



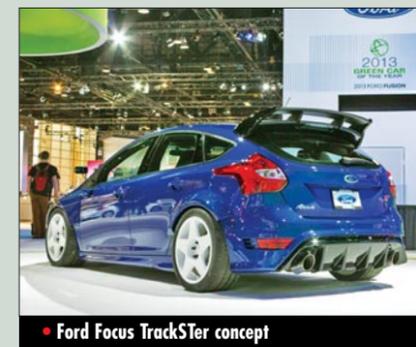
• 2014 Nissan GT-R Track Edition



• 2014 Toyota Tundra CrewMax



• 2014 Jaguar F-Type



• Ford Focus TrackSTER concept

Chicago concepts and premieres

This is the first year we have gone to the Chicago Auto Show. As noted in the prior piece, the Detroit show (North American International Auto Show) moved to a later date this year, conflicting with the Arizona auctions. So we let the dust settle on those and did this instead. It's a different show in some ways. The venue—McCormick Place, the largest convention center in North America—is a beauty. And there's a little more elbow room and conversation than at Detroit.

Nissan had a significant presence at this show, including development in their commercial line and several performance iterations including two from NISMO.

- A **2014 Nissan GT-R Track Edition** takes this famously near-perfect supercar and finds ways to enhance it—specifically for track use. The enhancements include suspension developed at the Nürburgring by Toshio Suzuki, removal of the rear seats, a front spoiler with carbon fiber cooling ducts and brake cooling air guides. This slimmed down powerhouse goes on sale in May.

- Nissan's NISMO motorsports group brought two hot cars to the Chicago stand: a **2014 Nissan Juke NISMO** and a **2014 Nissan 370Z NISMO**, both recognizable by their white paint jobs with red stripes and grey highlights. The 370Z NISMO carries forward its 350-hp 3.7-liter V6, close-ratio 6-speed manual transmission, sport-tuned suspension and brakes and 19-inch forged aluminum-alloy wheels. The Juke NISMO is a complete reworking of this quirky car, with a 197-hp 1.6-liter turbo and body work that improves downforce by 37 percent. The Juke has a reworked interior with bolstered seats. Watch for both this summer.

- As Ford introduced their new big commercial van in Detroit (see prior item), a few years after bringing its



smaller sibling to the States, Nissan did things in the other order. Their big NV Cargo Van—1500, 2500 HD and 3500 HD, along with a passenger version—was introduced as a 2012 model and is now joined by the **2013 Nissan NV200 Compact Cargo Van**, a panel version of the same vehicle that's becoming New York City's new standard taxi. Starting under \$20,000, getting 24 MPG combined, and sporting 122.7 cu.ft. of interior volume, with two sliding side doors, these should sell very well.

- The **Chevrolet "Turbo" Camaro Coupe** is purely a Hollywood promotional item, but it's a beauty. Impractical on many levels—visibility front or rear, for example—this show car has a supercharged 400-hp V8 with a classic huge blower. "Turbo" is a DreamWorks movie due out in July, about—speaking of impractical—a snail who dreams of winning the Indy 500. This Camaro is all show, but it's fun—and easy—to visualize the go.

- Blending style elements of a grand touring coupe—especially the Kia GT concept car from 2011—with the cargo and utility elements of a crossover, the four-passenger **Kia Cross GT concept** drew a huge crowd on the strength of its style and features. The earlier rear-wheel-drive GT was a German design, but the Cross GT was penned at the Kia Design Center America, in Southern California. The Cross GT is a hybrid, with a 3.8-liter V6, parallel electric motor, 8-speed automatic and torque-vectoring all-wheel drive, producing 400 hp and 500 lb-ft of torque. Its all-electric range is 20 miles.



