



**I**tasha when translated to English literally means "pain mobile"; a Japanese term for an otaku fad of drivers decking the exterior of their cars with fictional characters of anime, manga, or video games. These characters usually consist of predominately "cute" female characters. The decorations also involve bright and eye-catching paint schemes and stickers.

More recently, the involvement of Itasha in real motorsport events has increased rapidly. Though most of them are still amateur level events, participation of Itasha in races are increasing, and they usually receive much media coverage thanks to their colourful designs. Some of the entries have also yielded impressive results in their participation, including individual race wins or even overall champion titles.

Participation of Itasha in Japan's professional level motorsport events can be seen as early as 2007, when a Lancer Evolution VII featuring themes of Lucky Star and The Melancholy of Haruhi Suzumiya in the Japan Dirt Trial.

One year later, Studie GLAD Racing (a BMW tuning house in Japan)'s Hatsune Miku-themed Z4 was entered into the Super GT GT300 class; marking the debut of an Itasha styled race car in an international event directly under FIA. Since then different Itasha vehicles belonging to various teams have entered all kinds of motorsport events in Japan, like Super GT, Super Taikyu, Japan Rally

# ANIME AGGRESSION

■■ SINGAPORE'S TUNING CAR CULTURE MIGHT HAVE TAKEN A BEATING THANKS TO THE AUTHORITIES CLAMPING DOWN HEAVILY ON ILLEGAL MODIFICATIONS BUT THAT HASN'T STOPPED CALVIN FROM REALISING HIS DREAM, AN ITASHA-STYLED EVO X THAT'S SURE TO TURN HEADS AND DROP JAWS WHENEVER HE DRIVES BY. ■■



Championship, and D1 Grand Prix. In even more recent events, competitions between different Itasha teams in a single race can also be seen as well.

Though Itasha-themed vehicles in Singapore might not have the same kind of following it has back in Japan, Calvin was bent on achieving a new look for his prized Evo X. Previously decked out in the Ohlins race-styled livery, Calvin approached Visionworkz to bring his idea to reality – an Itasha style Hatsune Miku Evo X. The result? An original design by Visionworkz that's a work of art, a delicate balance between the pure aggressive nature of the Evolution's stance while retaining the anime touch.

To further compliment the design, Calvin has added various exterior styling bits to further the Evo's cause. There's a Test and Service full aerokit, Carbon Revo Carbon Fibre Bonnet, Garnador Carbon

Fibre mirrors, Voltex Type 5 GT-Wing, Chargespeed Carbon Fibre front fender ducts and Advan Racing RS Rims specially Plasti-Dip with blue to achieve a unique matt-light blue texture.

Of course, Calvin's vehicle isn't just about the styling, when push comes to shove; this Evo X has the beef to back up its show stopping exterior too. For suspension, the Evo rides on HKS Hipermix 3 Sports Coilovers. Output has been bolstered with a Trust Exhaust Muffler at the rear and a Blitz Air-Intake System with custom air box upfront. There's also a Greddy Radiator Cap, Samco Silicon Hoses and also a Rhommel tuned EcuTek for added performance.

Bringing the Mitsu to a halt are massive 6-Pot front, 4-Pot rear AP Racing Brake kits. Handling has also been boosted with a full set of Cusco Power Braces and Whiteline front and rear sway bars. Within the engine bay, the stock fuel pump has been changed to a high





capacity Walbro unit with a custom fuel rail. The block also gets a Car Feels custom manifold heat shield. Calvin also swapped out the original clutch for an OS Giken Organic unit and installed a Car Feels custom surge tank system.

Monitoring the engine vitals is a HKS Camp 2 system that's hooked up to JVC audio headunit freeing up precious space on the dashboard from being cluttered by numerous gauges. Mounted on top of the dash is a large Defi Tachometer with a built-in shift lamps, helping Calvin time his shifts better. A Blitz Boost Controller id3 and Turbo Timer round up the rest of the electronics within the cabin. Elsewhere, Calvin also installed a Keys Racing Steering wheel and gear knob together with Sparco pedals. ✱

## INFO BOX

### EXTERIOR

- Test and Service Body kit
- Carbon Revo Carbon Fibre Bonnet
- Carbon Fibre Garnador mirrors
- Voltex Type 5 GT Wing
- Advan Racing RS Rims (Plasti Dip with Blue)
- Chargespeed carbon fibre front fender ducts
- 3M Full Matt Black Car Sticker Wrap by Visionworkz
- Customize Hatsune Miku Animation and Track Design by Visionworkz

### PERFORMANCE

- HKS Hipermax 3 Sports Coilovers
- LTA Approved Trust Exhaust Muffler
- 6 pot front, 4 pot rear AP Racing Brake system
- Blitz Air filter with custom air box
- Walbro Fuel pump and custom fuel rail
- Car Feels custom manifold heat shield
- Greddy Radiator Cap
- Samco silicon hoses
- Rhommel Tuned with EcuTek
- Cusco Power Braces (Full Set)
- OS Giken Organic Clutch System
- Carfeels Custom surge tank system
- Whiteline Front and Rear Sway Bars

### ELECTRONICS/ INTERIOR

- HKS Camp 2 Monitoring System
- Defi Tachometer
- Blitz Boost Controller id3
- Blitz turbo timer
- Keys Racing Steering wheel and gear knob
- Sparco pedals

### THE LEADING PROVIDER OF MOTORSPORTS EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS

EduTorque Pte Ltd is an educational-based company in Singapore, which provides quality enrichment programmes for Ministry of Education (MOE) schools. As the leading provider of Motorsports Education, EduTorque specializes in teaching Science programmes through the use of innovative tools and technologies.

EduTorque focuses on educating students, where its programmes are customized to suit their Science Syllabus and making learning experiential and engaging for them. EduTorque value-adds its services by incorporating national and values education into our programmes and actively promote Motorsports.

EduTorque values partnerships, as we believe in building long term relationships to provide the best experience for our students. Auto Spritze Pte Ltd, a two-storey workshop that specializes in repairing and servicing Continental cars, exposes our students to learning more about how the industry works and imparting essential automotive knowledge and life skills.

One of EduTorque's close industry partners – Visionworkz, also plays an important role in educating our students. Visionworkz opens their doors to allow students to learn about vinyl graphic designs, exposing them to another creative aspect in the motorsports industry. Students are given the opportunity to experience real life car decaling at their workshop through various hands-on activities.

Going a step further beyond education, EduTorque partners with various career professionals, such as automotive journalists and racing professionals to give talks and inspire students. In igniting their passion through authentic learning, EduTorque serves to bring the heart of education to the hearts of our students.

