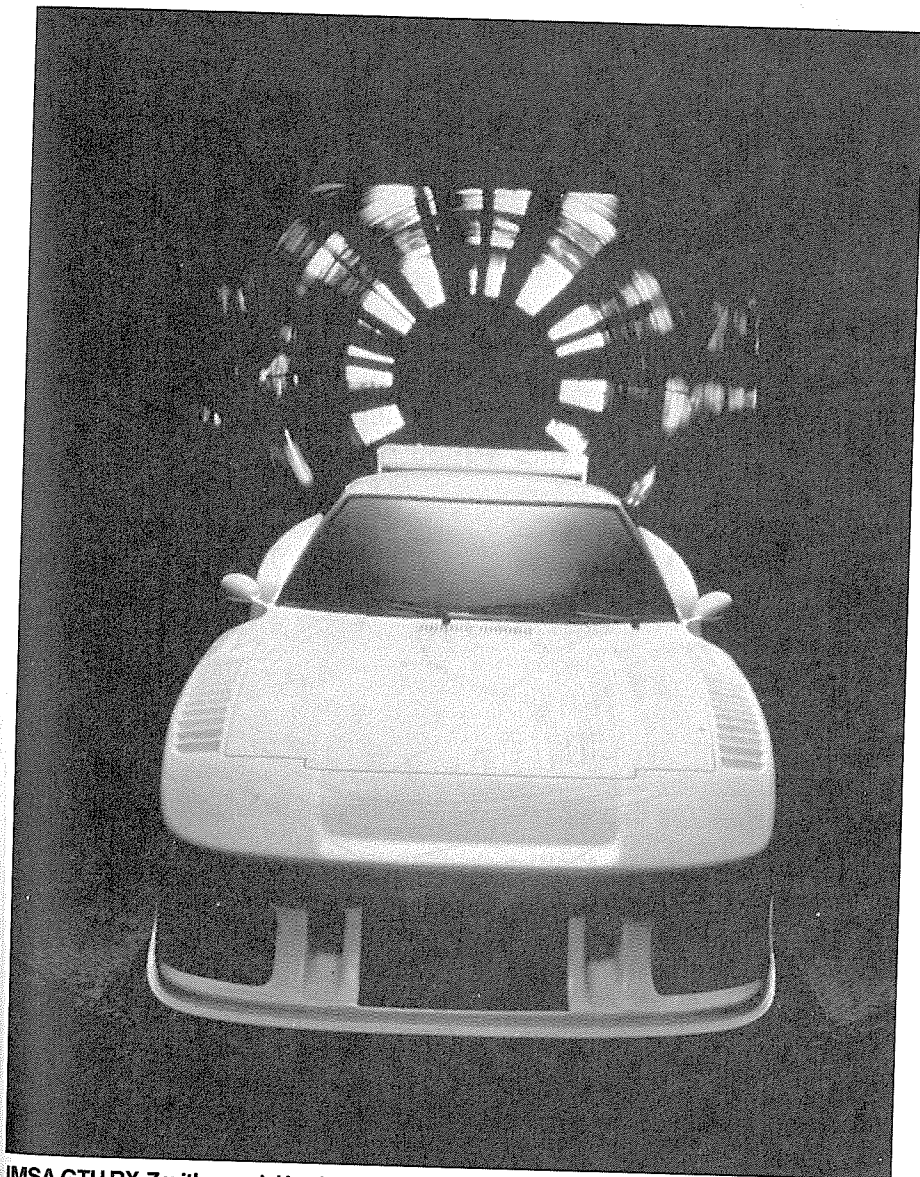


Body Mods



IMSA GTU RX-7 with special body panels and rear wing being tested in factory wind tunnel for lift/downforce, drag and other aerodynamic characteristics. Although not critical for street performance, good aerodynamics is desirable; it's essential for a race car. Photo courtesy *Rotary Rocket* magazine.

The following was reprinted with permission of *Rotary Rocket* magazine from an article that appeared in their September 1986 issue. Thanks!

For subscription information to the RX-7 Club of America magazine, write *Rotary Rocket*, 4020 Palos Verdes Drive North, Suite 108, Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274. *Rotary Rocket* features the latest pieces for your RX-7.

