Metropolis Street Racer Car Guide

by John Peat

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| Metropolis Street Racer Car Guide - (C) John Peat 2000 | |
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| 1.0 - INTRODUCTION >>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>> | |
| Why I did this. | |
| After playing through MSR I was so impressed that each of the cars has it's own 'feel' that I decided a FAQ was required! | |
| own reer char i decided a two was redutted: | |
| Unlike some other games I could mention, the performance advantage of the cars | |
| is subtle - for example on one of my favourite test tracks the slowest car | |
| laps in around 26.5 secs wheras the fastest can't better 22 - not a huge gap! | |
| For the purposes of this FAQ I've 'reviewed' the cars with ABS enabled and | |
| Automatic gears, Manual mode is 'challenging' and can be fun - but you're not | |

20/11/2000 v0.1

Started the 'onerous task' (!) of test-driving lots of cars and assembling some notes.

This is my first attempt as something like this - so all constructive comments are welcome (see above for email address)

01/12/2000 v0.2

First version posted to USENet and FAQ sites for comments...

04/12/2000 v0.3

Added car 'aliases' - not noticed these before now!!

| Car | Chapter | CPF | Engine/Drive | Personal Rating |
|--------------------------|------------|-----|--------------|-----------------|
| Fiat Barchetta | | 1.0 | F/F | * |
| Mazda MX5 | | 1.2 | F/R | * * * |
| (Alias) Mazda Miata | | | | |
| (Alias) Mazda Roadster | | | | |
| MGF | | 1.0 | M/R | * * * |
| Opel Astra Coupe | 1 | 2.1 | F/F | * * |
| Renault Megane | 2 | 1.9 | F/F | *+ |
| Opel OPC | | 2.7 | F/F | * * |
| Alfa Romeo Spider | 3 | 2.5 | F/F | * * + |
| Peugeot 206 | 4 | 2.7 | F/F | * * + |
| Peugeot 306 cabriolet | | 2.4 | F/F | *** |
| Peugeot 406 Coupe | 5 | 2.7 | F/F | * |
| Toyota MR2 | 6 | 3.0 | M/R | * * + |
| Toyota MR-S | | 2.4 | M/R | *** |
| Peugeot 306 | 7 | 3.1 | F/F | *** |
| Mercedes Benz SLK | 8 | 2.2 | F/R | **+ |
| Mercedes Benz SL320 | | 2.7 | F/R | **+ |
| Alfa Romeo 156 | 9 | 2.8 | F/F | **+ |
| Audi S3 | 10 | 2.8 | F/4 | **+ |
| Audi TT Roadster | | 2.7 | F/4 | *** |
| Alfa Romeo Gtv | 11 | 4.0 | F/F | *** |
| Audi TT Coupe | 12 | 3.2 | F/4 | ***+ |
| Renault Spider | | 3.3 | M/R | *** |
| Toyota Celica 99 | 13 | 3.4 | F/F | *** |
| Fiat Coupe 20v Turbo | 14 | 3.5 | F/F | *** |
| Toyota Celica | | 4.0 | F/F | ***+ |
| Mitsubishi FTO | 15 | 3.6 | F/F | *** |
| Mitsubishi Eclipse | 16 | 4.0 | F/F | ***+ |
| (Alias) Mitsubishi Eclip | ose Spider | | | |
| Mitsubishi Eclipse 99 | | 3.0 | F/F | ***+ |
| Opel Speedster | 17 | 4.2 | M/R | *** |
| (Alias) Vauxhall VX220 | | | | |
| Mitsubishi 3000GT | 18 | 3.0 | F/4 | ***+ |
| (Alias) Mitsubishi GTO | | | | |
| Ford Mustang | | 3.6 | F/R | *** |
| Toyota Supra | 19 | 3.8 | F/R | *** |
| | | | | |

