

SHIFT BUYING GUIDE

IS IT THE PERFECT TIME TO BUY A USED PREMALLION?

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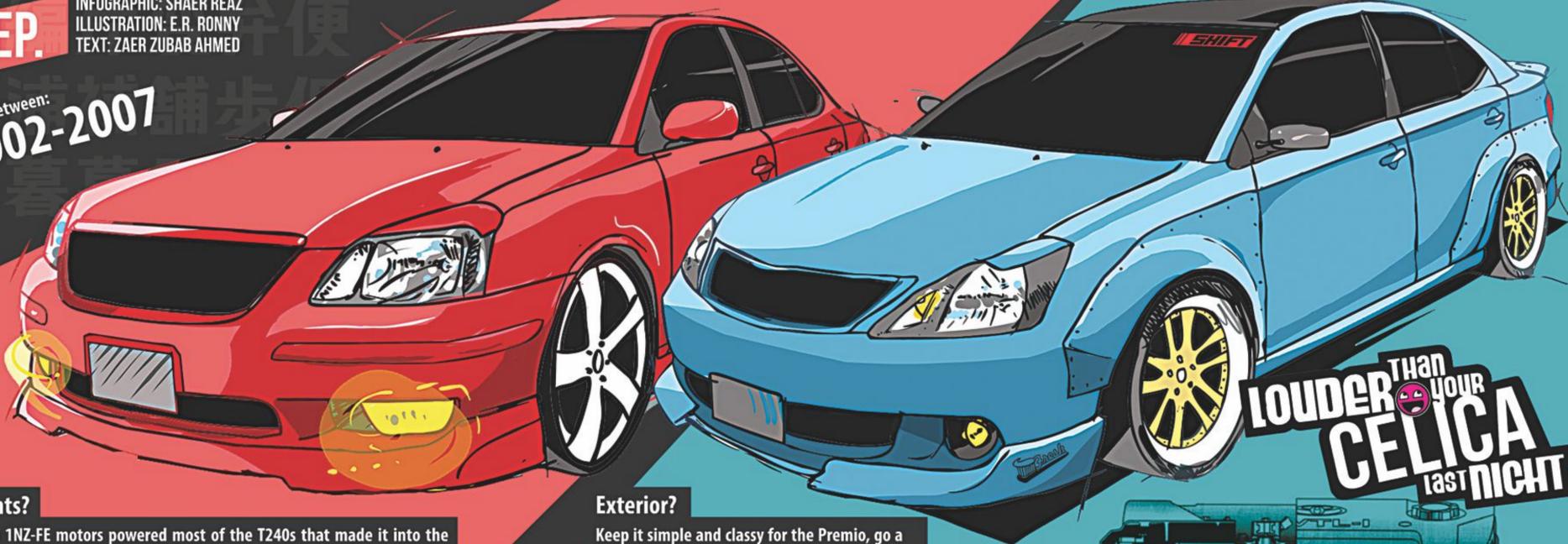
Made between:
2002-2007

What is it?

The first generation Toyota Premio/Allion, code-named T240, invaded our streets sometime around 2002. They sold like hot cakes because of the price-range and offered entry-level luxury features such as reclining rear seats. They share most parts with the E120 generation Corollas and are fairly bullet-proof which make them great daily-drivers.

PRICE?

10,50,000
LAKH TAKA FOR A DECENT ONE FROM 2004/5. DON'T TRUST ONLINE CLASSIFIEDS SITES.



LOUDER THAN YOUR CELICA LAST NIGHT

Variants?

1.5-litre 1NZ-FE motors powered most of the T240s that made it into the country, producing 107 HP and 141 Nm torque with a 4-speed auto. You could also opt for a 1.8-litre 1ZZ-FE powered variant producing roughly 120 HP and 165 Nm torque with the same 4-speed auto with a AWD option. Top of the range models came with 2-litre 1AZ-FSE engines producing 148 HP and a whopping 200 Nm of torques, run through a CVT gearbox.

Exterior?

Keep it simple and classy for the Premio, go a bit further for the Allion. While TRD makes some very good factory style kits, feel free to experiment, but make sure you keep in mind the cars' unwieldy height - tall cars don't look that great with aggression. Big wheels do.

