

# EUROPEAN CAR

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Boxster



2005  
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A 490-bhp Thoroughbred



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# TUNED



## HPA New Beetle Rsi

**Boosted to 550 bhp**

By Robert Hallstrom Photos by the author

Is it possible to build a New Beetle more impressive than the factory's Rsi (the race-bred VW that inspired the New Beetle Cup car and spec racing series)? Go for a drive in HPA's version of the formidable racer and you'll have the definitive answer of yes. HPA's New Beetle is truly a beast.

The once-stock 2003 NB 1.8T is now a far cry from its humble beginnings. HPA proprietor

additional. HPA's Rsi now produces upwards of 550 crank hp and 608 lb-ft of torque. This car could hold its own against the likes of Gallardo and 360 Modena.

The Stage II kit also includes dual 60mm downpipes, 75mm exhaust with bypass actuator (for higher revs), larger injectors/re-flashed O.E. ECU, proprietary-cast intake/exhaust manifolds and formed blue silicon boost pipes that round out the package. Surprisingly, all smog components remain intact and functional.

The end result is nothing short of breathtak-

the exhaust note gains a new level of ment above 4000 rpm."

It goes without saying that at these the stock brakes were considered inadequate. The units were swapped with a HPA Stage II replacement package, which includes Porsche Cayenne six-piston front calipers, new (360mm) rotors, and 12.1-in. (312mm) with sport pads. The new setup effectively brings the car from 60 mph to an abrupt stop in only 105 ft.

The HPA Rsi also has precision-point



Marcel Horn and lead techs Darren Scharfenberg and Colin Branch shoe-horned a healthy 3.2-liter turbocharged engine and complete 4Motion drivetrain.

When fitted with HPA's Stage II Twin (hybrid K04) Turbo Package, the stock 240-bhp 3.2-liter VR6, also tweaked with twin intercoolers, boasts an estimated 310 additional hp. Yes

ing. With a 0-to-60 time of only 3.2 sec. and a lightning-fast 1/4-mile of 11.7 at 119.95, the HPA Rsi is able to place a Porsche GT2 in a rather embarrassing position: the rear view mirror.

"In sixth gear, the Beetle gets a verified 34.5m/g and is as quiet as a church mouse," quipped Horn. "When you drop the hammer,

ding thanks to specially valved KW Three coilovers.

Trimmed in factory Rsi body panels complete with bumper caps, 5.5-in. wider front fenders, signature rear wing and authentic Rsi 19x18 wheels (shod with Dunlop 255 Sport race tires), visually the New Beetle Rsi is a slam dunk twin version of the original (with twice the power (the factory Rsi is at 204 bhp).

A pair of Recaro fully adjustable bucket seats and a genuine Rsi gauge cluster reside in the otherwise stock interior, which is complete with all the standard safety equipment.

Can a New Beetle get any better or Doubtful. At least until HPA's next project hits the street with a reported 600 bhp. ☒



### CONTACT

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7561 134A St.  
Surrey B.C. V3W 7B3  
Canada  
**(604) 598-8520**

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