Tom Monroe

BODY PARTS FOR THE RX-7

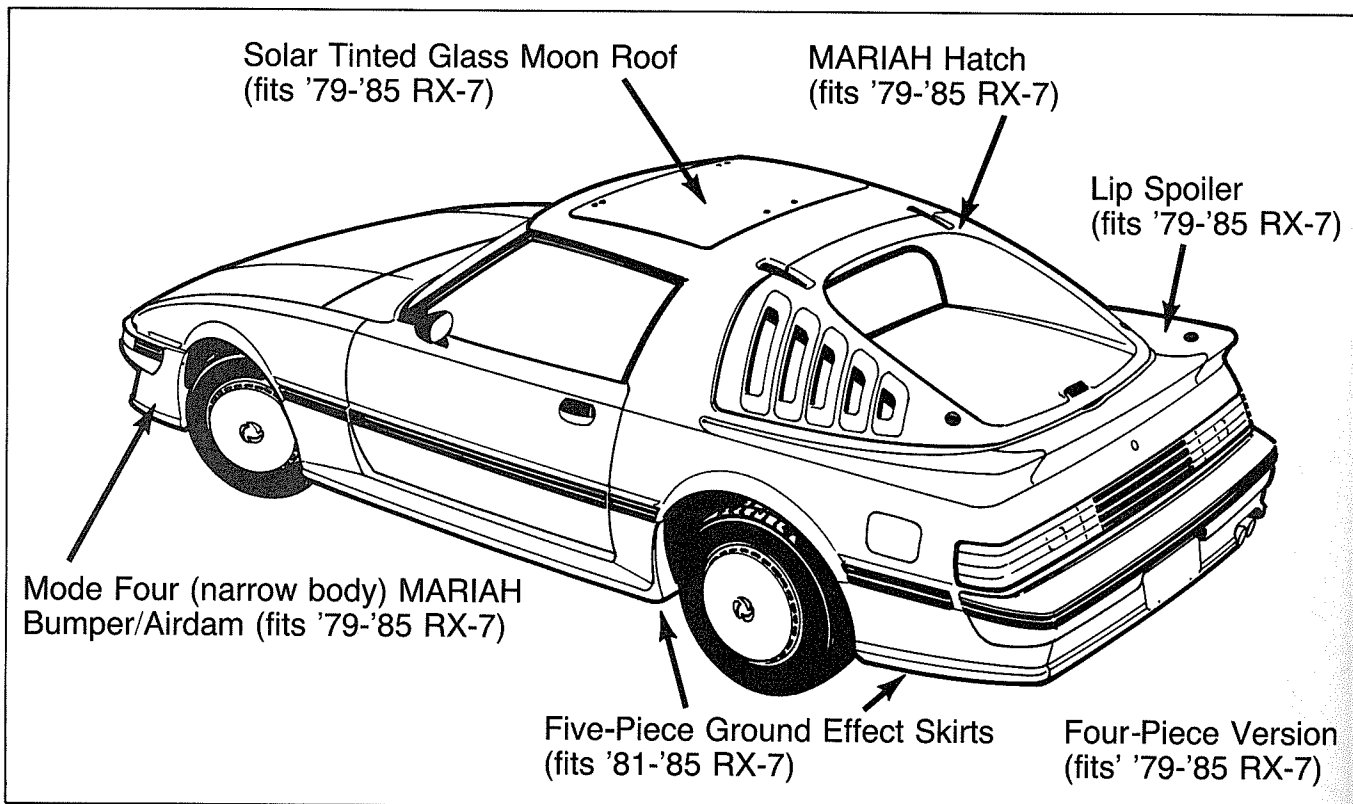
Since its introduction eight years ago, the Mazda RX-7 has been customized in a wide variety of styles. In 1978, when we were preparing the first issue of *Rotary Rocket*, we discovered a beautiful fully customized RX-7 in Garden Grove, California. Back then there were no ready-made body parts or aerodynamic kits for the RX-7 so he had to have all the custom (parts) made of steel at a cost more than exceeding the price he paid for the RX-7.

His RX-7 won numerous awards in car shows and would probably be turning heads today if its owner had not skidded off a slick turn on a mountain road. He and the car tumbled over 100 feet down the slope. Although he emerged with only a few cuts and bruises, that was the end of the world's first fullout custom RX-7. But only the beginning for glamorous customized RX-7s.

