

THURSDAY,  
March 10, 2011

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### UNVEILING PLANNED

New Accent and its 'Fluidic Sculpture' to be on display

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Honda's small car named Consumer Reports' best value auto

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Special pullout section

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The Mazda2 'Yozora' edition (meaning 'night sky' in Japanese) wears a black exterior with a '2' themed decal package on the front driver's side bumper and fender. This particular car is shod in winter tires on 15-inch steel rims (included), but also comes with 16-inch alloys and low-profile tires for the warmer months.

## Yozora offers style and zoom zoom on a budget

By NEIL MOORE  
Metroland Media Group  
Carguide Magazine

It was ironic—nearly running out of gas in Mazda's most fuel-efficient vehicle.

But as I drove on pins and needles wondering when the little Mazda2 would conk out and leave me stranded on this slushy road, I was at least thankful that I had spotted its subtle warning.

Two minutes earlier, I noticed a teensy gray blob in the monochrome LCD display. 'Oh no, I think that's a gas pump!' I blurted, wondering how long it had been flashing.

The tiny digital bar that represents remaining fuel

had also disappeared.

A guy like me needs a light, a warning chime or a big, honking 'E' to whack me over the head.

I guess Mazda designers were as stingy on pixels as the car is on fuel. Or perhaps they assumed that typical buyers would be eagle-eyed twenty-somethings.

But this is a small gripe and one of few I encountered during a week of snowy driving in the 2011 Mazda2 'Yozora' edition, a funky limited-production variant of the company's subcompact five-door hatchback that hit the Canadian market last summer.

Although new to North America, the Mazda2 originally launched in Europe, Japan and Australia in

2007, and has since racked up nearly 50 worldwide automotive awards, including the '2008 World Car of the Year.' It was also awarded a five-star safety rating by the Euro NCAP.

In terms of sales numbers, the Mazda2 has sold in the six figures worldwide. And while only 2,868 had been sold here in 2010 since its arrival, the company expects it will be their number two volume seller, next to the Mazda3.

The design of the Mazda2 is compact and sporty, with a wedge shape, short overhangs and distinctive character lines that extend from the front wheel arches to the body shoulders. With a wide track and

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