

## History of Toyota MR2

Whether you owned one, or simply dreamed of owning one, the MR2 (mid-ship runabout two-seater) was without question another futuristic milestone in progressive engineering by Toyota. The thought of driving the little MR2 immediately brings a smile to your face. It's the kind of car that makes you think of long stretches of scenic highway, sunny days, the wind in your hair, hanging out at the beach, and special picnics. If you wanted to be seen, this car allowed you to be seen in style.

No ordinary car, the MR2 was Japan's first mid-engine car produced between the years of 1984 into 2007. The body style progressed from angular, to Ferrari-like to Porsche-like over the years. The three generations of the MR2 sported McPherson strut front and rear suspensions and transverse-mounted inline-four engines, but that was where the similarities ended. Although each generation was unique, some maintain the first generation was truly an engineering masterpiece sensation.

Before Japan mass-produced the Toyota MR2 mid engine Sports Car In 1983, there was a lot of interest in the little two-seater sports car among American race circuits. Formula One driver, "Six Foot Four" Dan Gurney, was one of many that raced the MR2 and tested it for overall performance. Needless to say, the MR2 was given two-thumbs-up approval. The style, performance, and the fact that it was "different" from other sports car made it a very desirable car, but the dealmaker was that the little MR2 was actually economical to drive, making it all show and all go for American sports car enthusiasts.

There was a rumor at one time that the original design of the MR2 was fashioned after the GM Fiero. In all actuality, both GM and Toyota's design team had the same idea at pretty much the same time. As to the test of who did it best, there is no question. It's never too late to make dreams come true where you can enjoy that long stretch of highway on a sunny day in one of the finest sports cars ever made.

### *References:*

<http://www.autozine.org/classic/toyota.htm#MR2>

<http://mr2wiki.com/MKI/History>