

FEATURE CAR



Civic Minded

Story and Images: Richard Truesdell



For years we've talked about doing a no-holds-barred Polk demo vehicle," says Polk Audio's Director of Marketing Paul DiComo. "In 2003 we finally did it, a real trailer queen that we feel can go head-to-head with just about any vehicle out there. And because we've had so much success in the tuner car segment with our ongoing mobile product ad campaign, it seemed only natural to do up a Honda Civic."

DiComo, and VP Al Ballard used the occasion to turn loose the Polk Audio Installation Team of Thom Voisinet, Josh Claar and Kevin Henderson, and now this 2003 Honda Civic Si is the top dog residing at 5601 Metro Drive in Baltimore, Maryland, home of Polk Audio. Voisinet, who has been responsible for almost all of the recent Polk Audio demo cars, including a fleet of vehicles used in the field by Polk's in-house domestic sales team, had this to say when it came to the selection of the Civic Si for this project. "Even though the Civic has been "done" before by many tuners and many manufacturers and shops, we liked the challenge of coming up with fresh ideas for an overdone car. We also liked the wide choice of aftermarket parts for the car. The generous amount of space in the hatch area gave us the freedom to go wild with amps and subs."

Hot Competition

In the USA, there is a something of an arms race among the various manufacturers to build the most eye-catching vehicles for consumer events and trade shows, including CES. Not living in a vacuum, they knew that they would be following Alpine's 2003 CES Civic Si, so a different approach would be required. So while it is a trailer-transported demo vehicle, it is also fully functional and, when you look closely at the details, it is what many observers feel to believe is an 'accessible' installation. One that is within

Polk teams up with MOMO to give its Honda Civic Si an Italian-flavored makeover.



the means of a mobile audio enthusiast who has an almost—but not quite—unlimited budget.

Before we get to the really good stuff on the inside, here's the deal on its flashy exterior. The House of Kolor 'Orion Silver metallic' basecoat with HOK Tangerine Kandy and HOK clear was applied by Extreme Body & Paint (Baltimore) and based on a design by Ken Chae, Polk Audio Industrial Designer and Thom Voisinet, Installation Manager. The fading design of the paint accentuates the Motorsports/Pure Styling 'Super Street' widebody kit, Seibon carbon fibre spoiler, APC carbon fibre hood, plus numerous custom body work mods such as shaved door handle, rain rails, rear license plate, and carbon fibre-wrapped roof. A touch of class is the Pro-Fit Linear Fuel Door custom engraved with Polk/MOMO logo (www.fueldoors.com). Finally the overall exterior effect is further enhanced with neon accents provided by Street Glow.

For the rolling stock, Voisinet specified

20-inch MOMO Quasar II wheels with BF Goodrich G-force KDW 255/35ZR20 tyres front and rear. For stopping power, 13-inch RSX rotors and Civic brackets were used to make the Stainless Steel Big Brake kit fit with custom Polk/MOMO logos engraved in the calipers. Suspension upgrades included APEXi coil overs with N-1 dampers. Keeping things tight is a front strut tower brace from DC Sports. Friction is controlled by a combination of an ACT street clutch mated to an Xtreme flywheel. The exhaust note comes courtesy of Comptech, while extra juice is provided by a turbocharger from Rev Hard with a matching intercooler from Spearco. Performance wiring, to extract every last gallop of horsepower, comes from long-time Polk partner Nology, which supplied the high-energy cables and the underhood grounding components.

Street Style

On the inside, the seats come from a logical source, MOMO, which provided a

set of carbon kevlar 'Acropolis EVO' seats which were reupholstered to match the custom door panels and console. The stock dash was removed (the middle A/C and defrost vents are all that's left of the OEM dash) and a replacement was fabricated from carbon fibre, fibreglass, Duraglass, Rage Gold filler and lots of paint. This houses a full complement of Autometer carbon fibre series gauges on the A-pillar, including the tachometer with shift light, speedometer, temperature, fuel and a voltage gauge to keep an eye on the current draw at shows.

Accents include a MOMO 'Net' steering wheel, 'Sphere Aluminum Airmetal' shift knob, 'Challenger' pedals and 'Pitstop Airmetal' parking brake handle. A set of MOMO four-point harnesses keep the driver and passenger firmly glued to their seats, and Matworks provided custom Polk/MOMO floor mats.

Now, when it comes to the AV components, the reconstituted dash houses an Icon-TV 9-inch widescreen



IN CAR ENTERTAINMENT



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monitor where the stock head-unit once resided. To get up-front bass, two 8-inch woofers flank a pair of MMC650 coax speakers mounted in the centre of the top of the dash for centre channel. The result is a full-frequency centre channel that seems to pull the soundstage tightly together and very forward.

