



Waiting, and Waiting, for NSX 2.0

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Rob Widdis/EPA

The Acura Advance sports car concept is strictly a nonrunning prototype.

By NICK KURCZEWSKI
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Introduced on Sunday: Acura Advanced Sports Car design study

Is it real? The mechanical bits are all present, and the body is metal, not Styrofoam. But Acura's Advanced Sports Car Concept is strictly a nonrunning prototype, with its doors and hood sealed for the run of the auto show.

What's the point? The NSX was Acura's two-seat halo car, an Asian Ferrari that served as a showcase of technology and innovation. Since its demise, Acura's parent, Honda, has been hard at work on a replacement to keep the performance fires burning.

What they said: "I must tell you that my own passion is performance," Takeo Fukui, president and chief executive of Honda Motor Company, said.

What they didn't say: That this is the next NSX, or that Acura is overdue for something more potent than the brand's current crop of V-6 engines. The next episode in the hunt for

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NSX V2.0 occurs at the Tokyo auto show, in October 2007.

What makes it tick? The A.S.C.C. has a front-mounted V-10 coupled to sport-tuned version of Acura's all-wheel drive hardware.

How much, how soon? No one would let us peek under the hood, much less mention anything as vulgar as a price or when to expect this car to be production ready.

How's it look? The Advanced Sports Car Concept looks familiar — we see a lot of Audi R8, minus the gaping grill, and the Lexus LF-A concept of 2005, in this Acura's front end. It could probably do with an extra dose of edginess when the second iteration appears in Tokyo.

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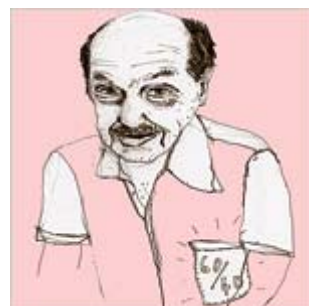
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