The situation has totally changed since the days when you had to roll your own. Now a number of enterprising companies provide a variety of parts and services to make your RX-7 unique in appearance. You can easily add sporty appendages such as body flares, spoilers and whale tails or you can remove parts, such as the top, to make your RX-7 into a convertible. There are individual pieces and complete body packages and some can be mixed and matched. While it took several years for such parts to appear for the original RX-7, 1986 RX-7 owners are luckier. Components are already available to transform your new sports car and



BIS Smartparts kit for RX-7 includes air dam, skirts and rear wing. Parts are by Vestatec of West Germany. Photos courtesy BIS Smartparts.



Mode Four (narrow) body-part kit from Design Energy's Mariah line for 1981—85 (five-piece skirts) or '79—85 (four-piece skirts) RX-7 includes bumper/air dam and ground-effects skirts. Car is also fitted with lip spoiler, louvered hatch and Moon roof. Drawing courtesy Design Energy.

there are even more waiting to make their appearance.

The following illustrates the variety of packages now available and in production. One manufacturer that is missing is Mazda. Their aerodynamic package is

currently being revised and the new design was not finished at press time. Inquire at your local Mazda dealer as to when the package will be available.

Note that the firms represented also sell a wide range of other accessories for

the RX-7. They can enhance your interior or further customize your new body with a wide range of wheels and tires. Contact them at the addresses given for pricing information and additional details on their RX-7 components.

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AUTO-PLAS

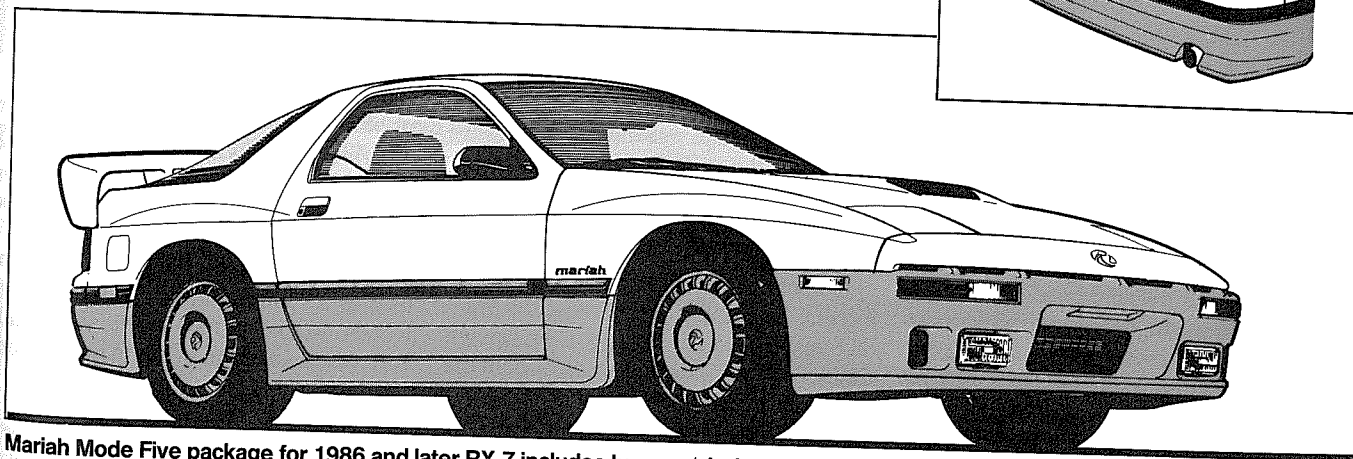
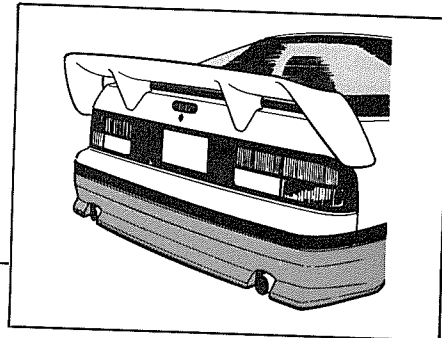
Auto Plas is a major source of rear-window louvers for the RX-7. They also manufacture an IMSA-style rear tail for 1979—1985 RX-7s that is a perfect mate for their louvers. The tail is made of polyurethane foam with a black matte finish. The tail fits over the antenna and is easily attached with three screws which fasten the tail to the bodywork.

