

GCM 130
Independent
Design
Proposal

INTRODUCING

SusPension!

A thrilling bi-weekly geriatric racing saga that exposes the underground world of senior-home street racing! Step into the shoes of newly retired cherry-boy Tatsuro Takanaka as he gets behind the wheel of a 1996 Mitsubishi MiniCab!

Buckle Up!

Harbour-view roads become a battlefield when Takanaka pits his kei car against cutting edge Mercedes-Benz Sprinter vans!

Inspired by video game franchises like "Ridge Racer" and "Gran Turismo," as well as manga and anime like "Initial D," "My Favourite Carrera," and "Wangan Midnight," the tale of Tatsuro Takanaka is one of the never ending fighting spirit! Backed with the support of the "Touch and Go: Sea Breeze Retirement Home," Takanaka is ready to take on even the snowiest of birds! Oh Tengo Suerte!

SusPension!

INITIAL D

is a Japanese street-racing manga series written and illustrated by Shuichi Shigeno, serialized between 1995 and 2013 in Kodansha's Seinen magazine. Its anime adaptation ran from 1998 to 2014 and the series has spawned multiple spinoffs and games.

A staple in the international and Japanese Domestic Market (JDM) car communities, "Initial D's" art style and aesthetics pushed the series to audiences beyond the automotive forum.

Pictured below is a spread of the cover for "Initial D Omnibus 1."
I like the text formatting and the use of bold to lead the readers' eyes.

The cover of "SusPension!" will take design cues from the omnibus's layout, primarily the red page bleed that extends from the back.

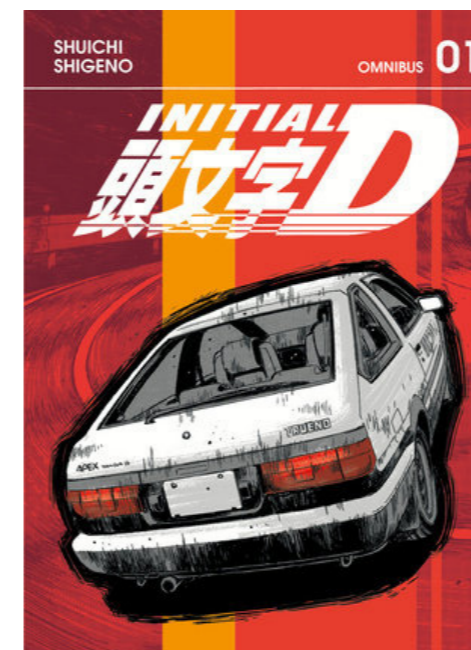
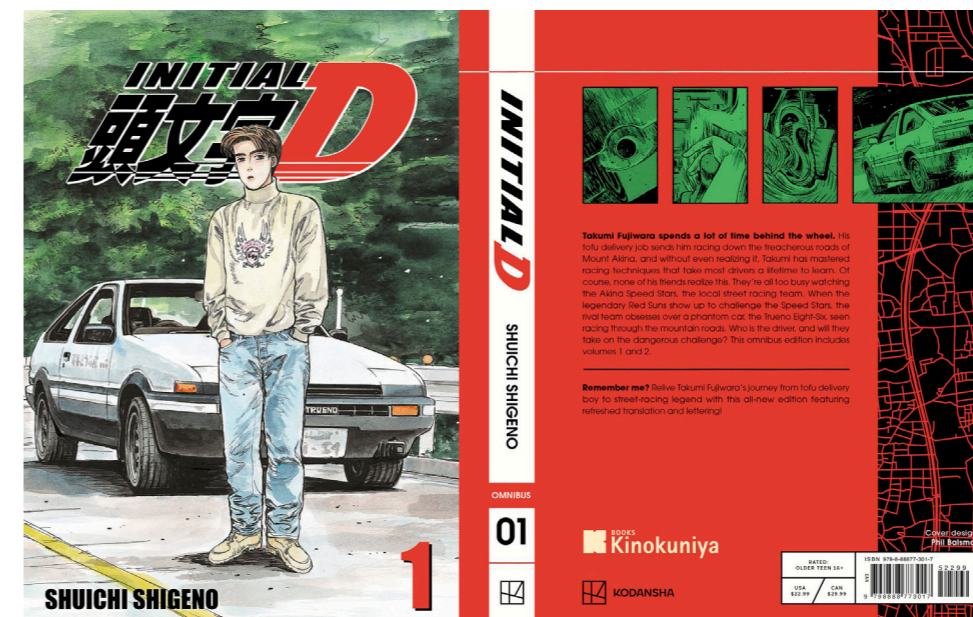


Image Sources (Top/Down/Left/Right)

Shigeno, S. (2024a). [Front cover of Initial D Omnibus 1]. Kodansha America

Shigeno, S. (2024b). [Back cover of Initial D Omnibus 1]. Kodansha America

Shigeno, S. (2024c). [Alternate front cover of Initial D Omnibus 1]. Kodansha America

Shigeno, S. (2021). [Front cover of Initial D vol. 23 - KC Deluxe (Japanese version)]. Kodansha

この走りには、プライドを賭けてもいい。



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Image Sources

Namco. (1998a). Ridge Racer 4 poster [Image].

Namco. (1998b). Ridge Racer 4 poster [Image].

