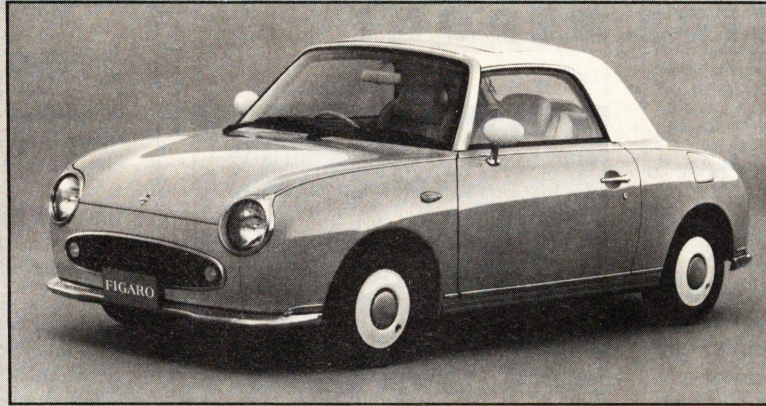


## Figaro finds a niche in Japan

*On sale: Retro-car based on Nissan March that follows in footsteps of BE-1*



**T**he Figaro, the latest in the continuing line of Nissan's cute, little retro-tech cars, is now officially for sale and traveling Japan's streets.

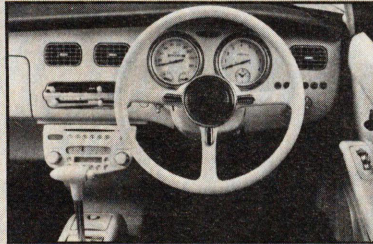
The Figaro prototype, a 1950s-era throwback, was first shown at the 1989 Tokyo show. It follows on the heels of Nissan's other retromobiles: the BE-1, S-Cargo and Pao. Like those models, production is limited. Only 20,000 Figaros will be built.

The Figaro will retail for a not-so-'50s \$14,800.

The car is based on the little Nissan March (not available here), meaning it rides on a 90.6-inch platform and, like the March, incorporates front-wheel drive.

The Figaro's overall length is 147.2 inches. It's 64.2 inches

Figaro's about the same size as a Geo Metro Hatchback. Power comes from a 987 cc turbo four. Even the radio carries through on retro look



wide and 53.7 inches high, dimensions very similar to those of the Geo Metro hatchback.

Power comes from a 987 cc Nissan four-cylinder called the MA 10 ET turbo. It may be puny in size but it's relatively powerful, developing 76 hp at 6000 rpm and 78 lb ft of torque at 4400 rpm. The only transmission available is a three-speed automatic.

The interior is color-coded, has white-faced instruments and silver toggle switches adorning the purpose-built, '50s-look dashboard. The radio is even styled for an authentic pre-transistor look. ■

## Slipping seatback latches force recall for Saturn

*More than 1200 cars affected*

**G**eneral Motors' Saturn Corp. is recalling some of its cars for the first time.

About 25 percent of the 4000 cars sold (since October 25) are being recalled because repairs are needed to the reclining mechanisms in the front seats.

The defect has thus far been discovered in about 19 cars, Saturn says. No accidents or injuries have yet been reported.

Bruce MacDonald, Saturn vice president of communications, said 1210 cars will be recalled. Saturn received the first complaint from a customer in November and that's when it realized it had a problem.

Officials say the company has since concluded that the defect has been caused because Hyperion Corporation, a supplier, changed a manufacturing process for one of the parts used in the seatback. The replacement parts should take about 60 to 90 min-



**Saturn notified all of its owners by letter**

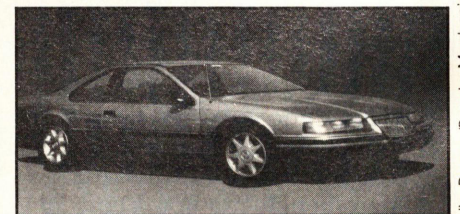
utes to install.

"If you lean back while in one of the front seats, the seat back might slip a notch or two. If this isn't fixed, it could gradually slip back even a few more notches," Saturn explained to its customers in a letter sent to all owners by Federal Express, including those who own cars not being recalled.

Saturn's build rate is 250 cars per day. The company has been steadily increasing production, building 3904 cars in January compared to only 1620 produced in December. Company officials say Saturn now is producing enough cars to satisfy current sales demand. It originally intended to be at an 8000-cars-per-month build level by now. ■

## Ford delays three products by nearly half a year each

*Two Lincolns, minivan held*



**The Lincoln Mark VIII is to arrive in fall '92**

**F**ord Motor Co. is delaying two new Lincoln models and the next-generation Aerostar minivan, each by about six months.

The 1993 Lincoln Mark VIII and the 1995 Lincoln Continental are the two passenger-car models which will be pushed back about half a year, Ford officials said.

The Mark VIII will now debut in the fall of 1992 and the Continental is slated for fall 1994. The new Aerostar is now expected to hit the streets in the spring of 1994. ■