AUTOTRIX

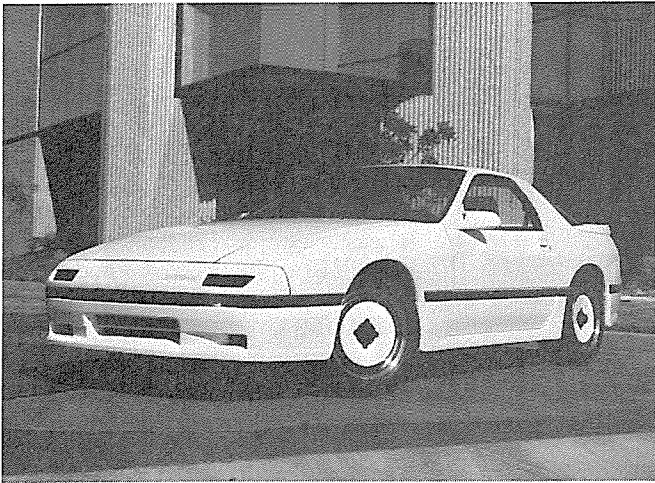
Autotrix carries a very wide range of aerodynamic aids and body conversion kits for 1979 through 1986 RX-7s, including those made by Design Energy, Kaminari, Pacific T-Top, Vestatec, Kent Racing and Trans-Acc. Autotrix also is an authorized installation center.



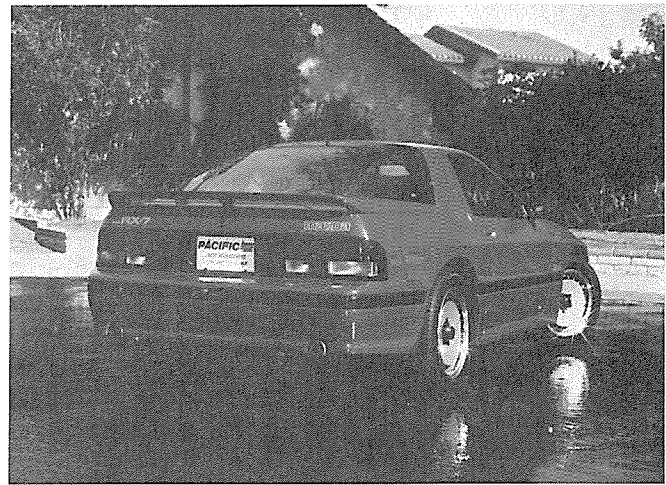
Mariah Mode One (wide) body-parts kit for 1979—85 RX-7 includes bumper/air dam, bumper reinforcement bar, fender flares and splash shields for inner front fenders. Car is also equipped with driving lights, hood with integral NACA ducts, wind deflectors over side glass, louvered hatch, whale-tail spoiler and Moon roof. Complete conversion also includes 225/50 and 245/50VR-15 tires on Gotti wheels, Koni and Suspension Techniques suspension components and modified engine which produces 180 HP. Photo courtesy Design Energy.



Mariah Mode Five package for 1986 and later RX-7 includes bumper/air dam assembly, skirts and rear airfoil. Not shown are functional brake-cooling inlets and underpan spoilers. Drawings courtesy Design Energy.



1986 RX-7 fitted with Pacific T-Top's aero kit in monochromatic paint scheme. Photo courtesy Pacific T-Top, Inc.



Rear view of Pacific T-Top aero-kit equipped '86 RX-7 shows lip spoiler and polished wheels. Photo courtesy Pacific T-Top, Inc.

