

## BMW 3 Series gets sporty again

The Germany-based automaker is secretly developing the next generation of its cornerstone sedan. Sources, however, have inside knowledge about the **2019 BMW 3 series** (code-named G20), starting with a larger grille that more clearly/loudly identifies the maker of the car. The body will be integrated with a new and stiffer modular platform that future and refreshed Bimmers will also receive. In the 3 series' case, the result is a lower and wider stance plus a constantly adjusting (active) suspension for improved ride and



The 2019 BMW 3 series in disguise

greater cornering control. At launch, the base engine will be a turbocharged 2.0-liter four-cylinder that's expected to make about 255 horsepower. It will be linked to an eight-speed automatic transmission. Here's hoping the upcoming 3 series can improve upon the sporty essence that made past editions so desirable.

Does the Mahindra Roxor look too much like a Jeep?



## FCA: No to Jeep clone

When you own the intellectual property rights to one of the world's most iconic vehicles, you tend to get a bit protective. And so, **Fiat Chrysler Automobiles** has taken action against India-based **Mahindra Group** for marketing its **Roxor**, alleging the off-roader — with its vertical slotted grill and boxy design — looks too similar to its copyrighted Jeep design. The street-illegal Roxor is sold in powersports dealerships across North America. FCA's complaint to the U.S. International Trade Commission claims the look-alike "dilutes" its Jeep brand's value. The salt in the wound is that the \$19 billion Indian maker has a new assembly facility near FCA's Auburn Hills, Michigan HQ. As some sort of justification, Mahindra points to the fact that, back in the late 1940s, it manufactured the **Willys CJ3** under license for the Asian market. So there's that. Back in 1982, DaimlerChrysler sued for an injunction against General Motors — claiming the **Hummer H2's** seven-slot grille was copyright infringement — but was denied. And yet, Jeep not only survived, but thrived. Since then, FCA has built it into a globally successful brand, with July sales up 21 percent over the first half of 2018.



Lego crafted it's own full-size, drivable replica of a Bugati Chiron.

## A Bugati made from Legos

Can't afford the \$3 million for a real **Bugati Chiron**? Maybe that's what Lego was thinking when it created this life-size drivable replica of the supercar entirely from the snappable plastic blocks. The moveable construction was constructed using more than a million Lego Technic pieces — the Danish-owned company's line of plastic rods and parts capable of more complex technical functions — and took more than 13,500 man-hours to complete.

The outer shell of the car is formed with triangular segments to form a sort of Lego Technic fabric. The vehicle is powered by a battery making 5.3 horsepower, and there is no accelerator: The driver simply turns a potentiometer knob to increase the voltage.

The Lego Chiron's top speed is only 18 mph. By contrast, the actual supercar's top speed is unknown; it's limited to 261 mph because there are no tires manufactured that can safely handle anything more than that.



The 2019 Honda Civic Type R: Updates to this performance version of the Civic could include more power, a paddle-shift transmission and an all-wheel-drive option.

## New tricks for the Civic Type R

Are the pics of a camouflaged Honda vehicle actually a mild makeover of Honda's high-performance hatchback... or a possible new addition to the line?

Speculation includes an impending all-wheel-drive option for the **Civic Type R** that would help it compete more directly with the Subaru WRX STI and Volkswagen Golf R, which just upped its warranty and added a seventh gear. Hyundai is also expected to enter the hot hatch segment with its N performance brand, so the pressure is on Honda to make the Type R (which already won a top 10 pick from *Car and Driver*) even more appealing.

Yet another possible scenario sees a new "base" Type R positioned between the existing model and the tamer Civic Si.

Lastly, perhaps the existing Type R's turbocharged 2.0-liter four-cylinder engine is due for a bump in output from the current 306 horsepower, which could also coincide with a newly optional paddle-shift transmission (to supplement the current six-speed manual). An official announcement is expected by the end of the year.

### TEST DRIVE

## 2018 GMC Terrain Denali

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driver-oriented feel, for example, and Jeep's Cherokee is the hardest core, off-road. Terrain is a centrist, and in Denali trim, a luxury leaning centrist. Going down the road, the feel is stable and predictable rather than sporty, and it brakes confidently. Ride quality is on the firm side of comfortable — especially on rough roads.

Denali's AWD system isn't full-time. The driver makes the decision to go from FWD to AWD by twisting a center console knob. The AWD system will alert the driver when wheel slip is detected, and it works in concert with StabiliTrak — GM's stability control system — with traction control and rollover mitigation. Gear

selection is accomplished by accessing a horizontal strip of buttons, placed low on the center stack. Simply put, the shifter design is different for different's sake, with no apparent benefits.

Terrain's smaller footprint brings with it a reduction in cargo capacity: now 29.6-63.3 cubic feet, formerly 31.6-63.9. The rear seatbacks fold flat forward. As of this year, so too does the front passenger seat (for best results, remove occupants before folding), so you can accommodate long items under cover, with the liftgate shut. There's additional, small, below-deck storage space in the cargo bay as well. Adults fit comfortably in both rows. The sliding second row seat (with its 8-inch of travel) did not carry over into



TEST DRIVE this vehicle at these preferred dealerships:

**D'ELLA CADILLAC BUICK GMC, INC.**  
293 Quaker Rd., Queensbury, NY 12804  
518-793-3871 [www.dellacars.com](http://www.dellacars.com)

**GOLDSTEIN BUICK GMC OF ALBANY**  
1671 Central Ave., Albany, NY 12205  
518-869-2291 [www.goldsteinbuick.com](http://www.goldsteinbuick.com)

the 2018 edition, though the big center console bin did.

Driver assist technology is there for the asking on the top-line Denali, though many of these items are unavailable on the entry level SL models. Standard Denali safety features include side blind spot alert, rear cross traffic alert, rear camera and rear park assist, among others. My test car's Driver Alert Package II (\$495) added forward collision alert with low speed forward auto braking, lane keep assist and departure warning, and

automatic high beam controls.

The option sheet also allows Denali buyers to select the Advance Safety Package (\$745). This adds a bird's-eye view camera system and automated parking assistance, though you can only add the latter package if you've opted to take the former package.

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.