

More power, AWD for Civic Type R

The upcoming **Civic Type R**, Honda's red-hot hatchback, is only just now nearing the market and sources are reporting that the car's turbocharged 2.0-liter four-cylinder engine could be punched up beyond the current 306-horsepower rating. This would likely happen in the form of a special-edition model to give buyers a performance option. In addition, adding an all-wheel-drive option is also being given serious consideration. Both moves would most certainly



Honda Civic Type R

bolster the Type R's position as a competitor to the all-wheel-drive **Subaru WRX STI**, **Volkswagen Golf R** and **Ford Focus RS** (with 350 horses underfoot, the RS currently reigns supreme in this group). There's no word on when a more potent Type R might become available, but if it's given the green light, we believe it might be only a year or two away.



Hyundai's upcoming Kona crossover will slot in below the Tucson.

First Kona, then Stonic

Hyundai will launch the **Kona**, a small utility vehicle that slots in below the Tucson, and now there's word that the Korea-based automaker's junior subsidiary, **Kia**, will also make available its own version for 2018. The **Stonic**, which is smaller than the Kia Sportage, will be built on the same platform as the Kona and come with a turbocharged 1.4-liter engine.

The Stonic will look somewhat like the Kona, other than Kia's signature "tiger nose" grille. The Stonic will also provide two-tone paint finishes — possibly as many as 20 different color combinations — that provide contrast between the body and the roof and roof pillars. Since hardly any cars (the Mini Cooper comes to mind) offer two-tone paint jobs, the Stonic might be reviving a trend that was once popular in the 1950s.



Will the Kia Stonic bring back the two-tone paint jobs of the 1950s? Either way, it would make a solid competitor to the Rogue Sport, Mazda 3 and Toyota C-HR.



The Bugatti Chiron's speedometer goes up to 500 km/h, or 310 mph... but does anyone know how fast this supercar can really go?

Bugatti Chiron: How fast?

The **Bugatti Chiron** — the limited-edition, 1,480-horsepower, \$2.6 million replacement for the Bugatti Veyron ultra-luxury sports car — is capable of **280-plus mph**, and though the speedometer goes to 310 mph (technically, as a European marque, 500 km/h). Either way, Bugatti says it will electronically limit the Chiron's maximum speed to 261. The reason? Apparently no company currently manufactures a street tire that can handle a velocity of 280 mph. At least, that's what Bugatti test driver Andy Wallace told *Popular Mechanics*, and Wallace should know; he's set speed records testing the **Jaguar XJ200** and **McLaren F1**, hitting 240 mph in the latter. Fortunately, **Michelin** says it will have a tire capable of exceeding 280 mph out by 2018. Good thing: Word is the de-limited Chiron can hit 285, though Bugatti also officially denies this. It could well be that no one really knows this car's true top speed for sure.



The new generation 2018 BMW X3 comes with as much as 355 horsepower, and offers more length between the front and rear wheels, and a complete cabin makeover.

X3 grows larger, more powerful

We recently caught a look at the next generation **BMW X3** utility vehicle. The 2018 model will be built at BMW's Spartanburg, S.C., plant alongside the X4, X5 and X6 "Sport Activity Vehicles."

Although similar in design to the previous X3, all body panels are different and the distance between the front and rear wheels has been increased by 2.2 inches. There's a more prominent grille and headlamps, and the interior gets a complete makeover.

In the powertrain department, BMW is introducing a first-ever range-topping M40i performance model that uses a twin-turbocharged inline six-cylinder engine good for 355 horsepower. The returning turbo 2.0-liter I-4 engine's output increases to 248 horses from the previous 240 and is standard in the xDrive30i.

TEST DRIVE

2017 Kia Forte5 SX

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blind spot detection with lane change assist) to safety (rear cross-traffic alert, navigation system, Sirius XM Traffic) to a collection-of-random-features- that- I- can't- think-of-a-word-that-ends-in-"y"-to- summarize (10-way power driver's seat with memory, ventilated front seats, dual zone temperature control with rear vents, power moon roof, meter cluster with 4.2-inch LCD display).

There's room enough in the Forte5 SX for adults in both rows, though six-footers in back will be a snug fit if seated behind like-size passengers. The difference between Forte's hatchback

and sedan designs comes home to roost when it's time to carry something other than people. Front and rear legroom are identical in both body styles (42.2 inches front, 35.9 inches rear), but the sedan's 14.9 cubic foot trunk compares with the hatchback's more generous stowage space of 23.2-56.4 cubic feet (depending on how you configure the seats). Split, rear seatbacks fold to a fairly flat floor, and it's low enough in back to easily load the cargo bay. In terms of class competitors, some of the perennially popular compact cars with hatchback versions are Honda (Civic), Toyota (Corolla), Ford (Focus) and Mazda (3). By the numbers, Forte5 is



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mid pack in seats-up cargo capacity, and a whisker behind leader Civic in front and rear leg room.

The Kia's UVO connectivity system has a 7-inch touchscreen interface, and its straight forward layout and operation are better than most when it comes to ease of use. The system offers Android Auto and Apple CarPlay compatibility, along with voice command navigation. Just below the screen on the center stack is

the HVAC controls deck. The array of two dials and minimal buttons is efficient and minimally distracting. Bluetooth is standard on all trim levels. Secondary controls on the steering wheel for audio and cruise are included for EX and SX.

A regular contributor to the Times Union for more than 25 years, Dan Lyons is the award-winning author of six books, and photographer of 180 calendars.



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NEW COUNTRY TOYOTA OF CLIFTON PARK

As dealer principal of New Country Toyota in Mechanicville, NY, Michael received a 25-year service award from Toyota. The award was presented by Jeff Buchanan, New York Regional Manager for Toyota Motor Sales USA.