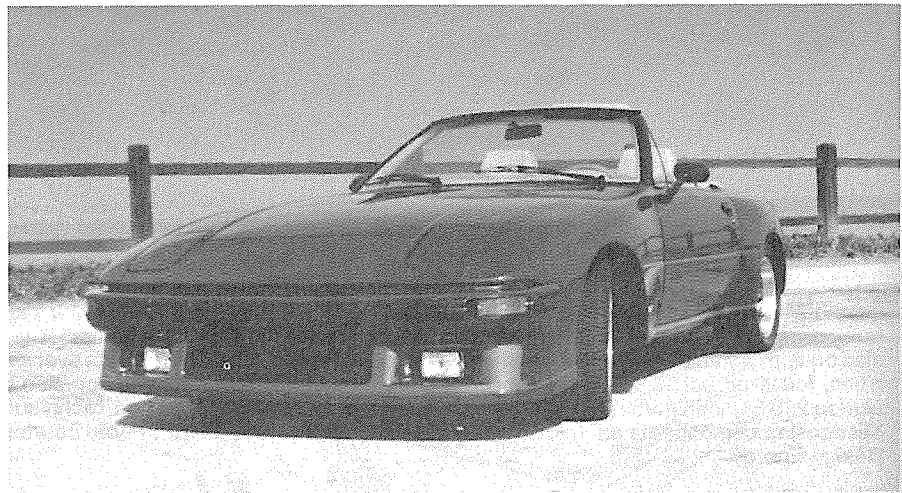
BIS SMARTPARTS

This is a West German design by Vestatec for the RX-7, originally designed and built for Mazda of Switzerland. The kit consists of a front air dam, four-piece side-skirt set and a rear wing. The construction method is RIM-urethane, the same process used for the Porsche 928 rear bumper system, which features a built-in memory to restore the shape after impact. The air dam and skirts are fully warranted against breakage, such as when parking a car against a high curb, or splitting from the impact of a flying stone. The pieces are easily painted in your choice of colors. Call or write BIS for the name of a dealer near you.

DESIGN ENERGY

Long-time readers of Rotary Rocket are very familiar with the Mariah line of RX-7 body parts. The Ultima project car of the RX-7 Club of America sported Mariah body components. While their body parts dramatically change the visual appearance of 1979—1985 RX-7s, Design Energy also concentrates on improving the actual aerodynamics of the car as discussed in Tech Line this issue.

Their fiberglass line includes a bumper/airdam, a rear lip spoiler, a flying whaletail and a NACA hood scoop. The parts can be obtained individually or as part of the Mariah Wide Body Pack-



How about an IMSA convertible? RX-7 Club's project car, the Ultima, was done by Pacific Avatar. Photo courtesy Rotary Rocket magazine.

age. And all members of the RX-7 Club of America qualify for substantial discounts on these aerodynamic components.

Owners of 1986 RX-7s should not feel left out. They can now purchase the Mazda Finish Line aero package from Design Energy. At their design studios, concept drawings depict a totally redefined 1986 RX-7. It will give the new RX-7 a dynamic wedge shape with a significant change to the front-end styling and yield

a significantly wider look. It will be available only as a "turn-key" package designed to turn the RX-7 into a high-end exotic car which will appeal to the GT driver who demands the likes of a Countach or a Testarossa. Sound interesting? Rotary Rocket will provide the details and pictures as soon as it is in production.

KAMINARI

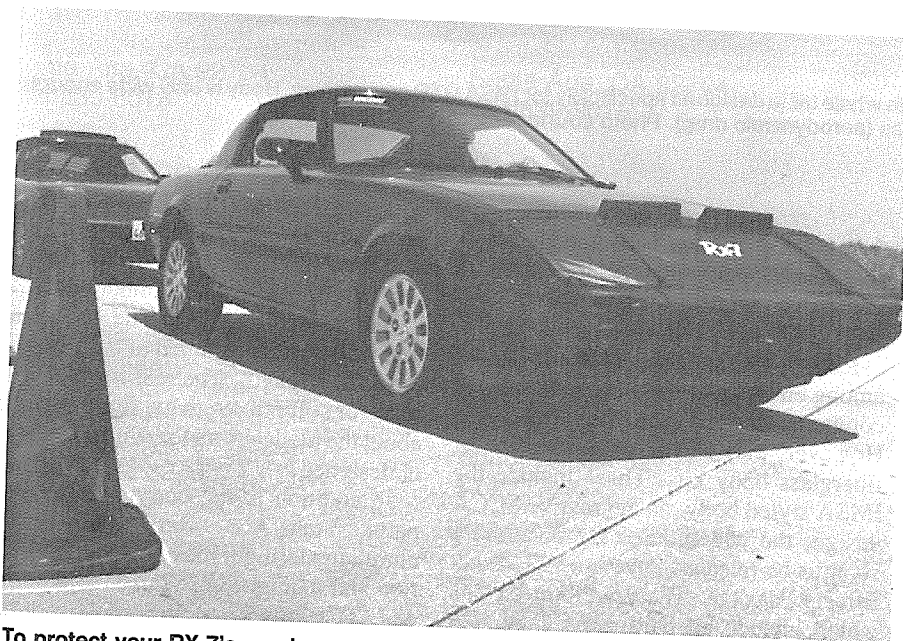
This company has been around for a long time with body packages for other

