

SHIFT

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SHIFT BUYING GUIDE

TOYOTA CAMRY/VISTA SV30/40

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WHAT IS IT?

A soft FWD luxury sedan that remained mechanically unchanged for two gens. Made from 1992 to 1996, with the SV30 generation getting a facelift in 93 and a change of body for the SV40 gen in 94. They're big, reliable and thirsty, but still far off from Toyota's large RWD cars like the Mark II/Chaser/Cressida and Crown. High tax makes them cheap, so easy way to get comfortable cruisers.

POWERTRAINS

Most SV30 and SV40s came with the 1.8 4SFE motor and slushy 3-speed autos. Mid range models got the 2.0 3SFE, with more torque and power (124 HP and 115 lb-ft over the 4S' 115 HP and 103 lb-ft) and the same 3-speed auto. Performance models (the Vista GT) got the manic Yamaha built 2.0 3SGE (165 HP and 142 lb-ft) and the brilliant S54 5-speed manual, which is one of the strongest and most fun gearboxes offered by Toyota back then.

All three motors suffer from oil leaks in decreasing propensity as you go up the range, although all of them will keep pattering on (almost) forever. Basic maintenance and special attention to the gaskets and seals go a long way.

Watch out for AC compressors giving out and the occasional nagging issues with the starter motor/electronics.

UPGRADES

These are soft riding cars, so if you want any sort of driving thrill from them the first issue you need to address is the suspension setup. Lowering springs (coilovers are overkill and make the ride way too harsh) and front/rear strut bars are enough to make response sharper.

If you've got the 4SFE and want more power, you need to swap. Go for the 3SFE if you are satisfied with a slight increase in power, or the 3SGE if you want a major boost (without boost). Turbo 3SGEs fit in snugly, but that kind of power might overwhelm the soft chassis. Newer motors like the 2ZZGE will fit but wiring (new engine, old car) will be a major headache.

PROS

~ The best balance of comfort, space and reliability (if you're lucky) you can get from a 90s Toyota.
~ V30 looks nice in a bloated way. V40 looks good, period. Good set of wheels and lowered stance = they stand out.
~ Will putter on even if you abuse it.
~ Cheap to buy.

CONS

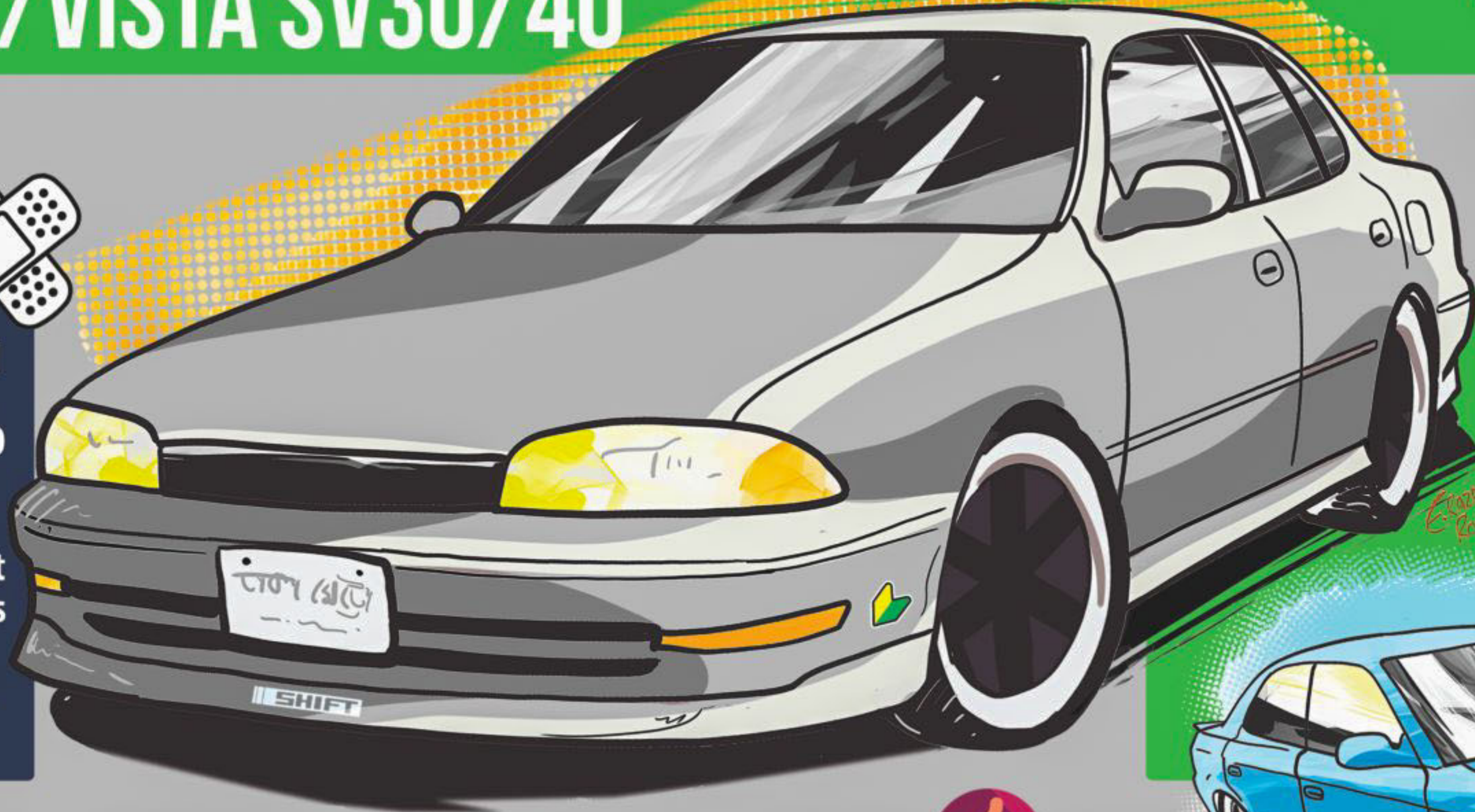
~ Not very cheap to fix the minor (and major) stuff. Oil leaks are inevitable.
~ Road tax is pretty steep at TK 30,000.
~ Nearly impossible to find a clean one.
~ Your friends will call you a premature dad even though you don't have kids.

