

OVERALL SCORE

**78**

✔ CR Recommended

**2020 Subaru BRZ**

CR MPG Overall 30 / City 23 / Hwy 37 mpg  
#3 of 12 Sports/Sporty Cars Under \$40,000

ROAD TEST

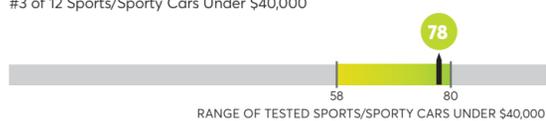
79/100

PREDICTED RELIABILITY

4/5

PREDICTED OWNER SATISFACTION

4/5



- ✔ **HIGHS**
- Fun to drive
  - Handling
  - Braking
  - Fuel economy

- ✘ **LOWS**
- Ride
  - Noise
  - Access
  - Token rear seat

Road Test Results

Performance

Acceleration	4/5
0 to 60 mph	7.2 sec
Transmission	5/5
Fuel Economy	4/5
CR's Overall Mileage	30 mpg
CR's City Mileage	23 mpg
CR's Highway Mileage	37 mpg
Annual Fuel Cost	\$1,110
Braking	5/5
Emergency Handling	5/5

Comfort/Convenience

Ride	2/5
Noise	2/5
Front Seat Comfort	4/5
Rear Seat Comfort	1/5
Interior Fit & Finish	4/5
Trunk/Cargo Area	2/5

Survey Results

Reliability History

2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
▲	NA						

Owner Satisfaction

2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
●	NA	NA	NA	●	NA	NA	NA



CR Road Test Results

With the BRZ, Subaru has hit the spot for driving enthusiasts with an exhilarating to drive sports coupe that also happens to be affordable and economical at the pump. Co-developed by Subaru and Toyota, the BRZ and 86 (formerly Scion FR-S) are nearly identical twins. The only differences are styling nuances and suspension tuning. The Subaru offers more upscale features and factory options than the Toyota.

Each is powered by the same 205-hp, 2.0-liter four-cylinder engine, mated to a slick-shifting six-speed manual transmission. That combo delivers ample acceleration, thanks to well-chosen gear ratios, and impressive fuel economy of 30 mpg.

But these rear-wheel-drive coupes aren't about raw power or scrimping at the pump. Their magic comes from the super-sharp, agile handling and excellent braking that makes them so enticing to drive, whether on a track or a twisty, back-country road.

Their trade-offs are typical for sports cars: a jittery ride, noisy cabin, and vestigial rear seats. And getting in and out of these low-slung cars requires a bit of ducking.

Best Version to Get

Just two trims are offered: Limited and tS, with the choice of a six-speed manual or six-speed automatic transmission. Both are fairly well equipped. The Limited gets you leather and synthetic suede heated front seats, dual-zone automatic climate control, and keyless entry. The tS brings 18-wheels, summer-only tires, Brembo brakes, and sportier suspension tuning.

Notable changes:

Updates for 2019 include a standard 7.0-inch infotainment system with navigation for the Limited trim, which can be updated over-the-air via WiFi.

To read the full road test, visit [www.consumerreports.org/cars/subaru/brz/2020/road-test](http://www.consumerreports.org/cars/subaru/brz/2020/road-test)

New Cars

(as of November 2020)