| Nissan Fairlady Z | 20 | 4.0 | F/R | * * * + |
|---------------------------|----------|-----|-----|---------|
| (Alias) Nissan Fairlady Z | (Spider) | | | |
| (Alias) Nissan 300ZX | | | | |
| MG RV8 | | 3.3 | F/R | ***+ |
| Nissan Silvia | 21 | 3.8 | F/R | *** |
| (Alias) Nissan Varieta | | | | |
| Renault Clio V6 | 22 | 4.0 | M/R | ***+ |
| Toyota Celica GT-Four | | 4.2 | F/4 | ****+ |
| Mazda RX7 | 23 | 4.6 | F/R | *** |
| TVR Chimaera | | 4.7 | F/R | ***+ |
| Mitsubishi Lancer EVO VI | 24 | 4.6 | F/4 | **** |
| Jensen S-V8 | | 4.3 | F/R | *** |
| Nissan Skyline GTR | 25 | 5.0 | F/4 | **** |

+ is half a *

Cars without Chapter Numbers are won on Special Events...

(Alias) cars are variations on a theme - they tend to be 'national' variations (Opel vs Vauxhall) or convertibles (Fairlady) but are otherwise, as far as I can tell, IDENTICAL to their peers.

These are all won in Special Events and are all pretty quick!

The lawnmower has a power/weight ratio which is better than an F1 car(!) but suffers rather, from having a 1m wheelbase (and therefore little handling!!)

The buses are 'shrunken' in game - very odd - and the double-decker is impossible to race 3rd person as you can't see where you're going!

| Car | CPF |
|--------------------------|-----|
| London Taxi | 3.0 |
| San Francisco Yellow Cab | 3.0 |
| Tokyo Takushe | 3.0 |
| Lawnmower | 3.0 |
| Red London Bus | 3.0 |
| San Francisco City Bus | 3.0 |
| Tokyo Basu (Bus) | 3.0 |

To be read in the style of Jeremy Clarkson (or perhaps not!)

I tested all of these cars back-to-back on a number of different circuits and these are my opinions from that.

I did all the testing in 'Test Drive' mode - although I have opened all these cars up, I couldn't be bothered re-challenging for them all the time!!

I chose the circuits for variety, deliberately avoiding 'tricky' tracks as I was trying to test the cars more than I was trying to test my driving skills!! Driving took place both in daylight and at night (real and virtual!).

Tracks Chosen

San Franciso - Fishermans Wharf - Medium - Jefferson West III 0.7 miles My fave. test track - sorts out the best handlers no problems... Fastest lap - 30.730 in a Mitsubishi Evo VI

Tokyo - Asakusa - Short - Asakusa-Chuo Minami 0.5 miles
A good test of how quickly you can master a car as it's quite tight
Fastest Lap - 23.438 in a Celica GT-Four

London - Westminster - Medium Purely a test of raw speed, brakes and 'poise' in corners...
Fastest Lap - I'm still working on that!

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Cars

Fiat Barchetta

Slow, slow and slow - NO!

Mazda MX5

Quite nice - there's not much between this and the MGF

MGF

Also quite nice!

Opel Astra Coupe

Too much wheelspin and a lack of finesse means it's not as quick as the MGF or ${\rm MX5}$.

Renault Megane

Slow and Understeery - avoid.

Opel OPC

More powerful then the Opel Coupe but more wheelspin too and less finesse.

Alfa Romeo Spider

Better handling than the Opels and quite quick.

Peugeot 206

Also quick, but there's too much understeer and a 'hole' between 1st and 2nd gear which cripples it in slow corners.

Peugeot 306 cabriolet

Nice - faster than what's gone before - recommended.

Peugeot 406 Coupe

Understeer or Oversteer - little feel - 'holes' in the gear ratios - avoid.

Toyota MR2

Almost as nice as the 306 Cabrio, but it's prone to oversteer which makes it tricky at times.

Toyota MR-S

Super car - quite a bit faster than anything before it and many of the cars after it! - HIGHLY Recommended.

Peugeot 306

On a par with the 306 Cabrio, perhaps a bit quicker no match for the MR-S though...

