

Hyundai making a clutchless manual gearbox

South Korean Brand Hyundai has developed a manual gearbox that does not have a clutch pedal.

Dubbed the Intelligent Manual Transmission, or iMT, it's essentially a regular six-speed manual gearbox with an automated clutch. The gearbox can sense when the user is about to change gear, and instruct its control unit to hydraulically manipulate the clutch. As a safety measure, the system will ignore commands such as shifting from sixth

gear to second at high speed.

Hyundai is currently offering the iMT only in India, as part of their 1.0 liter Venue subcompact SUV's powertrain.

It should be noted that the idea of a manual gearbox with an automated clutch is not new. Swedish car maker SAAB devolved a similar system for their cars in the late 1990s, called the Senonic system. It was abandoned due to negative public reception.



New cars this week



How do you make an exclusive version of hybrid hypercar that is already limited to 63 units? If you are Lamborghini, you saw off its roof and call it a Roadster. The Sian Roadster retains the 819 HP 6.5-liter V12 mild-hybrid system of its roofed counterpart and can reach 0-100 in 2.9 seconds. Unlike other electrified go really fast machines, the Sian's 48-volt hybrid system uses a supercapacitor instead of lithium-ion batteries, giving it a much more compact and powerful energy storage. Lamborghini will be making only 19 of these topless beauties and according to them, all the units have been already sold out.



Moving from ultra-rare unicorns to a car that might actually end up in your new car list, the Toyota Corolla Cross is a 5-seater crossover for your average family. The car is built on Toyota's New Global Architecture C sharing underpinnings with the new Corolla Sedan and C-HR. Power comes in two flavors, one is 1.8-liter 2ZR-FBE gasoline inline 4 making 140 HP and 129 lb-ft of torque. The other is the hybrid 1.8-liter 2ZR-FXE generating 98 HP and 105 lb-ft supplemented by a 600-volt electric motor providing an additional 72 HP and 120 lb-ft of torque. Looks-wise the car is as bland as most other crossovers in the segment, which is disappointing considering the new Corolla sedan looks quite good.

TechBits



Apple released their first iOS 14 public beta

Instagram swaps out 'Activity' tab for 'Shop' in new test



Tinder experimenting with video chat in select markets

Z Flip 5G leaked: still looks like a vanity mirror

The 5G variant of the Z Flip was leaked earlier and now there's a video from Evan Blass which shows it is basically the same design as the one that went on sale in February. Likely it will have a faster processor. According to XDA-Developers, it will be a little taller and thicker and the power comes from Qualcomm's new Snapdragon 865 Plus chip. Cameras remain the same.

The original Z Flip had mediocre battery performance and there's no news on whether that will be improved. But the bigger question remains: why do you want to shell out for a pricey vanity mirror?



Instagram bans content on conversion therapy

Instagram last week has placed a worldwide ban on all forms of content that promotes conversion therapy. This widely discredited practise attempts to forcefully change an individual's sexual orientation. This is a move in line with their guidelines on hate speech.

Parent company Facebook is banning conversion therapy content which is banned in one form or another in at least 19 US states. It remains legal in many US states as well as Europe while being practiced elsewhere. There is no science backing this with studies linking depression and suicide among many young people who have been subjected to this treatment without consent.



Tinder experimenting with video chat in select markets

Amazon adds 'hands-free' feature to its Alexa mobile app



WhatsApp Business adds QR codes and catalog sharing tools

EDITOR'S NOTE

'Slapping and stabbing their way to stardom'

If you watch TikTok videos generated from Asia, that seems to be a recurring theme. Young people concoct elaborate sub-1-minute videos where they change partners, slap each other and walk away in slow motion. The more you confuse, the more people seem to watch. TikTok thrives on providing short bursts of fame to people starved of attention. But could that be the reason they also fall? We look into that while figuring out if Alexa and her buddies are going to take over our jobs including making aforementioned videos. But I'm a car guy and you really need to look into the spectacular build by Machinam of Uttara, Dhaka of the 2005 Toyota Hilux. Head to our site for the full build photos.

- Ehsanur Raza Ronny, Editor

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