• 2014 Nissan Juke NISMO



• Chevrolet "Turbo" Camaro Coupe show car



• Kia Cross GT hybrid concept

- The **2014 Toyota Tundra** has been completely redesigned, while maintaining a style that's instantly recognizable. Sharper and even beefier, the new lineup was engineered in Michigan and styled by Caltly Design Research in Newport Beach. Interiors are all new, with more differentiation between grades. Three engines are a 4.0L V6, 4.6L V8 and 381-hp 5.7L i-Force V8. Electronic features such as blind spot monitor and cross traffic alert will be available on the new Tundra, useful in a big vehicle. Regular, double and CrewMax cabs are available, all in two- or four-wheel drive.

- Jaguar Land Rover North America president Andy Goss kicked off the Chicago show with a thorough product overview. One highly anticipated highlight was the all-new **2014 Jaguar F-TYPE**, first revealed last fall at the 2012 Paris Motor Show. This front-engine, rear-drive two-seat sports car returns to the brand's dearest roots and will come in 340-hp and 380-hp supercharged V6 versions, plus a 495-hp supercharged V8 version, ranging in base price from \$69,000 to \$92,000. As light as 3521 pounds, the F-TYPE is built with fourth-generation Jaguar aluminum architecture. Acceleration times vary by engine from 4.2 to 5.1 seconds, and the convertible top can be retracted in just 12 seconds at up to 30 mph. The F-TYPE arrives at dealers in the US this summer.

- The **Ford Focus TrackSTER concept** is an effort by Project ST—Ford Racing, Ken Block and LA tuning outfit fifteen52 working together—and is the first of three Focus ST builds geared toward hardcore performance. The Ford Racing short-throw shifter and performance exhaust system used in the TrackSTER will be available to all Focus ST enthusiasts. Other Ford Racing parts include a Mountune engine build with forged rods and pistons, performance intercooler and upgraded ECU; Quaife limited-slip differential from Focus ST-R; Centerforce custom clutch; four-piston front discs by StopTech; and fender flares from the Chinese Touring Car Championship Focus.

- The new **Mopar '13 SRT Viper** was on display in a 1000-plus-square-foot Mopar Garage, an elite selection of more than 300 Mopar parts and accessories made specifically for the SRT Viper, Dodge Dart and Fiat 500. Other "Moparized" vehicles on display included a Jeep Wrangler, Chrysler Town & Country and Ram truck. New Mopar-first features include smartphone vehicle-info apps, electronic owner's manuals including complete kits in Spanish, the ability to make a vehicle a WiFi hot spot, in-vehicle portable device wireless charging, WiTECH vehicle diagnosis and software updates and more.

- Chevrolet reenters the diesel car market with the **2014 Chevrolet Cruze 2.0TD Clean Turbo Diesel**, the cleanest diesel passenger car GM has ever produced—generating less than 10 percent the NOx and particulates of previous-gen GM diesels. GM testing at launch estimates best-in-segment range and 42 MPG highway mileage from an approximately 148-hp and 258 lb-ft engine (EPA testing will follow). The car's 0-to-60 acceleration is estimated at 8.6 seconds, competitive with popular German diesel cars that dominate the US market. Starting price will be \$25,695, with a six-speed automatic, four-wheel ABS discs, 17-inch alloy wheels, rear spoiler and leather-appointed seating.

- Four decades after the original—a 3500-unit limited edition in 1973 called GSR (for Gelb Schwarzer Renner or "Yellow Black Racer")—meet the **2014 Volkswagen Beetle GSR**. Based on the original, the new Beetle GSR has a yellow body with matte black hood, decklid and bumpers, black rocker panel stripes and a rear spoiler. The GSR has 19-inch alloy wheels and silver brake calipers and debuts an upgraded 210-hp four-cylinder turbo (also coming to the Jetta GLI and Beetle Turbo during the 2013 model year). The new Beetle GSR has an upgraded yellow and black interior with sport seats, yellow stitching, leather sport steering wheel, R-Line dash pad, GSR shift lever and more. As with the original, the new Beetle GSR will be limited to 3500 units. ■



• Mopar '13 SRT Viper



• Chevrolet Cruze 2.0TD Diesel



• 2014 Volkswagen Beetle GSR