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More traditional is this convertible conversion by Pacific Avatar. Photo courtesy *Rotary Rocket* magazine.



To protect your RX-7's precious nose from flying stones, consider fitting it with a bra. Photo courtesy *Rotary Rocket* magazine.

sports cars. Somehow, they never got around to doing an RX-7 package but that has definitely changed. The beautiful result of their work is pictured on the cover of this issue. Their bolt-on component package for the new RX-7 includes a Euro-tek louvered airdam, full-length sideskirts and a complete wrap-around rear skirt with dual exhaust outlets. Their aero components are constructed of three-ply hand-laminated fiberglass and allowed to slow cure. In fact, they build only one part per day per mold to allow distortion free curing time. They also offer complete installation and high-quality paint work.

If you own an earlier model RX-7, you'll be pleased to know that Kaminari is now completing a body design for your cars and it should be ready soon.

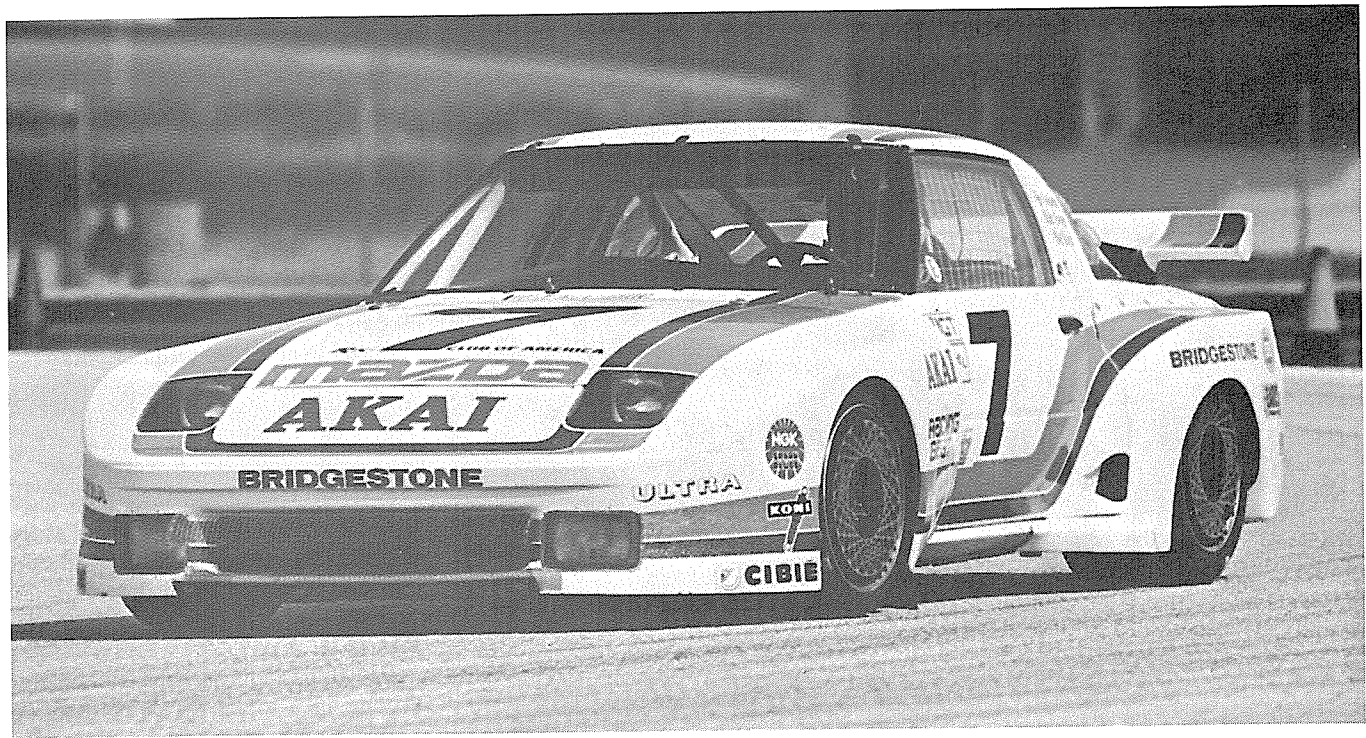
PACIFIC AVATAR

Few things approach the excitement of driving in a top-down convertible, especially when it's based on an RX-7. Pacific Avatar has been turning RX-7s into convertibles since 1980, continuously evolving and improving the design during that period. Their convertibles have been featured in numerous magazines and films over the past six years and they performed the convertible conversion on the RX-7 Club's project car, the Ultima.

In addition to removing the top, they extensively rework the interior frame, beefing it up and adding bracing to prevent chassis flex. Pacific Avatar also offers a wide range of custom interior, exterior and performance options to personalize each convertible. They will convert any 1979—1985 RX-7 in good mechanical shape and are completing their '86 convertible design.

PACIFIC T-TOP

Pacific T-Top has been specializing in the Mazda RX-7 since its introduction. Following the success of their first product, the RX-7 glass moonroof, they realized that many owners wanted to give their RX-7s a more aggressive racing look. Initially, they designed a fiberglass IMSA body which they used on their project cars. It was later made available as a five-piece package for 1979—1980



Pure function, Racing Beat's wide-body kit with whale tail is designed specifically for IMSA GTO competition. Body is only wide enough to cover tires to minimize increase in frontal area (aerodynamic drag). Photo courtesy Racing Beat.