OWNER'S ADVICE

There's no other car that is equally cool and uncool at the same time. The Camry and Vista are known for their softness and comfortable ride, and they have a surprising amount of space. Try fitting in 8 people inside a car and driving back from Uttara in relative comfort, over horrendous speed bumps and with a lowered ride height. You say its impossible, I say I've done it.

It's definitely thirsty and finding spare parts is becoming increasingly difficult, especially body parts, and the mechanicals require constant care and attention to keep running. But at the end of the day the Camry (well, Vista, in my case) somehow manages to put a smile on my face. Just ignore your co-workers who laugh at the gold paint and call it Sonali Bank. They jelly.

-- Shaer Reaz, who has already been credited once in this guide.



SAY BYE-BYE TO RESALE VALUE!!!!

PRICE?
TK 2,40,000 (SV30)
3,20,000 (SV40)
JUST MAKE SURE THE PAPERS ARE OKAY BEFORE BUYING.



Mobil Karting Championship wraps up

PHOTOS: FARHAN AHMED

More than 60 qualified racers battled it out at the Mobil Karting Championship final, held at Concord's Xtreme Racing go-kart track at Ashulia on the 14th of September. Malaysian racer Tom Goh and organiser Angeline Lee inaugurated the final. Shaker Bin Suleiman won with a best average lap of

25.325 seconds, with Ishmam Faizur and Ishiaque Rahman coming in at a close 2nd and 3rd, taking home the trophy, prize money of BDT 15,000, 10,000 and 5,000 respectively. The winners also received Mobil 1 Lubricant can, Polar Gift Hamper and exclusive memberships at Xtreme Racing.



ALTEZZA MEET

The Altezza is perhaps one of the most overlooked drivers' cars out there. For several generations this underrated Lexus/Toyota has been taking on the BMW 3-series and losing only in sales. To celebrate this under-appreciated gem, a meet was organised on the 14th of September at Purbachal 300 Feet. Long live the Tezza!

PHOTOS: SHADMAN AL SAMEE



BMW I-NEXT CONCEPT

AUTO NEWS



BMW has chosen to show off the next generation of their environmentally friendly i-cars with this, the Vision i-Next concept. The latest of the Vision future cars, the i-Next cements BMW's commitment towards the environmentally friendly hybrid and EV cars that make up the i-car range at the moment. Even though it's a vision of the future from BMW, they've kept the styling decidedly current—meaning it could be the face of the next release in the range. Forget all of the zany over-the-top interior party tricks and pay attention to the styling, dimensions and packaging.