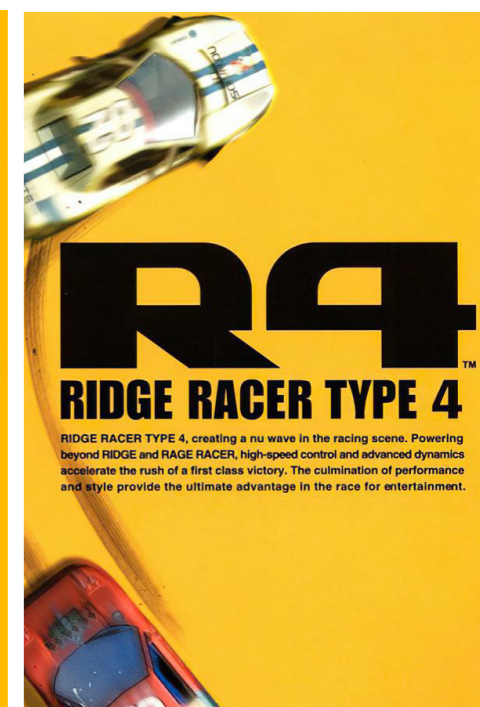
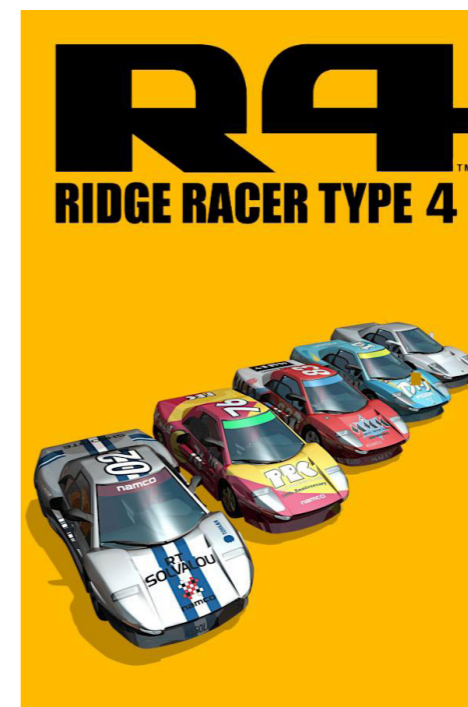
Namco. (1998c). Ridge Racer 4 poster [Image].

RIDGE RACER

is a racing video game series developed by Bandai Namco Entertainment for home and arcade settings. Known best for the series' music and its arcade-simulator gameplay, "Ridge Racer" is a PlayStation cult classic. Although later releases have tapered off the style and magic that made the early releases of "Ridge Racer" so special, the graphic design cues from the series' fourth installment have aged well into the modern day.

On the left, (Namco, 1998a), a scan of a promotional poster for "Ridge Racer Type 4." There is a good range of colours in an effect that I intend to recreate using gradients and noise. When it's time to create the cover of "SusPension!," I will be rendering medium-poly cars with strategic use of the pen and gradient tools. I like the use of white text to balance the poster, pushing the viewers' eyes downwards.

Below, two more posters for "Ridge Racer Type 4." These are examples of simpler designs that create elegance and unity (left - Namco, 1998b) and fluid movement (right - Namco, 1998c).



RIDGE RACER TYPE 4, creating a nu wave in the racing scene. Powering beyond RIDGE and RAGE RACER, high-speed control and advanced dynamics accelerate the rush of a first class victory. The culmination of performance and style provide the ultimate advantage in the race for entertainment.

COLOUR CHOICES

0 96 87 0
#D40000

Italy's "Rosso Corsa"

Adopted from the colours of Italian aristocrat Prince Scipione Borghese's 1907 Itala car, the "Rosso Corsa" has turned into Italy's racing colour.

Today, it exists as a red intertwined with automotive prowess.



0 97 85 0
#FF0826

"SusPension!" Red

The middle ground between above and below, the cover red used for issue one of "SusPension!" is familiar, yet distinct.

It's not too historic and not too faded - it's just right.

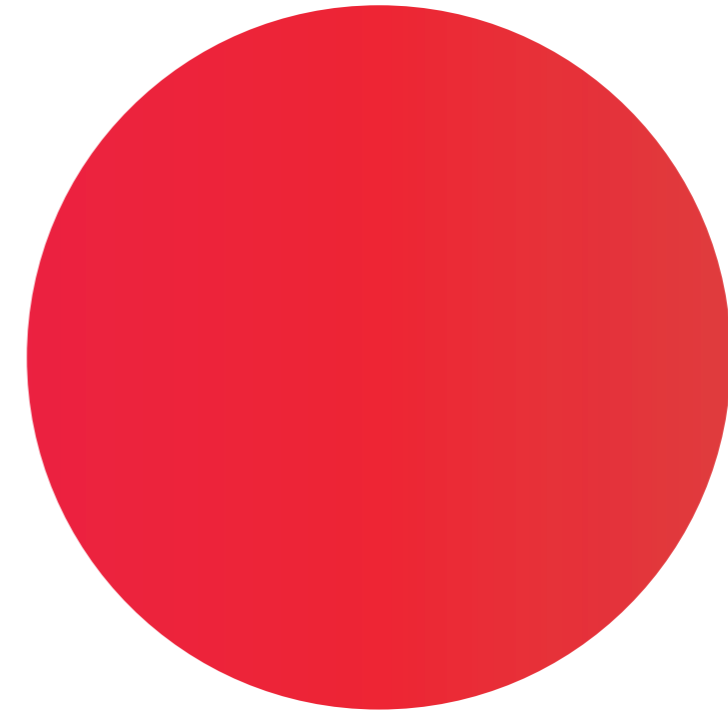


8 91 80 0
#EB1700

"Initial D" Red

Reflective of a stop sign, brake lights and the giant "D" in "Initial D," this red is the less harsh counterpart to the other two tones listed above.

This red, featured on the first omnibus, is an elegant capture of the essence of "Initial D."



The red used in "SusPension!" is found between Italian racing's famous "Rosso Corsa" and the brake-light red used in iconography for "Initial D."