CR Recommended	Make & Model	Overall Score	Road Test Results		Survey Results		Highs	Lows
			Road-test score	Overall mpg	Predicted reliability	Owner satisfaction		
✔	2021 Mazda MX-5 Miata	87	80	34	▲	▲	One of the few affordable roadsters on the market, agile and super-fun to drive, one of the best shifting manual transmissions you can buy, easy manual top operation, 34 mpg overall translates into guilt-free fun, eager and willing engine, exhaust sounds invigorating.	Excruciatingly loud on highway, jittery ride, tight, low cabin won't fit everyone, infotainment system requires a learning curve.
✔	2021 Hyundai Veloster	80	83	29	▲	▲	Handling, braking, acceleration, manual shifter, controls.	Ride, noise, visibility.
✔	2020 Subaru BRZ	78	79	30	▲	▲	Fun to drive, handling, braking, fuel economy.	Ride, noise, access, token rear seat.
✔	2020 Toyota 86	77	78	30	▲	▲	Driving fun, handling, braking, fuel economy.	Ride, noise, access, radio controls, token rear seat.
✔	2020 Nissan Z	73	81	23	●	●	Acceleration, handling, braking, fit and finish.	Ride, noise, visibility, access.
✔	2021 Ford Mustang	70	76	25	●	▲	Iconic design, agile handling, lots of performance for price, classic V8 sound and brown, decent visibility for a sports coupe, leather seats are very supportive, Sync 3 touch screen infotainment system is easy to use.	Very tight rear seat, four-cylinder turbo sounds too raspy, performance package's summer tires need heat for grip.
	2021 Volkswagen GTI	63	82	29	●	▲	Fun to drive with sporty handling, accommodating rear seat, hatchback utility, civilized ride comfort and interior noise levels, very nicely trimmed interior for the class, 29 mpg overall is impressive, easy-to-use infotainment system, feels a lot like an Audi, but for considerably less money, standard FCW, AEB, BSW.	Spotty reliability.
	2021 Mini Cooper	59	80	30	●	●	Fun to drive, sips fuel, compact dimensions make it easy to park and maneuver in urban settings, unique character, looks, and charm, standard automatic emergency braking.	Gets expensive for such a small car, small cargo area, rear seat for kids or pets only, controls have a learning curve, ride comfort and noise might be a deterrent for some.
	2021 Subaru WRX	58	75	26	●	●	Tremendously capable handling, all-wheel-drive traction, very quick acceleration, practical four-door sedan with a decent rear seat and roomy trunk, affordable high performance.	Painfully short in refinement, near-brutal ride, very loud inside, difficult to drive smoothly thanks to hair-trigger throttle, clunky shifter, and stiff clutch.
	2020 Fiat 124	32	76	31	●	●	Nimble handling, fun to drive, crisp shifter, easy manual top operation.	Jittery ride, deafening on the highway, tight cockpit, no automatic emergency braking or forward collision warning, minimal interior and trunk storage, low cabin equals awkward access.
	2022 Subaru BRZ	Not Tested	79	30	▲	▲		
	2022 Volkswagen GTI	Not Tested	79	30	●	▲		

HOW TO READ THE RATINGS

Recommended vehicles, indicated with a check mark (✔), are the models with the highest Overall Scores that meet the threshold in their category.

Make + Model reflect the vehicle we tested and its engine displacement.

Overall Score reflects a vehicle's performance in our road tests; the latest results from the reliability and owner satisfaction sections of CR's exclusive Annual Auto Surveys; the availability of frontal crash prevention systems with forward collision warning, automatic emergency braking, and pedestrian detection, along with blind spot warning; and, if available, results from government and insurance-industry crash tests.

Survey Results reflect findings from CR's Annual Auto Surveys, completed by Consumer Reports members.

Predicted reliability is our determination of how well a model will hold up, based on the problems that members reported in CR's Annual Auto Surveys, which include data on around 420,000 vehicles.

Owner satisfaction is based on the percentage of surveyed owners who said they would definitely buy the same car again. We use a model's latest three years of data to determine the prediction, provided it hasn't been redesigned or significantly updated. In cases where we have insufficient survey responses, or when a model is all-new or redesigned, we use our expert judgment based on brand track record and similar models to predict reliability and owner-satisfaction ratings.

Road-Test Results include CR's test findings that we feel are the most relevant. We buy and test between 50 and 60 vehicles each year, driving them for thousands of miles and putting them through more than 50 tests and evaluations. The results of these tests make up our road-test score. Some tests, such as those for braking and fuel economy, are measured with instruments; categories such as seat and ride comfort, noise, and fit and finish are graded by our experts. The Usability rating is a combination of our testers' assessments of the ease of performing everyday driving tasks, as well as cockpit ergonomics and interface design. The energy consumption of electric vehicles is expressed in a miles-per-gallon equivalent rating (MPGe). Energy consumption for plug-in hybrids is listed in electric and gas modes.

Highs and Lows give a quick summary of a model's notable strengths and weaknesses.

Why Some Vehicles Are Not Rated  
Certain models have been redesigned or extensively freshened since our last test, or are new. All are scheduled to be included in future road tests. Models include the Subaru BRZ and Volkswagen GTI.

What Our Ratings Symbols Mean



Go to [CR.org/newcarbuyingguide](http://CR.org/newcarbuyingguide) for advice on whether you should buy or lease your next new car, and other car shopping tips.