

Driving Joy on a Budget

Subaru Sports Coupe Proves Fun Doesn't Have to Break the Bank

By Derek Price

CARGAZING.COM

The 2024 Subaru BRZ is a testament to the enduring appeal of the classic sports car formula: light-weight, rear-wheel drive, a sparkling suspension and a manual transmission.

After a week behind the wheel, it's clear that this affordable coupe delivers an abundance of driving pleasure that belies its modest price tag.

At the heart of the BRZ is a naturally aspirated 2.4-liter boxer four-cylinder engine, producing 228 horsepower and 184 lb-ft of torque. While these numbers may not seem impressive on paper, the BRZ's relatively light weight allows it to make the most of its power. The engine is eager to rev, with a satisfying growl that encourages enthusiastic driving.

The six-speed manual transmission is a joy to operate, with short, precise throws that make every gear change a pleasure. It would be a disservice to the car's character to opt for the available automatic. This is a driver's car through and through, and the manual is an integral part of the experience.

Where the BRZ truly shines is in its handling. The chassis is beautifully balanced, with quick, communicative steering that provides excellent feedback.

The STI-tuned suspension



The BRZ tS's sleek profile and subtle performance enhancements create a handsome, purposeful look that punches above its price class.

in the tS model that I tested offers even sharper responses without significantly compromising ride quality. The Brembo braking system provides strong, fade-resistant stopping power, inspiring confidence during spirited driving.

Visually, the BRZ is a handsome little coupe with classic sports-car proportions. The tS model adds subtle visual enhancements, including unique badging and dark gray 18-inch wheels.

Inside, the cabin is driver-focused, with supportive seats and a logical layout of controls. However, material

quality is merely adequate, and there's noticeable road noise at highway speeds — constant reminders of the car's affordable price point.

Practicality is not the BRZ's strong suit. The rear seats are best thought of as additional storage space rather than suitable for passengers. However, for a sports car, the trunk is surprisingly usable, especially with the rear seats folded down.

Fuel economy, rated at 20 mpg city and 27 mpg highway, is reasonable considering the car's performance focus. The inclusion of Subaru's EyeSight driver

assistance suite as standard equipment for 2024 adds a welcome layer of safety technology to this sports car.

At \$36,465 as tested, the 2024 Subaru BRZ tS represents exceptional value in the fun-to-drive car market. It offers a driving experience that rivals much more expensive machines, with a focus on driver engagement that's becoming increasingly rare in today's automotive landscape.

The BRZ isn't without compromises. It's not particularly quick in a straight line. The interior isn't luxurious, and it's not practical as a daily driver for those who

regularly need to carry more than one passenger. But for enthusiasts seeking a pure driving experience without breaking the bank, it's hard to beat.

In a world of increasingly complex and expensive performance cars, the BRZ is a refreshing throwback to simpler times. It proves that you don't need massive horsepower or a six-figure price tag to have fun behind the wheel.

For those who, like me, prioritize driving enjoyment above all else, the BRZ offers an unbeatable combination of performance, affordability and pure automotive joy.

AT A GLANCE

WHAT WAS TESTED?

2024 Subaru BRZ tS (\$35,345). Options: None. Price as tested (including \$1,120 destination charge): \$36,465

BY THE NUMBERS

Wheelbase: 101.4 in.
Length: 167.9 in.
Width: 69.9 in.
Height: 51.6 in.
Engine: 2.4-liter horizontally opposed four cylinder (228 hp, 184 ft. lbs.)
Transmission: Six-speed manual
MPG: 20 city, 27 highway

RATINGS

Style: 10
Performance: 8
Price: 9
Handling: 9
Ride: 6
Comfort: 4
Quality: 7
Overall: 9

WHY BUY IT?

The 2024 Subaru BRZ tS delivers an engaging, back-to-basics sports car experience with sharp handling, a satisfying manual transmission, and attractive styling at a price point that's hard to beat in today's performance car market.

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The STI-tuned suspension in the tS model that I tested offers even sharper responses without significantly compromising ride



While not luxurious, the BRZ's driver-focused cockpit provides all the essentials for an engaging driving experience, with supportive seats and well-placed controls.

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A CLOSER LOOK



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FACTS, FIGURES AND RATINGS

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