












Movie Cars Go

Head to Head

In case you haven't noticed, there's a "cool" car revival happening at the movies. Sort of Hollywood meets Henry Ford meets Inspector Gadget. Autos such as the Mazda RX-8 in *X2: X-Men United* and the Toyota Tundra in *Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines* have action heroes behind their wheels and a starring role in the movie mayhem – making the cars themselves celebrities. This tale of the tape will match up three such recent "star" cars, along with two famous veteran vehicles. This is a no-holds-barred bout. The most points wins!



Vehicle	Batmobile	DeLorean DMC 12	MINI Cooper S	Toyota Tundra T3	Jeep Wrangler Rubicon
Movie	Batman	Back to the Future	The Italian Job	Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines	Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life
Driver	 <p>Batman (Michael Keaton): The Dark Knight definitely leads this group and is the only driver who's actually cooler than the car. <i>Score: 9 (out of 10)</i></p>	 <p>Marty McFly (Michael J. Fox): Tried to be a rebel with his skateboard and wise-cracks, but ended up whiny and obnoxious. <i>Score: 4</i></p>	 <p>Stella Bridger (Charlize Theron): Oh, sorry ... I was looking at her picture, what was I talking about? <i>Score: 9</i></p>	 <p>The Terminator (Arnold Schwarzenegger): Aging like a human, this Terminator could probably use a lube job or two. <i>Score: 6</i></p>	 <p>Lara Croft (Angelina Jolie): She can beat you up. There's something cool about that. <i>Score: 7</i></p>
Top Speed	200 mph (est.) <i>Score: 9</i>	88 mph. <i>Score: 3</i>	135 mph. <i>Score: 6</i>	103 mph (stock) <i>Score: 4</i>	108 mph (stock) <i>Score: 5</i>
Weapons	With twin machine guns, grappling hooks and oil slicks, this is one car you <i>don't</i> want to cut off on the freeway. <i>Score: 10</i>	 <p>Nothing. Come on, Doc, didn't you think there'd be bad guys in the past, too? <i>Score: 0</i></p>	Also nothing, save for whatever Stella decides to bring along for a heist. <i>Score: 1</i>	What? You mean <i>besides</i> the large Austrian man carrying lots of bombs and guns? <i>Score: 7</i>	 <p>Lara packs a pistol on each hip, and there's plenty of room in the back for all her zombie-stompin' gear. <i>Score: 6</i></p>
Special Features	Even if this Bat is blind, he'll still be able to find his ride with a voice-activated control system. <i>Score: 9</i>	 <p>The flux capacitor gives you the power to time travel. Very handy for any "compromising" situation. <i>Score: 10</i></p>	A modified suspension allows the MINI to hold 1,000 pounds of gold. Very nice indeed. <i>Score: 8</i>	 <p>A sport suspension and beefed-up shocks help you get away from that pesky Terminatrix. <i>Score: 6</i></p>	A roll cage, 35-inch tires and 4-wheel drive for roughin' it. Good thing it also has a winch in case the Jeep ends up in a tomb itself. <i>Score: 6</i>
Appearance	Long, dark and scary. Kind of like Cher. <i>Score: 8</i>	Well, it looks like a DeLorean. <i>Score: -1</i>	The MINI is "in" baby. And, let's face it. It's cute. <i>Score: 7</i>	It's not exactly the car you imagined saving the world in, but it'll do in a pinch. <i>Score: 4</i>	 <p>With all those extras, it resembles a Swiss Army Knife. <i>Score: 7</i></p>
Price	\$700,000 (est.). Like Bruce Wayne can't afford it. <i>Score: 2</i>	\$65,200. In 1984, did you ever think a DeLorean would cost more than a high-end Benz? Good grief. <i>Score: 3</i>	\$19,950. A hip movie car with a price that almost anyone can swing. <i>Score: 7</i>	\$29,030 (limited edition). Just put it on Arnold's tab. He won't mind. <i>Score: 5</i>	\$28,815 (limited edition). Buyer beware. Coughing up 30 large for this Jeep will <i>not</i> turn you into an action hero. <i>Score: 6</i>
Availability	Only in your comic book fantasies (too bad the same goes for Theron and Jolie). <i>Score: 1</i>	You can find them from car collectors, but why? <i>Score: 3</i>	 <p>30,000 have already been sold in the U.S. <i>Score: 7</i></p>	850 limited edition models. Terminators not included. <i>Score: 3</i>	Only 1,000 of the limited edition models will be produced. Unless you're a Tomb Raider fanatic, don't bother. <i>Score: 4</i>
Final Score	48	22	45	35	41

There you have it, folks. In what turned out to be only a three-car race, the Batmobile eked out a narrow victory over the newcomers. Although having beautiful (and in some cases, armed) women behind the wheels was a definite plus, the vehicles themselves will need more gadgets and gunfire to unseat this champion. 🐱

Writer/intern Andrew Sroufe wishes he had a DeLorean, but only so he could go back in time to un-invent it.