

Top 10 Acceleration

10) McLaren F1: 559 hp/ton



When it was unveiled in 1992, people questioned whether the McLaren F1 would ever be eclipsed. Being in this top 10 two decades on with 559 hp per ton partially answers that. The McLaren remains a ground breaker in many areas of design and technology. And its 240 mph (386 km/h) top speed ensures the three-seater's place as one of the all-time greats.

0-96 km/h: 3.2 seconds.

9) Ariel Atom 2: 559 hp/ton



Originally designed to be a student project and looking like it was designed in someone's shed, the Atom made its name for light weight plus power equalling incredible performance. The Atom 2 with its supercharged 2.0-litre Honda Civic Type R engine pumps out 559 hp per ton, largely because the lack of bodywork ensures it weighs five-eighths of nothing.

0-96 km/h: 2.6 seconds.

8) Pagani Zonda Cinque: 569 hp/ton



The Pagani Zonda has attained near legendary status, but with only five examples of the Cinque being built (the name means five in Italian) this will be the most exclusive. With a new clutchless sequential gear change, increased use of light weight magnesium, titanium and carbon fibre and more engine power, this version of the Zonda now boasts 569 hp per ton.

0-96 km/h: 3.3 seconds.

7) Gumpert Apollo: 584 hp/ton



OK, so the name Gumpert sounds like it's more about weight than power but the Apollo bit hints at its rocket ship capabilities courtesy of 584 horses per ton. Designed by former Audi techies in Germany, the Apollo has some race pedigree, although not enough to justify its hefty £275,000 (C\$416,800) price tag.

0-96 km/h: 3.1 seconds.

6) Ultima GTR640: 666 hp/ton



The Ultima might not have the cachet of a Ferrari or Lamborghini but at least you can build it yourself! And with 666 hp per ton it's still devilishly quick. Admittedly, cobbling together a car that'll you'll end up sitting in to do 0-60 in less than three seconds might not be everyone's idea of fun but at least you have the choice.

0-96 km/h: 2.7 seconds.

5) Radical SR8 LM: 687 hp/ton



It's easy to see why Radical has trouble convincing folks this is a road car; it looks as if it simply kept driving at the end of last year's Le Mans 24 Hours. There's precious little in the way of creature comfort but you're buying it for the 2.8-litre V8, 687 hp per ton, and the lap record it holds at the fearsome Nürburgring Nordschleife.

0-60 km/h: 2.8 seconds.

4) Koenigsegg CCXR Edition: 797 hp/ton



Those sensible, safety-obsessed Swedes like a turn of speed too and this is the world's fastest car in theory thanks to its ethanol-fuelled twin supercharged V8. Although the design is long in the tooth now, dating from 2002, and the £1.5m (C\$2.3 million) price tag astronomical, few will argue with its amazing 797 hp per ton power-to-weight ratio.

0-96 km/h: 2.7 seconds.

3) Caparo T1: 899 hp/ton



Caparo promised the T1 would provide Formula One car performance for the road. And with 899 hp per ton they weren't wrong. At £235,000 (equal to C\$356,000) the British-built machine is a lot cheaper too. Bodywork that's a cross between F1 and Le Mans ensures it gets plenty of looks while lightweight carbon fibre construction and a 3.5-litre V8 do the business beneath.

0-96 km/h: 2.4 seconds.

2) TVR Cerbera Speed 12: 917 hp/ton



In the quest for speed it's not often that a car is judged too powerful. This Cerbera's 917 hp per ton meant it was. Deposits were duly returned, production canned. Its engine blew up TVR's testing equipment the first time they tried to gauge its power. In the end the firm relented and one was built for a persistent (and mad?) customer.

0-96 km/h: 2.9 seconds.

1) Caterham Levante: 1,074 hp/ton



Want to wind up a Bugatti Veyron owner? Buy one of these and then regale them with tales of driving a car that has twice the power-to-weight ratio of theirs. The Levante is a nutty piece of kit with 1,074 horses per ton. Its 2.4-litre supercharged V8 and carbon fibre bodywork ensure there'll never be a dull moment at the wheel.

0-96 km/h: 2.9 seconds.