Pros

Cheap to maintain, spare parts readily available, good rear legroom, quiet and comfortable for daily driving. Can be turned into a Celica in disguise.

Cons

Underbody extends down quite a bit difficult to get that hella-fitment, hard to find one with a straight-body, steering rack tends to go-out quickly.



Upgrades?

Handling

Since they share suspension components with the E120 generation Corollas, you can readily find recon coilovers and lowering springs for these cars in the market and Ultra-Racing makes all the braces you can think of for these cars which can go a long way in making driving these cars handle better. Polyurethane bushings are also available.

Brakes

Larger front brakes from the Toyota Celica/2L variants are a straight swap and rear discs from the Celica or Wish will fit bolt-on, making sure you can stop for those random speed-bumps we encounter every day.

Engines

These cars do surprisingly well with 1.8-Liter 2ZZ-GE VVT-i engine swap from the Toyota Celica GT-S or RunX RSi which puts out 189 hp at 7800 revs and 181 Nm of torque with the option of a either 4 speed automatic transmission or a 6 speed manual transmission. This engine will fit bolt-on without any frame modifications using OEM parts from different models. Still not enough? Maybe a 2-liter turbo-charged rally-bred 3S-GTE motor will satisfy you with a power output of 220-260 hp depending on generation. 3SGTE fits snugly with minor modification to the mount points.

AUTO NEWS



G30 BMW M5

BMW unveiled the G30 series M5 recently with a special "First Edition" model. One of the best super-saloons ever, the M5 is a mainstay of proper precision performance with a darker, more evil side that occasionally comes out to play if you push it too hard.

When details of the G30 M5 were coming out, enthusiasts were shocked by the idea of an All-Wheel Drive M5 - how would you possibly do burnouts and engage in the random acts of hooliganism that the previous generations of the M5 promised? Turns out BMW knows its customer base rather well - not only is the AWD system rear biased (meaning donuts and mad drifts), you can also turn it off completely and send all the power to the rear if you want. Considering it's a big German saloon, one can't help but imagine the prospects of yelling out "Send all power to the rear - full thrust forward!" every time you think of turning the AWD off.

Power it has aplenty - the exact figures are still under wraps, but power is not a thing the M5 will ever lack. In this case, the power is provided by a 4.4 litreTwinPower Turbo V8 mated to a 8 speed Steptronic gearbox.

Will we get it? No. But we can drool at it from afar-of-course.



Mercedes Vision Maybach 6 concept



Debuted at Pebble Beach, the haute couture, art-deco style Mercedes Vision Maybacj 6 Cabriolet Concept is certainly a mouthful. It's a mouthful of Turkish Delight, though - tasty, sublime in texture and quality and impractical if you think of living with it every day (unless you're supremely rich).

The first thing that strikes you is how long it is. We all kid around and refer to slightly larger than average Toyota Camry's as "boats", but if there is one car to ever actually live up to the tag of "land yacht", this is it. It has yacht inspirations all around, from the rear deck to the swooping profile and that graceful tail. It's a shame such magnificent

opulence will never actually be seen on the road - they simply can't afford to make it, and the world isn't ready for it. It's electric too - 750 HP output from the motors and 500 kilometres of range means this over-the-top grand tourer glides around stealthily.

The four Vision concepts revealed so far have showcased the individuality of automotive lifestyles and culture in the markets where Mercedes Benz and Maybach vehicles are sold. With that in mind, it's difficult to not see the 6 conjuring up fantastic visions of California, a sleek cabriolet gliding down the road in graceful, timeless elegance.

COLLECTIBLES

Toyota Allion scale models



The Allion and Premio are basically larger, upgraded Corollas. Owners hate that comparison but if you look under the flashy skin, it is all nearly the same.

So you want a scale model? That is going to be difficult. Only thing you can find is the facelifted Toyota Allion in many, many guises. Only available in 1:43 scale by Kyosho, prices on eBay will set you back 2.5-4.5 thousand taka. Roughly. Minichamps makes a much cheaper UK spec Avensis which is a Corona with a different front and back. Also, bigger engines.

These are typical diecasts - closed shell, excellent detail. Though I do not know if they suffer from typical Kyosho paint issues. They do look good though, for an Allion. There have been a few dealer edition pull-back Premios with opening doors seen on a couple of forums. But none for sale anywhere.

So, not much of a choice, is there?

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