

How to Read a Japanese Auction Sheet

Introduction

Congratulations on taking your first step towards importing your JDM dream vehicle! In this easy to read analysis, we will discuss what a Japanese auction sheet looks like, what grades and codes are displayed on the sheet, understanding the scores, and using that knowledge to make an educated decision on the vehicle you are bidding on.

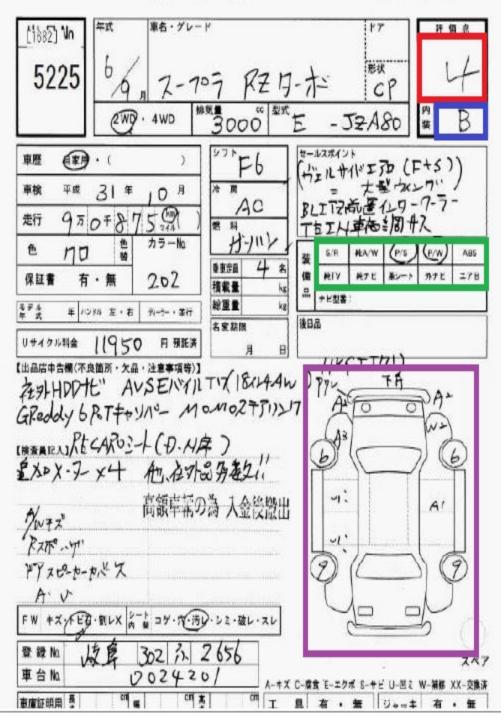
The image displayed to the right is a USS auction sheet of a 1994 Toyota Supra RZ. Some of you reading this have seen this before but for most of you this must look pretty daunting . Have no fear, by the end of this document, you will have learned how fun and easy it is to decipher these sheets.

We will discuss the following four sections:

- Overall Condition (Red)
- Interior Condition (Blue)
- Vehicle Features (Green)
- Vehicle Diagram (Purple)

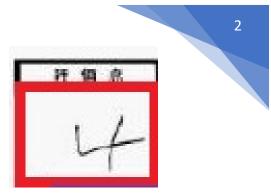
One final note before continuing is the Japanese displayed to the left of the vehicle diagram. These comments are just reiterating the damage shown. Don't worry! You won't have to learn Japanese! Our specialist will translate into English all relevant comments. 山 品 景 (北京記明書) ・

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Overall Condition Score

Vehicles are given an overall grade of 0 (worst) to 6 (best). This score is found on the top right corner of the auction sheet.



Grade 6-0	Meaning	Additional Notes
6	New	
5	Like new with no condition faults	
4.5	One panel affected by minor paint blemishes	Very, very, very good, almost good as new, only a fussy/picky buyer would find something wrong
4	More than one panel affected by minor paint blemishes	Very good, better than average wear and tear, maybe a few marks here and there but generally very clean
3.5	Some attention to panel and paint is required	Normal wear and tear for a vehicle of its age and distance traveled, may need some tidying up (paint, nobs)
3	Rough overall condition	Will need some paint and panel work, usually moderate-heavy signs of wear and tear inside
2-2.5	Serious panel damage, rusty or water damage	Absolute dogs that cause endless headaches, unless it was used for racing or parts
1	Significant performance upgrades or mechanical changes: larger turbo, transmission conversion, track ready	Modified cars ; We'd love to own but may cause compliance issues: still worth asking
0, A, R	Accident damage and repair	Usually structural damage. Occasionally the damage is light, worth asking if ok to bid on
***	Serious mechanical or body faults	engine problems, existing accident damage, fire

Interior Codes

Graded from A (best) to D (Worst).

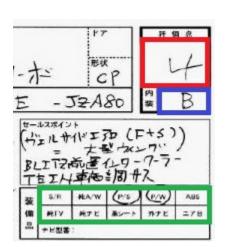
Grade A-D	Meaning		
A	As new with no condition faults		
В	Very clean and nice		
С	Average/clean for age including expected wear and tear		
D	Cigarette burns/ smell, rips, tears, or other damage to interior, significant wear and tear		
E	Rubbish		



Vehicle Features

These features are usually standard and are either written out or circled.

