



REAL WORLD RACER : BRAILLE'S KILLER 350Z

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Temporarily Blind

Braille's 350Z Drifter is Set to Fly By
U N N O T I C E D

Where do old showcars go when they die? Sometimes, they don't die at all – they undergo an Extreme Makeover : SEMA Show Car Edition and make their respective ways off the carpeted floors of the Las Vegas Convention Center and onto the farmacs, racetracks, and cone-lined paved roadways of the world, to finish off their lives the way they started – as cars meant to be driven. Hard. This is the vision that one usually has when a factory spec performance car first rolls off the showroom floor. However, sometimes we are blinded by the simple visual aesthetics, opting to take the car on the show circuit instead of the race car circuits.

Such is the case with the Braille Auto 350Z that you see here. Originally a demo car for Enjuku Racing, a popular performance parts distributor and tuner, the car was picked up by Blake Fuller of Braille Auto with the intention of campaigning it in actual drift series around the United States. Fuller then sent the car to Performance Factory, Nissan VQ specialists in central Florida, where it went under the knife of PF chief Jeremy Tibbs and his crew.

The first order of business was to replace the main power adder – the supercharger system – with something more on order for heavy competition use. To this end, Performance Factory opted for a V1 T-Trim blower from Vortech. This system allows them to safely hit the 450WHP mark using only pump gas; a hallmark of many of the Performance Factory's installations, normal driveability and reliability are two of the factors that are high on their "project build goals" lists.

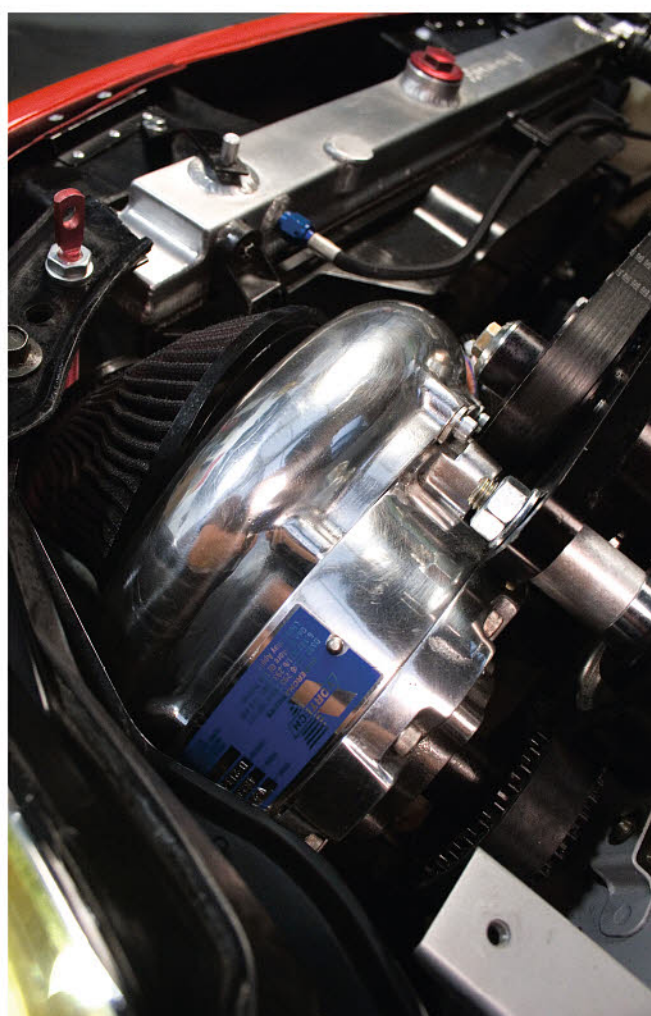
Wanting to push the almost-factory engine setup even further, they opted to run the car on C16 race gas, allowing final output to hit 511WHP with 450+ lb/ft of torque driving the rear wheel slider setup. Fuel delivery is handled by a Turbo XS Utec Plug and Play Parallel Engine Management System – this unit allows for the safe usage of multiple maps while maintaining multiple map configurations and the ease of a plug-and-play system. To adequately deliver the modified fuel needs, a set of Deatschwerks injectors was added. "(The Utec) and the best 600cc injectors – the Deatschworks – is the way we like to set up our VQs to run and last forever."

Text by Buddy Glass Jr.
Photos by Ray Ferreira



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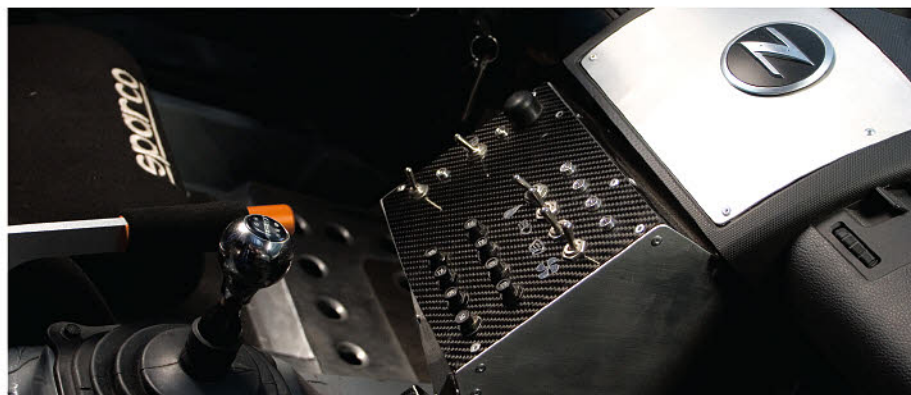


Performance Factory has set this combination up on many of their VQ systems, including street vehicles, and have yet to find a better, more reliable setup – with the proper tuning, provided by Tibbs, of course – for the ubiquitous platform. A competition clutch setup from SPEC clutches gets the power to the rear wheels.

“With all the power (we were making),” says Tibbs, “we also decided to completely rewire the whole car only using what was needed.” To that end the car was stripped to the hilt and retained only the necessary equipment to get the engine to function and pass technical inspections. Of course, all of the electrical wiring eventually traces back to the Braille Auto battery tied down in the trunk area, which shares the space with a fuel cell, a Sparco fire extinguisher system, some overflow tanks and catch cans, and not much else.







Everyone knows that in the land of drifting, suspension setup is king, and this car is no different. A set of BC Racing coilovers offered the starting point from which to setup the suspension. "We have adjusted them along with the camber and toe arms to get the most angle possible while still maintaining perfect driveability," Tibbs states. A set of Enkei racing wheels, wrapped in Cooper Tires rubber, fill out the four corners.

As the car began its life as a demo car, of course there was a lot of attention paid to the exterior. A BRS AutoDesign widebody kit was installed, along with a Seibon carbon fiber

hood and an APR GT wing. On the inside, the factory gauge cluster is augmented with a custom systems switch panel and a pair of Sparco seats to hold down the driver and whatever lucky umbrella girl that happens to riding shotgun.

"This car will be tearing up the Formula D scene this year so keep your eyes out for it. This Braille Auto/Performance Factory team is here to win, plus have fun along the way," Tibbs states. We'll definitely be watching to make sure this one doesn't pass us by.



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