

## **A Duo Connecting Music Enthusiasts through a Mobile Sound Stage MINI x VAGABUND Concept Cars Celebrate Global Premiere at Auto China 2026**

(Beijing / Munich / Graz)

Driven by its spirit of curiosity and adventure, MINI brings the energy of global outdoor music culture to Auto China 2026 — a market where vibrant youth communities and music-driven lifestyles are shaping new forms of cultural expression. In collaboration with Austrian design studio VAGABUND, MINI presents two truly distinctive concept cars.

Based on the MINI Countryman and reimagined through a bold creative lens, these one-off concepts speak to a culture-driven audience for whom music is both a form of self-expression and a powerful means of connection. The MINI x VAGABUND concept cars will celebrate their global premiere at the 2026 Beijing International Automotive Exhibition, opening on April 24.

"A long-standing tradition and core value of the MINI brand is individual vehicle customization," says Jean-Philippe Parain, Senior Vice President MINI. "For this collaboration, MINI provides an open and versatile platform with the MINI Countryman, while VAGABUND contributes a distinctive, music-inspired creative vision. The result is a pair of vehicles that can be experienced, shared, and truly felt — designed to bring people together."

One concept, finished in Melting Silver with sand-colored and white accents, expresses lightness and playful energy. In contrast, the Midnight Black version adopts a monochrome aesthetic, conveying a calm and technical character. Together, these two interpretations create a striking visual dialogue, amplifying their impact when experienced side by side.

### **MINI x VAGABUND: A Creative Duo**

"Good design is about finding the right balance between lifestyle, function, and fun," says Holger Hampf, Head of MINI Design. "With MINI x VAGABUND, a vision inspired by music culture is translated into a tangible experience — shaped by the energy of a vibrant community."

The MINI Countryman's robust yet refined proportions provide the ideal foundation for a concept designed to venture beyond the urban environment. This resonates particularly strongly in markets like China, where outdoor lifestyles and new forms of social interaction are rapidly evolving.

Bespoke wide wheel arches and increased ground clearance emphasize its all-terrain character, staying true to the model's DNA. A three-dimensional VAGABUND badge is seamlessly integrated along the side sills, marking the vehicles' distinctive identity.

The 20-inch wheels feature closed 3D-printed covers that enhance the muscular stance while echoing the design language of the rear loudspeakers.

On the roof, a rack constructed from laser-cut aluminum plates combined with stainless steel mesh draws inspiration from speaker grilles. No longer purely functional, it becomes an integral part of the vehicle's design expression.

## **The Vehicle as a Sound System**

For VAGABUND, the vehicle itself becomes an instrument.

The rear side windows have been replaced by a bespoke, professional-grade outdoor sound system, fully integrated into the bodywork. At its core is a specially developed loudspeaker housing made from cast polymer granite, a high-density mineral composite material widely used in high-end audio engineering.

Its exceptional acoustic stability ensures precise and uncolored sound reproduction, even under intense sound pressure. The material's non-porous structure, combined with a custom casting process, allows seamless integration into the vehicle body while offering strong resistance to outdoor conditions.

Multiple tweeters and mid-range speakers are embedded directly into the body panels, while bass and sub-bass units are positioned at the rear. When the tailgate is opened, the low-frequency experience becomes even more immersive.

Each concept car functions as a powerful standalone sound system. Together, the two vehicles create an open, shared stage — capable of transforming any setting into a spontaneous outdoor music experience.

This concept finds a particularly strong resonance in China, where community-driven experiences and shared cultural moments are increasingly shaping lifestyle trends.

Adding a playful contrast, MINI integrates a classic Walkman on the opposite side of the vehicle, housed within a 3D-printed structure. While one side delivers a collective, high-energy sound experience, the other offers an intimate, nostalgic moment of analogue listening. This deliberate contrast highlights the exploratory and creative spirit of the concept.

## **A Platform for Connection**

The MINI × VAGABUND concept cars go beyond mobility. They create opportunities for people to meet, exchange ideas, and share culture — transforming the vehicle into a moving space for connection.

From April 24, the Melting Silver MINI × VAGABUND concept car will be on display at the MINI stand in Hall W4 of the China International Exhibition Center (Shunyi).

True to the community-driven ethos of the project, MINI invites audiences in China to turn every encounter into a unique and memorable cultural experience — reinforcing the brand's connection with a new generation of creative and expressive communities.