Codes	Meaning
TV	Television
AB	Airbag
AW	Allow Wheels
PS	Power Steering
PW	Power Windows
SF	Sun Roof

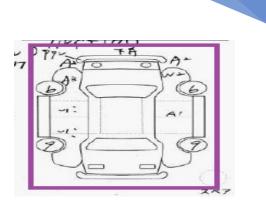


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Vehicle Diagram Codes

The vehicle diagram is located on the bottom right corner of the auction sheet.

These codes take time to memorize but after looking at a multitude of auction sheets, it will be second nature!



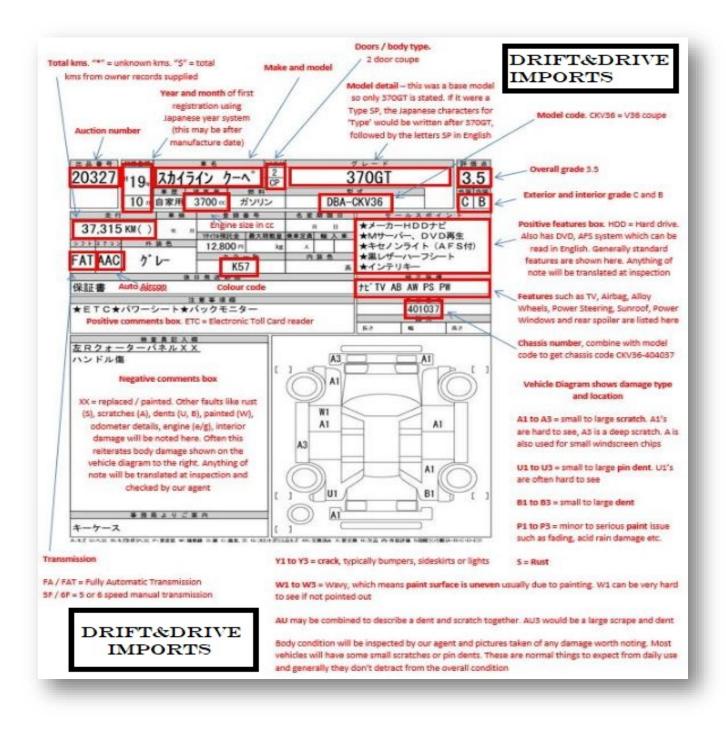
Codes	Meaning	Additional Info
XX	Panel Replacement	Panels have been replaced due to repairs and/or paint
W	Wavy	Can mean the affected panel has been painted, and the paint is not smooth In some cases, even when marked W it is impossible to tell with the naked eye whether paintwork has been done. Auction staff can make mistakes also and park panels W when they are uncertain. W or W1, W2 and W3 are used, with one being least noticeable
A	Scratch	
A1	Tiny Scratch	Generally you would expect this to buff out or be an easy touch up
A2	Medium Scratch	Present on top layer of paint and won't be easily hidden
A3	Deep Scratch	Serious scrape or intentional key mark and will require paintwork
U	Pin Dent	Only a small dent such as you would pick up in the parking garage
U1 to U4	Moderate Dent	Used to denote the size of the dent with 1 being the smallest
В	Larger Dents	These are more serious then pin dents and range from B1 to B4
G, X or A	Chip	You might see a G, X, or A marked on windows. This usually indicates a small stone chip or scratch and often these are quite small, the size of a pin head or so, and not easily visible They are the sort of things most cars pick up through normal use and if you see them noted it doesn't mean the window needs replacing
Y (Y1-Y4)	Cracks	Usually in body kits or lights and often not a major issue as repair or replacement is fairly simple
P (P1-P4)	Paint Damage	P1-P4: Fading, scratches or discoloration from sun damage, polishing, peeling, crazing or poor paint work
S / C (C1-C4)	Rust/Corrosion	An S or C1 on the body can mean a small stone chip has some surface rust or there is a spot of rust on the edge of a sunroof which might be easily addressed, S noted in the negative comments could indicate extensive underbody rust. C indicated on the wheel arches is a sign there is serious corrosion

Additional Examples of Japanese Auction Sheet

With all the information provided thus far, it is now time to look at two auction sheets that differ slightly in format.

Example One

The vehicle was a 2007 Nissan Skyline V36 370GT coupe (not importable to USA). Graded 3.5 due to a rear repair. Note XX in the notes section but not shown on the vehicle diagram in this case. Body and Interior were graded C and B.



Example Two

Here is another example for a 2006 V35 Skyline Premium Coupe in a slightly different handwritten format for USS auctions. The same information is there.

