

The all-new and improved Porsche: 718 Spyder RS

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Most of us have seen a 718 Boxster here in Bangladesh. Although it is part of the 718 lineup, the all-new Porsche 718 Spyder RS is not the same as the Boxster. It is an exceptional sports car that combines classic design elements with modern technology. The latest addition to Porsche's 718 lineup promises to deliver an exhilarating driving experience like no other, equivalent to the 718 Cayman GT4 RS.

The design of the Porsche 718 Spyder RS is a nod to the iconic Porsche 550 Spyder, which was a successful race car in the 1950s. It follows the basic design language of the old 718 Spyder but has



The car features a sleek, low-slung body with sharp lines and a long, sloping hood. The rear of the car is dominated by a prominent spoiler and two large exhaust pipes, giving it a distinctive and aggressive look.

Under the hood, the regular Boxster and Boxster S come with 2-litre and 2.5-litre turbocharged engines, while the 718 Spyder comes with the same naturally aspirated 4.0-litre flat-six engine as a GT3 that revs up to 8000 RPM. However, the Spyder RS has the same displacement but revs up to 9000 RPM. It has the same engine as the 911 GT3 and the 718 Cayman RS, and the driving experience is said to be identical. The engine is tuned to produce 493 horsepower and 331 lb-ft of torque. The engine is also mated to a PDK transmission, which comes with a 7-speed dual-clutch as a standard option. The Porsche 718 Spyder RS can accelerate from 0 to 60 mph in just 3.4 seconds and has a top speed of 186 mph. The car's handling is exceptional, thanks to its lightweight construction, which includes an aluminium body and chassis. The car's suspension is also highly tuned to provide excellent cornering ability and precise steering. Porsche has reduced spring and damping rates for a more relaxed, characteristically convertible setup. As a road car, this might end up

handling even better than the GT4, since the suspension of a GT4 is very stiff and more track-focused.

Inside, the Porsche 718 Spyder RS has a driver-focused cockpit with supportive carbon fibre sports seats and a minimalist dashboard. The interior oozes with Alcantara and carbon fibre, and is quite similar to the regular Spyder. Porsche has focused on weight reduction, which is why they used fabrics and replaced traditional door levers. They also reduced weight from the soft top compared to a 718 Spyder.

Overall, the Porsche 718 Spyder RS is an exceptional sports car that combines classic design elements with modern technology. It is a car that is built for driving enthusiasts who want a pure, unadulterated driving experience. If you're in the market for a sports car that is both thrilling to drive and visually stunning, the Porsche 718 Spyder RS is definitely worth considering. It's also worth noting that this is probably the last fully octane-driven, naturally aspirated car that Porsche will make before everything goes fully electric. Also, if you want it to be fully spec'd out, Porsche will provide you with their Weissach package that includes even lighter magnesium wheels and 935-inspired titanium exhaust outlets. It is set to go out in 2024 with a starting price of 162k dollars.

different bumpers. The front bumper of the 718 Spyder RS has a more aggressive design with a lot of aerodynamics and larger air intakes to improve airflow and engine cooling. The front splitter is shorter than the regular 718 Spyder, and the car features different and lighter forged rims. The Spyder RS is also 30mm lower and 40 kg lighter than the Spyder. The car has no fake vents or intakes; everything you see is functional.



ILLUSTRATION: ZARIF FAIAZ

The battle for foldables folds out

As technology continues to evolve at breakneck speed, the battle for the foldable phone market is heating up. While they may not be a common sight in pockets and purses just yet, foldable phones are generating a lot of buzz among tech enthusiasts and early adopters.

Samsung has been leading the charge in the foldable phone market, with its Galaxy Z Flip and Galaxy Fold devices. However, they now face stiff competition from Google, which recently launched its first foldable phone, the Pixel Fold. The device comes with a hefty price tag of £1,749, but it boasts impressive specs and features that could make it a compelling option for tech-savvy consumers.

The Galaxy Z Flip is a clamshell-style phone that folds vertically, while the Galaxy Fold is a larger device that folds horizontally like a book. Both devices have been well received by critics and early adopters, with many praising their innovative design and versatility.

The Pixel Fold can be opened like a book and is similar to the Samsung Galaxy Z Fold 4 in many ways. However, it has the distinctive design we've come to expect from the most recent Pixel line.

Foldable phones are designed to offer users the best of both worlds - the convenience of a compact device when closed and the immersive experience of a larger screen when opened. This could be a game-changer for those who consume a lot of media on their phones, such as movies, TV shows, and games. With foldable phones, users can enjoy a

cinematic experience without sacrificing portability.

Despite the hype, however, foldable phones are still a niche product. They accounted for just 1% of the global smartphone market last year, according to IDC analysts. This could be due to their high price point, which puts them out of reach for many consumers.

Starting at \$1,000 to \$2,000, the device's price point is quite high, making it difficult for it to compete with more affordable standard smartphones. Second, before the phones can be made widely available and appealing to the general public, new technological kinks must be ironed out. Consumers are also still dubious about how durable the devices are, and they haven't come up with any original uses for the foldable form factor. For foldable phones to become widely used, the average selling price needs to fall below \$400, according to Runar Bjorhovde of Canalys.

However, as the technology improves and becomes more affordable, foldable phones could become more mainstream. Some experts predict that foldable devices will outperform non-foldable smartphones over the next five years. "Consumers need new motivation to go out and upgrade to something that can wow them," says IDC research director Nabila Popal. "Foldable devices currently bring that 'wow factor,' and I believe they will continue to grab more headlines."

One of the biggest challenges is the durability of these devices. Foldable

phones rely on complex hinges and flexible displays, which can be prone to damage and wear over time. Samsung has had its fair share of issues with durability, with the Galaxy Fold experiencing multiple screen failures shortly after its release.

Another challenge is the software. Foldable phones require specialized software to take advantage of their unique form factor. However, app developers have been slow to adopt these new form factors, with many apps not optimized for foldable phones. This can lead to a less than ideal user experience and may discourage consumers from investing in these devices.

Nonetheless, Google and Samsung's entry into the foldable smartphone market is a significant development, as both companies are major players in the smartphone industry. Samsung is the world's largest smartphone manufacturer, while Google's Android operating system powers the majority of smartphones globally.

The two companies are expected to compete on several fronts, including price, design, and features. Samsung's device is rumored to have a larger foldable display than its previous models, while Google's device is expected to have a smaller, more compact design.

The entry of Google and Samsung into the foldable smartphone market puts pressure on Apple, which has yet to release a foldable device of its own. Apple has always been known for its innovation

and trend-setting designs, but it now risks falling behind in the race for the latest smartphone technology.

Despite this, some experts believe that Apple is taking a cautious approach to the foldable smartphone market, waiting to see how the technology develops before committing to a design. Apple has been known to wait until a technology has matured before launching its own version, as it did with the iPhone, which was released several years after the first smartphones hit the market.

The foray of Google and Samsung into the foldable smartphone market is likely to have a significant impact on the larger smartphone industry. As more companies enter the market, competition is likely to intensify, leading to lower prices and increased innovation.

Moreover, the entry of these two major players is expected to increase consumer interest in foldable smartphones and accelerate the development of the technology. This could lead to a future where foldable smartphones become the norm, rather than a niche product.

As Samsung and Google battle it out for dominance in the foldable phone market, and with others vying for a piece of the pie in the near future, it remains to be seen whether these devices will become the gadgets of the future. However, one thing is for sure - foldable phones represent an exciting development in smartphone technology, and they are worth keeping an eye on as they continue to evolve and improve.