



HONDA Spocket

A merican Honda is well aware of the explosive growth of truck sales in the US, and realizes that this is one segment where they have nothing to sell.

While Toyota, Nissan and Mazda have all offered pick-ups for years, Honda has never sold this type of vehicle in America. In keeping with their tradition of innovation and advanced engineering they have recently created the Spocket concept to gauge consumer reaction. A combination sport coupe, pickup and convertible, created by Honda's Torrance, CA design group, the Spocket takes truck design where it has never been before.

Inspired by the 1963 Honda T360 mid-engine pickup truck, which was the company's first mass-produced vehicle, the Spocket offers incredible utility in a compact package. Dramatic tilt-up doors and 19" wheels add a very sporty look, and a retractable roof panel slides back over the bed to convert the Spocket into a trim convertible. The really neat stuff is all in the bed, where a folding jump seat makes room for two more passengers out in the breeze, or folds flat into the floor to convert the



The low-slung Spocket is a whole new kind of sport truck.

Spocket into a mini-pickup, complete with a two-piece tailgate incorporating a loading ramp. The wild interior is fully washable and features a large-screen, GPS navigation system and electric controls. Rear-view cameras project images to a heads-up display on the windshield

The drivetrain is similarly unique, featuring a transverse engine driving the front wheels through a button-controlled, semi-automatic, five-speed, and a 4WD system utilizing in-wheel electric motors for the rear drive.

The Spocket concept delivers sports coupe excitement and great versatility. There are no current production plans, but Honda suggests that some the Spocket's forward thinking may appear in future products. • Rexx Taylor

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