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Subject: OT: My other baby turns 10 next month  
Posted by [chuck duffy](#) on Sat, 21 Oct 2006 15:43:47 GMT  
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Since we seem to be talking cars a little bit. My other 'baby', a 97 2.8 litre 6 cylinder Z3 turns 10 next month (date of manufacture dec 96).

It's garage kept, stored in winter has around 80k on it and runs like the day I drove it home, maybe even better. I keep it up at my sisters in syracuse NY, so I rarely get to drive it. I had the chance to hit the back country roads this past summer and it was a blast.

St. Croix always used to pick on me, telling me to dump it and get a miata. He always said the bimmers have 'ZERO' torque.

When I was growing up I was always fascinated by small british 2 seater 'droptops'. When I got older, a very wise old friend advised me to steer completely clear of any such vehicle if I ever wanted to actually drive.

When the z3s came out I thought it was just about what I wanted except for the miniuscule 4 banger. I had previously owned a 74 2002 and racked up 200+K miles on it, so I didn't have any questions about reliability. I waited around for the inline 6, and when it finally came out I pounced.

Anyway, to make a long story short, the older z's are pretty cheap now. You can pick up an old 2.8 for under 10K. These cars are built like tanks and extremely reliable. It's just shy of 200 horses, about 190 torque, zero to 60 under 6 and an absolute blast to drive. The inline 2.8 engine is about as reliable and time tested as they come, it's been floating around BMW models, constantly refined for over 20 years.

So anyway, if anyone is looking around for a fun, relatively inexpensive 2 seat ragtop that's a blast to drive and reliable, I defintely recommend you check out an older z3

Chuck

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