

# SHIFT

AUTOMOTIVE PUBLICATION OF The Daily Star

## 2017 Tokyo Motor Show

The Tokyo Motor Show, like the best things in life, comes only once a year but is significant enough to have a lasting effect on the automotive industry's collective psyche for the following year. Usual stomping grounds of some of yesteryear's biggest innovators, the Japanese manufacturers are focusing increasingly on making their cars more hip and trendy, with their own unique touch. These are the top 10 concept cars attempting to make the Japs cool again.



### Mazda Vision Coupe

Mazda changes its design language. Again. Vision Coupe is an attempt at a sleek Euro style cruiser that likely wants to challenge the "coupe"-ness of four door coupes. With its elegant lines and perky rear end, it just might.



### Mazda Kai

Joining the Vision Coupe is the Kai hatchback, which might just be the best-looking hatchback of all time. It's quite similar to the Vision Coupe, but the compactness somehow makes it look even better.

### Honda Sports EV

Honda visualises a retro-styled canyon carver with the Sports EV, which looks so good that even the most ardent Honda hater would lament it not being made. It's a stark contrast to Toyota's efforts with the hideous GRHV Sports Concept.



### Toyota Fine Comfort Ride

The Fine Comfort Ride, despite the ridiculous name, is actually a pretty nifty urban concept that showcases Toyota's slowly expanding knowledge on Hydrogen Fuel Cell tech. It also has some interesting interior packaging solutions which we'll see in cars in about...20 years.



### Subaru VIZIV

No, it doesn't foreshadow the next Subaru Impreza WRX, because Subaru would never actually make it. It does find a cool way of combining traditional Subaru design elements like the hood scoop and the bulging arches with more forward thinking concepts.



### Lexus LS Plus

Take the recently revealed LS, add a weird alien face and a hopefully friendly AI that maneuvers the autonomous drive. This is one of the first times Toyota/Lexus have shown their abilities in autonomous tech, and it hopefully won't be the last.



### Toyota TJ Cruiser

It's not a truck, it's not a van. What is it? Toyota claims it's meant to showcase what a rugged urban crossover with high off-road ground clearance might look like. The T in TJ stands for Toolbox, which captures Toyota's idea of what their customers might do with it. It supposedly has the same carrying capacity as a cargo van.



### Nissan IMx

Put the IMx next to Mitsubishi's e-Evolution and you wouldn't be able to tell them apart. The main difference comes in the tech offered – the IMx is mainly a platform for Nissan to display its autonomous tech. They're also looking into connectivity tech that goes far beyond what is available in today's market.



### Nissan Leaf Nismo

Nissan and Nismo are trying to make it cool to customise electric cars with the Leaf Nismo. Featuring sport tuned suspension and computer tuning that delivers instant acceleration as well as bespoke body parts, the Leaf Nismo comes with the standard autonomous tech and zero emissions drivetrain that makes the Leaf a solid EV.

### Mitsubishi e-Evolution

The beleaguered automaker makes a wrong turn yet again and slaps the Evolution badge onto a crossover SUV concept instead of continuing their line of ballistic rally Lancers. The e-Evolution still looks interesting, even with its messy face. It also comes with AI, cloud computing and advanced connectivity.



## COLLECTIBLES



### Sunstar Subaru Impreza 555

We have heard of Bburago and Maisto as the preferred budget model car manufacturers. Kyosho and Autoart sit somewhere along the bottom of the higher end. Between those two sits Sunstar. They often make models priced along Maisto premium editions but with details far superior.

Take for instance this impeccable GC8 Subaru Impreza driven by Carlos Sainz and Luis Moya. This one comes with the hood mounted fogs and beautiful, traditional for Subaru, gold Speedline wheels. I am blown away by the interior detail. Dashboard has accurate colored and spaced out switches and as a rally car, it has tons. Pop the trunk and you can make out cables and fuel lines going all around the clamped down spare wheel. All four doors open on proper hinges but are difficult to grab hold of. The only oversight are the rubber seatbelts looping around the rear mounting points. These are rubber and quite thicker than what the scale version should be.

Prices originally were pretty low. I remember getting my first one for less than 4000tk. Now they retail for \$80 plus on eBay. There was one for sale in our diecast group DCCCB for a little over 10K tk.

If you are a fan of rally cars, few others make as much or as well as Sunstar. You will not regret it. I wish I had more than just four.



EHSANUR RAZA RONNY

## TOP 5 SPORTS CARS TO BUY ONCE PETROL IS OUTLAWED

Infographic: Shaer Reaz

The petrol powered automobile is on its way out. Countries like France, Norway, China, the UK and India are proposing to ban petrol by 2040. For automotive enthusiasts, this is truly sad news. If it actually happens, these are the cars we'd buy and keep as relics of a glorious past. Don't agree? Let us know.

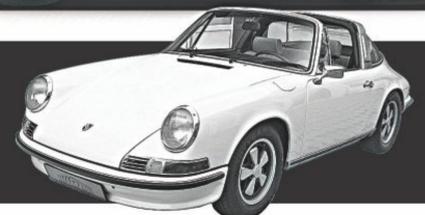
### 1 THE ITALIAN

The Ferrari F40 is the ultimate automobile. Purity in engineering and designed with a "soul", it's also the greatest Ferrari ever made and one of the best supercars of all time. No equal, not yet.



### 2 THE GERMAN

The 911, especially in air-cooled form, is one of the ultimate sports car icons. The design has mostly stayed the same, making its shape more distinctive than any other. Even a modern one will do well.



### 3 THE BRITISH

Sculpted in a wind-tunnel and shaped by the laws of physics, the Jaguar E-type launched the golden age for British engineered sports cars. The fact that it was gorgeous was just a bonus.



### 4 THE JAPANESE

The Nissan Skyline R32 earned the moniker of "Godzilla" for wins in every single race it entered. It was purely Japanese - unassuming, high-tech, supremely capable without being show-y. GTR, yeaah.



### 5 THE AMERICAN

The original pony car that kicked off the muscle car craze. The Ford Mustang represented freedom and mobility - basically, American. The Stang wasn't powerful, but it is absolutely a sports car icon.

