



The pale blue dot

The love language shared between a man and his pride and joy is often incomparable at most, and second to none at the best of times, while incomprehensible to many. The bond shared between Asif Alam and his pale blue EP82 GT Turbo is a testament to all that and much more.

AHBAAR MILKY

Cars were built to last once, provided that one donated their blood, sweat and tears while tending to them, a sharp contrast to the cars of today and tomorrow, which are designed and programmed with planned obsolescence.

Small wonder when older cars last longer in terms of lifespan, for some are convinced that they, and I'm really going out on a limb here, possess a living and breathing soul to an extent.

The hours you put wrenching will not go thankless. The mk 3 GT Turbo was in production for only a year between 1994-95 in its last production run, being the predecessor to the Glanza.

The four-eyed hatch we're featuring today has been keeping Asif in good company since 2014. This '95 Starlet GT Turbo also happens to be the very first donning the much-adored TOM'S kit all around.

The very first giveaway of its prowess might be the aggressive yet subdued front bumper mimicking a period-correct JGTC race car along with the widening body kit all around accentuated by the rolled fenders while the second dead giveaway happens

to be the typically ever so chirpy HKS SSQV IV blow-off valve.

The bug-eyed hatch sits on a flat-faced set of Enkei RPF-1s wrapped with a sticky set of Federals on a period-correct size. Truly a sight for sore eyes while stationary and a treat to watch even at low speeds.

while the green Takata harnesses strangled around the custom made pair of bucket seats wrapped in leather welcomes you in. The pioneer head unit and subwoofer sitting in the hatch takes you back a decade, like a time capsule.

The gear lever has an eight ball sitting on top of it. A match made in



PHOTOS: AHBAAR MILKY

Over the years, Asif has spent countless hours perfecting the chassis dynamics as a whole host of handling mods were appended, as the car now sits on a set of KYB New SR Special Street shocks coupled with RSR lowering springs and a host of strut bars and dampers from Cusco. While the interior is as period-correct as it gets.

Cars once possessed a soul and this blue GT Turbo is a glaring example.



Dhaka, as far as ride comfort goes. Furthermore, the humble hatch has taken Asif to destinations far and wide, in and out of Dhaka with ease, even acting as far as a fast turbocharged ambulance one night on an emergency trip to CMH; a true daily driver in definition and form.

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COVER STORY

The ultimate guide to shopping for a SECOND HAND PHONE

OROBI BAKHTIAR

The thrill of purchasing a second-hand phone might not compare to the delight of opening a new mobile device with advanced technology and enticing features packaged in a sleek box.



Nonetheless, buying a new phone is not always an option, especially if you consider yourself a gadget freak and are always on the lookout for the latest models that are creating waves in the mobile phone industry.

There are indeed times when purchasing a second hand mobile or a pre-owned phone is more economical than embracing a new one, especially if you do not intend to splurge on a high-end model. You may be strapped for cash or realize that it will only be a matter of time before you get your hands on yet another hi-tech gadget.

How can you ensure that you are getting a good deal that is a good value? Here are a few effective tips that can lead to a positive buying experience for you with less likelihood of a second hand or refurbished purchase gone horribly wrong.

Steer clear of stolen phones

No matter how good a deal may seem, buying a stolen phone is always a no-no. In the end, why get into trouble with the authorities for spending your money on a device that has been reported as stolen or lost or for purchasing a used phone that has been misused in the past?

As a precaution, always request a soft or hard copy of the original bill from your seller that includes his or her name as the purchaser of the device along with other details such as the time and date of purchase, the store where it was purchased, warranty details, etc.

Next, look around the second-hand

phone's battery compartment area for an IMEI (International Mobile Equipment Identity) sticker or type *#06# (universal IMEI code that is compatible with almost all GSM mobile devices) to retrieve its unique IMEI number and match this serial number with that mentioned on the bill and that on the packaging box.

Both iPhones and Android phones can use the above mentioned code. The IMEI number of dual SIM mobiles differs from the IMEI number of a single SIM mobile because dual SIM mobiles have two IMEI numbers. You can be sure that the phone has not been stolen if the details match.

Beware of fake phones

Nowadays, there is no shortage of fake Chinese or Korean phones that are replicas of their original models and are hard to distinguish with the naked eye. Due to the fact that the phones' internal stickers often contain important information, such as the IMEI number, model number, etc, fraudsters tend to replace them with counterfeit ones that portray false model numbers with no resemblance to the original ones. Follow these steps to make sure that the seller isn't ripping you off.

Check the phone's 'Settings' menu to find the model number and other hardware specifications to ensure the model being sold is genuine. Comparing the phone's model number with that on the battery or the sticker on the back should reveal the difference.

Using the hardware specifications, you can check if they match those that were outlined by the manufacturer for that specific model.

Examine the phone in detail

Once you have established that the phone you have in hand is neither stolen nor fake, it's time to unlock your spy skills and dig deeper into its physical condition.

Look for dents and broken edges from every angle possible to determine if the used phone has any. Keep an eye out for any broken keys if the device has a keypad. Make sure the physical keys are in working order by pressing a few of them randomly to see if they click well and if you can type and navigate without a problem.

Swiping your fingers across the phone's screen and tapping a few menus and apps will help you gauge the call quality and the response time. Making a quick outbound call or sending a text will help you confirm that the mobile phone's microphone and speaker work properly. Finally, you should take time to take a few photos and selfies to determine whether the mobile device's front and rear cameras are in pristine condition or whether the lenses have lost their precision.

Examine the usability of the ports and accessories

When purchasing a used phone with its accessories, you should also examine the latter carefully.

As a first step, make sure the charger is

working by charging the phone for a few minutes while keeping track of the time taken. Is the battery getting too hot too often and too soon? Make sure the battery isn't draining too quickly.

Check the earphones' functionality by plugging them into the device and listening to an audio file while you inspect the sound's clarity and volume.

Perform a quick data transfer test on the second-hand phone's USB port to ensure it is in working order.

Settle for the best price

As you complete all the elaborate checks listed above, don't forget the primary motivation that led you to choose a used phone in the first place - its price. As new upgrades become available, the price of a particular model can drop steeply.

It is better to buy a new phone rather than one that has been traded. In case you are planning to purchase a new smartphone, you also need to know how to select and buy one.

If a second-hand phone is still cheaper, you should negotiate wisely, keeping the current condition of the phone in mind, and closing the deal if it is fair and earns you significant savings.

The best way to prevent having to buy a new device too soon is to find a refurbished phone that is reasonably priced, has been repaired and tested by an expert technician, and comes with a warranty.