Front Row Seats

Below the monitor, space was provided for the new source components, an Alpine DVA-7996 AM/FM/DVD with a PXA-H700 surround sound processor. The

doors, which were entirely reconstructed at the same time as the dash using the same fabrication techniques, now house two sets of Polk/MOMO MM6 6.5-inch component separates. With the new dash and the door panels the result is a cockpit effect that totally envelops and encases the driver and passenger.

Mounted directly behind the seats are the first three of what will total ten individual Polk/MOMO amplifiers, the rear fill MMC650 coax speakers and two of the six MM2154 15-inch woofers, along with the first of two Optima Yellow Top battery.


All system wire, cable and interconnects were supplied by Monster Cable.

Going around back, opening up the hatch reveals four more MM2154 15-inch subwoofers, four Polk/MOMO C500.1 mono amplifiers, two C400.4 4/3/2-channel amplifiers and two additional sets of MMC650 6.5-inch coax speakers. Total system power for the system reaches 4200 watts continuous. Inside each side window, Voisinet, Claar and Henderson were able to mount both 9- and 17-inch Icon-TV widescreen monitors.

By the time you read this in Australia,



the car will be celebrating its first birthday on the show car circuit. Making its debut at the 2003 SEMA Show in Las Vegas, it won major awards from both major car care companies. These included the 'Best Modified Import Sports Compact' award from Meguiar's and a Mother's 'Choice Award' for excellence in automotive design in the Sport Compact class, an unprecedented accomplishment in the ultra competitive tuner car category.

The Polk/MOMO Honda Civic Si illustrates that it's not necessary to go completely over the top to build a truly attention-getting show car, but it does help if it's outstanding in its concept and execution. Now it remains to be seen what Thom Voisinet, Josh Claar and Kevin Henderson will do for an encore. 



Owner: Polk/MOMO USA

Vehicle: 2003 Honda Civic Si

Modifications: Rev Hard street turbo kit, Spearco 11-inch intercooler, Comptech cat-back exhaust system, Nology Engineering Hotwires plug wires, Nology Engineering grounding kit, Nology Engineering fuel injectors

Drivetrain: Advanced Clutch Technology street clutch kit, X-Treme flywheel

Suspension: APEXi N1 damper coilovers, SPC Performance camber correction kit, lower control arms, Suspension Techniques front and rear anti-sway bars

Brakes: Stainless Steel Brake Company front and rear big brake kits with custom logos

Wheels: MOMO Quasar II 20 x 8.5-inch wheels

Tyres: BF Goodrich G-force T/A KDW 255/35/20 tyres

Interior: MOMO Acropolis Evo carbon kevlar race seats, MOMO 4-point race harnesses, MOMO Net steering wheel and hub, MOMO Race Metal shift knob, MOMO Race Metal Pit Stop handbrake lever, MOMO Pit Stop gear boot, MOMO Challenger pedals, Autometer Carbon Fibre gauges, Matworks custom floor mats w/ logo

Exterior: Versus Motorsports Pure Styling 'Superstreet' body kit, APC carbon fibre hood, Nology Engineering carbon fibre engine covers, MOMO hood pins, Pro Fit Linear Fuel Doors custom fuel flap, House of Kolor custom Tangerine and Orion Silver paint, Mothers cleaning and detailing supplies



SYSTEM

Source Unit: Alpine DVA-7996 DVD/CD AM/FM Receiver

Processor: Alpine PXA-H700 5.1 Dolby Digital Processor

Monitors: 2x Icon-TV 17-inch widescreen LCDs, 3x Icon-TV 9-inch widescreen LCDs

Speakers: 4x Polk/MOMO MM6 6.5-inch components, 2x Polk/MOMO MMC525 5.25-inch coaxials, 6x Polk/MOMO MMC650 6.5-inch coaxials

Subwoofers: 2x Polk/MOMO MM2084 8-inch subwoofers, 6x Polk/MOMO MM2154 15-inch subwoofers

Amplifiers: 2x Polk/MOMO C400.4 four-channel amplifiers, 3x Polk/MOMO C300.2 two-channel amplifiers, 5x Polk/MOMO C500.1 monobloc amplifiers

Console: Sony Playstation 2

Wiring: Monster Cable Power and Speaker wiring Interconnects and terminals

Sound Deadening: Dynamat Xtreme

Security: Code Alarm TW-1 Slarm system

Battery: 2x Optima Yellow Top

Lighting: Streetglow Undercar neon kit, various neon illumination

Installed By: Polk/MOMO USA Installation Team



MEGUIAR'S INFO