Mercedes Benz SLK

Trick Roofs count for nothing here - quick but not that 'sorted'.

Mercedes Benz SL320

Nicer than the SLK but the 306/MR-S are better again...

Alfa Romeo 156

Not bad at all - not as fast as the MR-S but nice nevertheless.

Audi S3

Quick but rather 'twitchy' for a front-wheel drive...

Audi TT Roadster

Quicker than the S3, particularly good in the wet and on tight circuits, but not as much fun as the MR-S perhaps...

Alfa Romeo Gtv

Quicker than the TT Roadster on fast circuits - not so good on tight circuits. (See Note in 4.2 below)

Audi TT Coupe

Slightly quicker than the Roadster and about on a par with the MR-S (if still not quite as much fun to drive!)

Renault Spider

Quicker than the MR-S if you can master the slightly too-grippy cornering (handbrake!) - also has slightly 'naff' gearing which can prove irritating in slower corners...

Toyota Celica 99

The only disappointing Toyota in the game - nothing special here so stick to the MR-S or \mbox{Gtv}

Fiat Coupe 20v Turbo

Again nothing special here - neither as quick nor as fluent as the MR-S or ${\sf Gtv}$

Toyota Celica

AWESOME for an FWD car - a bit faster than the MR-S but much more predictable and nothing like as tricky in the wet!

Mitsubishi FTO

Not quite a quick as the Celica but not bad - worth a try...

Mitsubishi Eclipse

A little quicker than the FTO but not as nice in corners...

Mitsubishi Eclipse 99

Much the same as the 'regular' Eclipse...

Opel Speedster

A very quick car but it's too grippy which means the handbrake is your best friend. Master it and it's FAST though.

Mitsubishi 3000GT

Quick and very easy to drive but it's not the bext car for tight circuits...

Ford Mustang

Handles better than it's 'muscle car' image suggests - but it's no match for the Speedster

Toyota Supra

Very Quick and VERY good in corners - but a little prone to oversteer so you've got to master it ...

Nissan Fairlady Z

About half-way between the ease of the 3000GT and the pace of the Supra - so try either of those instead!

MG RV8

Not as quick as the Supra/Fairlady but a lovely 'drifter'

Nissan Silvia

Well sorted in corners if not quite as fast as the Supra

Renault Clio V6

Not quite quick enough and not quite good enough in corners - disappointing

Toyota Celica GT-Four

Very Nice - umbeleivably well sorted in corners - you can brake later and corner faster than anything else you've driven upto now...

Mazda RX7

Fast and a a bit 'tail happy at times ' - about on a par with the Supra.

TVR Chimaera

Quick and not as 'hairy' as it's reputation suggests.

Mitsubishi Lancer EVO VI

Quite often this is the fastest thing in the game...

Jensen S-V8

Brutal Speed, BRUTAL Brakes, good handling but lacks 'that certain something', still worth a blast though!

Nissan Skyline GTR

The only thing wrong with this car is that when you've got it - there's nothing left to do with it!!

Want to save on those Garage bills?

Try these for size - they'll get you through all 250 races no problems...

Mazda MX5 or MGF

Toyota MR-S

Toyota Celica

Toyota Celica GT-FOUR

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These are all outstanding cars in their own ways...
Toyota MR-S
Renault Spider
Toyota Celica
Toyota Celica GT-FOUR
Opel Speedster
Mitsubishi Evo VI
These cars really deliver little to make them worth challenging for (IMHO!)
Fiat Barchetta
Renault Megane
Peugeot 406 Coupe
Fiat Coupe 20v Turbo (Fiat obviously didn't send any freebies to SEGA!!)
In addition, the Alfa Gtv is IMPOSSIBLE to win (in the original UK PAL version)
31 secs is the target and the fastest I've heard of is 37 (DOH!!!!).
Thanks to Bizarre Creations for a good (if flawed) game - I'm not planning to
return to Gran Turismo anytime soon!
Thanks to Angela, without whom I would have to travel to the refrigerator for
my own refreshments more often ;-)
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