

Although there is plenty Andrew could do to change things in the future, I get the feeling that he is very happy with his car and would not want to go too far and lose the Spirit R identification. The last thing you want with a Spirit R – which, being the final edition, could become the most sought after in years to come – is to slap a wild body kit on it. Perhaps Andrew's choice to keep it in near standard form could prove to be an investment.

With so few miles on the clock, Andrew's car is barely run in. Let's face it, he's not going to be using it as his family car, especially as he also owns a Mazda RX-8 for those times when he has to be a bit more practical.

So the Spirit R marks the Series 3 RX-7's final bow. In Type A form, it left the stage as a true sports car. Good though the RX-8 is, it's a very different type of car to the more focused and sporting RX-7. But then, rumours persist of a true replacement for the RX-7, perhaps as early as 2006. The Series 3 will be a hard act to follow but, if the talk is true of a pure two-seater with 300bhp (without the aid of a turbo or supercharger), we're in for a treat. Now that's the Spirit. ●

SPECIFICATION

Andrew Cozen's Mazda RX-7 Spirit R

ENGINE	Mazda 13B twin-rotor Wankel, two x 654cc (equivalent to 2616cc), HKS induction kit, decat Racing Beat exhaust, HKS sequential dump valve, APEXi Power FC ECU and commander
MAX POWER	280bhp at 6500rpm (standard)
MAX TORQUE	231lb ft at 5000rpm (standard)
MAX SPEED	163mph
0-60mph	4.9 seconds
TRANSMISSION	Standard five-speed manual
SUSPENSION	Double wishbones front and rear, Bilstein dampers, Mazdaspeed strut braces front and rear
BRAKES	Ventilated discs and four-piston red-painted aluminium calipers all round, braided stainless mesh hoses
WHEELS & TYRES	17in BBS gun-metal grey alloys with 235/45 front and 255/40 rear tyres
EXTERIOR	Spirit R bodywork in Brilliant Black with clear rear bumper lights, rear marker lights and side repeaters, Feed headlamp covers
INTERIOR	Standard cabin with red Recaro carbon-fibre bucket seats and Momo steering wheel



THANKS

Jimmy's Mazda RX-7 Specialists
www.jimmys-rx7.co.uk
 Mazda RX-7 Owners Club (UK)
www.rx-7club.org
 The RX Seven Forum
www.therxseven.com



The Recaro carbon-fibre seats brighten up the Spirit R's cabin