

2019 DETROIT SHOW MOSTLY JAPS, ONE LONE RANGER

SUBARU WRX STI S209

The Mitsubishi Evo is dead, while the STI is still going strong well into its fifth generation. The S209 is a special US-only track version of the "regular" WRX STI, a first for North America. Under the hood is the EJ25 2.5 litre, fitted with a HKS turbo running 18 psi of boost, resulting in a cool 341 HP. There's BBS alloys and a massive wing, canards and fattened arches hiding a wider track. Not a bad deal, considering the US almost always got left out of the JDM tuner party.



LEXUS RC F TRACK EDITION

Drowned out by the hype around the new Supra, the RC F Track Edition is probably a better machine to whet the appetites of enthusiasts wanting a solid performing GT car. Featuring crazy aero, a 5.0 litre naturally aspirated V8 pumping out 472 HP and 395 lb-ft torque, an eight speed auto with a revised final drive and launch control, the RC F Track is a limited edition beast squaring up against BMW and Mercedes. Coming in 2020, heating up competition for the Supra.



LEXUS LC CONVERTIBLE CONCEPT

Lexus has clearly been busy this year, showing off another car that's slated for production. The LC Convertible Concept is drop dead gorgeous, no matter what reservations you might have for Lexus' design philosophy in recent years. The trunk is a little too large perhaps, but we're hard pressed to find further faults. Expect motors from the LC500 to carry over, maybe even an F edition. Is the Supra starting to look like a bit of a dud yet? Nah, Toyota will gain either way.

FORD MUSTANG SHELBY GT500

One of the few cars of note to be launched at Detroit of American origin, the Shelby GT500 is both a sad reminder of Motor City's fall from grace and an emphatic pushing of the envelope in terms of what an American muscle car can do. The new Shelby offers "more than 700 HP" from its 5.2 litre V8 and a DCT gearbox—unheard of in America, probably. It's also ready for the corners with a race bred chassis and unique Michelin rubber.



TOYOTA GR SUPRA

A torrent of hate has followed the Supra on social media, with people finding flaws in its design, 3.0 litre BMW sourced twin turbo V6, it's relative lack of power (355 HP) and the rumours that there's going to be a four cylinder version as a replacement for the GT86 platform. Re-skinned BMW Z4 or not, the Supra name has legendary connotations you can't ignore as well as immense potential for tuning, so welcome back, Supes. It's been a long time in the making for what many call the king of JDMs.



NISSAN IMS CONCEPT

Another year, another non-descript concept from Nissan? They'd claim it's not. The IM in IMs doesn't stand for Instant Messaging, although it showcases connected car tech—Nissan's Intelligent Mobility concept promotes autonomous driving, EV operation and what Nissan claims to be an "elevated sports sedan". What that translates to is a high-riding, sporty EV. Yeah. Just debut the R36 GTR already.

COLLECTIBLES

LEGO'S AWESOME NEW KITS

LEGO isn't just for kids. Everyone knows that. If someone tells you they are, tell them they're the children for not realising that LEGO are precision engineering kits that allow you to build whatever your heart desires. For auto enthusiasts, LEGOs are an easy entry point to building and experimenting with four wheeled machines, allowing you to customise, at least to a degree, on the fly. Less than building full on plastic model cars and enthusiast level kits, LEGO vehicles can provide a great degree of joy to any adult (or kids, perhaps). So here's our roundup of the latest releases on LEGO's (rather extensive) range of vehicles.



Bugatti Chiron
With over 3599 pieces and a recommended age of 16+, this 1:8 scale Technic Chiron is nothing to scoff at. It might be a low poly rendering of the French hypercar, but it's bragging rights to the extreme, with a price tag of \$350 USD. It's available on Amazon, but considering the size of the box, it's recommended you find a kind relative to bring it back for you from the land of *bidesh*.

Mack Anthem
Mack's gigantic semi gets featured on LEGO's portfolio, with two buildable models in one kit that features 2595 pieces. The cargo can be loaded onto the trailer realistically, with synchronised crane arms and side loading capability. You can even adjust the driver's seat in the cabin. Don't like the Anthem? Build the Mack LR Garbage truck, complete with moving front arms to pick up trash with. All yours for \$180 USD.



James Bond Aston Martin DB5
Featuring 1295 pieces, this James Bond movie inspired DB5 comes complete with spikes, ejector seat revolving number plates, rear-window bulletproof screen, front wing machine guns (revealed by pulling back the gear stick) and an opening bootlid. There's also a surprisingly detailed engine bay. Considering the level of interactive-ness, the price is fairly low, at \$150.

AUTO NEWS

Honda launches Dream Neo and Livo in Bangladesh

Bangladesh Honda Private Limited (BHL), launched two the Honda Livo and Dream Neo at Dhaka's Bangabandhu International Convention Centre on Friday, 18 January 2019.

Both the Livo and the Dream Neo are 110 cc segment bikes equipped with Honda's proprietary Eco Technology (HET) engines. The 4-stroke air cooled engine produces 8.2 HP and 6.3 lb-ft torque, with estimated fuel mileage

quoted at 74 km/l.

The Livo and Dream Neo are locally assembled at BHL's factory in Munsiganj, and come with a 2 years/20,000 km warranty, along with four free services courtesy of BHL's dealer network. The Dream Neo starts at TK 97,000, while the Livo Drum and Disc starts at TK 107,000 and TK 116,000, respectively.

Watch out for an official review of the Dream Neo and Livo soon, on Shift.

