANESE" JAPANESE CARS

We all know the automotive stereotypes in place today. German cars are expensive and tech-laden, the Americans think they can make cars whereas the reality is they are quite terrible at it, and the Italians build cars with "soul" and "passion", yet they fall apart more frequently than an epilepsy patient at a David Guetta concert. This week, we list the cars that only the Japanese could've made, with their offensive school uniforms, unhealthy obsession with tentacles, and other creepy stuff. Long Live Japan.



HONDA CUB

Okay, so it's not a car, but the Honda Cub brought mobility to the masses and the usual paint scheme it came with makes it utterly Japanese, as does its variants: it could be used as a base for a tempo, a human hauler, a delivery truck, and so on.

THE GREEN STIG



NISSAN SKYLINE R32 GTR

Only the Japanese can build a sedan based supercar killer and eventually launch a counter-culture tuner/street racer revolution. The R32 is a symbol of Japanese technical dominance in the early 90's, and was part of the "Made in Japan" myths. It was so Japanese, jourmos called it the "Godzilla", another famous import from Japan.



HONDA NSX

Ayrton Senna was in love with Japan, having enjoyed some of his greatest successes in Japan, driving a McLaren equipped with a Honda engine. When it came to developing what would be the defining sports car from Japan, Ayrton's input helped the Honda to reach a status usually held by Ferraris and Maseratis.



MAZDA MIATA

The British were the pioneers of the small, sporty roadster, but it was the Japanese who perfected it. Mazda's Miata changed everything when it came out in the early 90's, and it signaled the death of the British roadster, since the last greats saw their demise in the mid-80's, unable to compete with the steady influx of more advanced machines.



TOYOTA HIACE

Long before Americans and Europeans caught on with the mini-van, Japanese minibuses offered the usability of a sedan, the space of cargo haulers, and car-pooling ability. The Toyota HiAce is the embodiment of all of that. There is the VW Bus, but the HiAce was more flexible, serving commercial and private usage equally well.



SUZUKI WAGON R

The Kei-car has caught the imagination of the world as it obsesses about personal urban mobility, and you have Japan's terribly overcrowded cities to thank for that. The Suzuki Wagon R, one of the countless Kei-cars sold in Japan, had everything you could want in a car if you define the automobile as a way to get from point A to B.



TOYOTA PROBOX

No other country in the world can make a car as unassuming, quietly efficient, and utterly boring as the Toyota Probox. Cheap to buy and maintain, the Probox has absolutely no aspirations and no desire to be more than it is: a box on wheels, carrying people and luggage. Its strangely refreshing, how utterly focused it is on being boring and useful.

Speedoz Ltd. and Keeway motorcycles: Dealer and Sales Meet

Speedoz Ltd. launched motorbike brand Keeway in Bangladesh. Recently they arranged a two day long Dealer and Sales meet. Managing Director Md. Mehediur Rahman Paikar and Deputy Managing Director

Zaman Sowad Khan of Speedoz Ltd. were present and handed over crests to the dealers for outstanding contribution in sales. The program has organized by Spectrum Communications Ltd.



Haojue cool 150 CC

Haojue has been consistently ranked number one in sales and customer satisfaction for past twelve years in China. Haojue bikes are being exported to 70 countries including Japan.



01777741200, 01730730545

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Web: en.haojue.com