

Bling is out. Sleeper is in.

Tuned cars that look standard are slowly but surely becoming the trend.

Look at the three cars we featured in this issue. They are all turboed and bloody quick, yet they are so staid and demure in their attire, they are easily passed off as standard cars. Of course, they wear upsized alloy wheels - a necessity - but again these are finished in a subtle gun metal/copper finish so as to avoid unwanted attention. Minor details like some extra grills or non standard badges have been added, but it always takes a trained eye to spot these. They may be serious power houses on wheels, but they are all cleverly conceived to run under the cop's noses without getting noticed. Welcome to the world of sleepers.

Sleepers are cars that are literally wolfs in sheep's clothing. They are often hard to tell from their stock counterparts and carry the most amount of surprise element. Owners of these sleepers think there is nothing more rewarding than the shock and dismay on the faces of drivers of fast expensive cars when you leave them behind in a cloud of smoke. Loud paint schemes, body vinyls and chrome wheels are so yesterdays now, a lot of car enthusiasts are ditching their snazzy body kits and 'talk of the town' spoilers for a cleaner, more understated look. There are others who have grown up from their racy tuner cars and want something more socially acceptable but don't want to lose out on performance. Now everyone has realized that the 'show' is in the 'go'. An increasing number of sleeper cars in the country is a testimony for this. And it's interesting to note that even those who blow loads of cash on performance and audio side are refraining themselves from going berserk on the flashy side.

However, we have to give it to the cash starved enthusiast who spent all his savings on the performance side and didn't have any left to spend on cosmetic mods, who started the Sleeper trend. And we dedicate this issue to one such person who did a turbo build on his own.

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