RX-7s and a seven-piece kit for 1981 through 1985 models. The kit contains a front spoiler with bolt-on front and rear fenders that are molded into the car. They also have a rear whale-tail spoiler that is available separately.

The latest in the lineage is the striking new body package for the 1986 RX-7 pictured here. It can be easily installed at any competent body shop and will radically transform the appearance of the RX-7.

RACING BEAT

Racing Beat offers a wide selection of fiberglass parts for race applications as well as both fiberglass and urethane parts for street applications. The race group includes IMSA approved GTU front air dams, front and rear fenders, doors, bumpers, spoiler and hood. For IMSA GTO they make a complete front nose with fenders and a spoiler.

For street applications, they have a number of choices from Creative Car Products, RGA Design, Vestatec and Pacific Auto Accessories. Send \$5.00 for

their catalog of body parts and an extensive selection of performance products.

ROTARY ENGINEERING

Rotary Engineering is well known among enthusiasts for their performance components and engine packages. However, they sell an extensive line of fiberglass body kits. These include the IMSA styled body, an aggressive SCCA design, the wide-bodied IMAGE and a soon-to-be-released Phantom IV Ground Effects Package. These are bolt-on kits which include all hardware. They also have a low-profile whale tail, a flying whale tail, and a NACA duct hood scoop. Their newest body components are Superdam air dams, side skirts and a rear spoiler, made in Germany, which are very strong yet resilient to prevent the damage that can result from high curbs and impacts.

TRANS-ACC INC.

R.G.A. Design has developed and manufactured aerodynamic products for the famed British RX-7 specialists Elford

and Tom Walkinshaw Racing. Trans-Acc now offers these European designs for 1979 through 1985 model RX-7s. The front spoiler, laser side skirts and rear skirts are constructed of high-impact ABS for strength. The rear lip spoiler is made of soft polyurethane foam. Inquire about the model years for which each part is designed.

In addition to the body aerodynamic parts, Trans-Acc offers 1981—1985 aluminum taillight louvers to add protection and a unique appearance to the rear end. The louvers are coated in a black chip-resistant paint but can be painted to match the car's color. Also available is an archguard made of tough PVC to protect both the underside and outside paint of the fender area.

VENTRE

Ventre makes a spoiler, air dam and a targa band for 1979 to 1985 RX-7s. These components are available as a package or separately.

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