

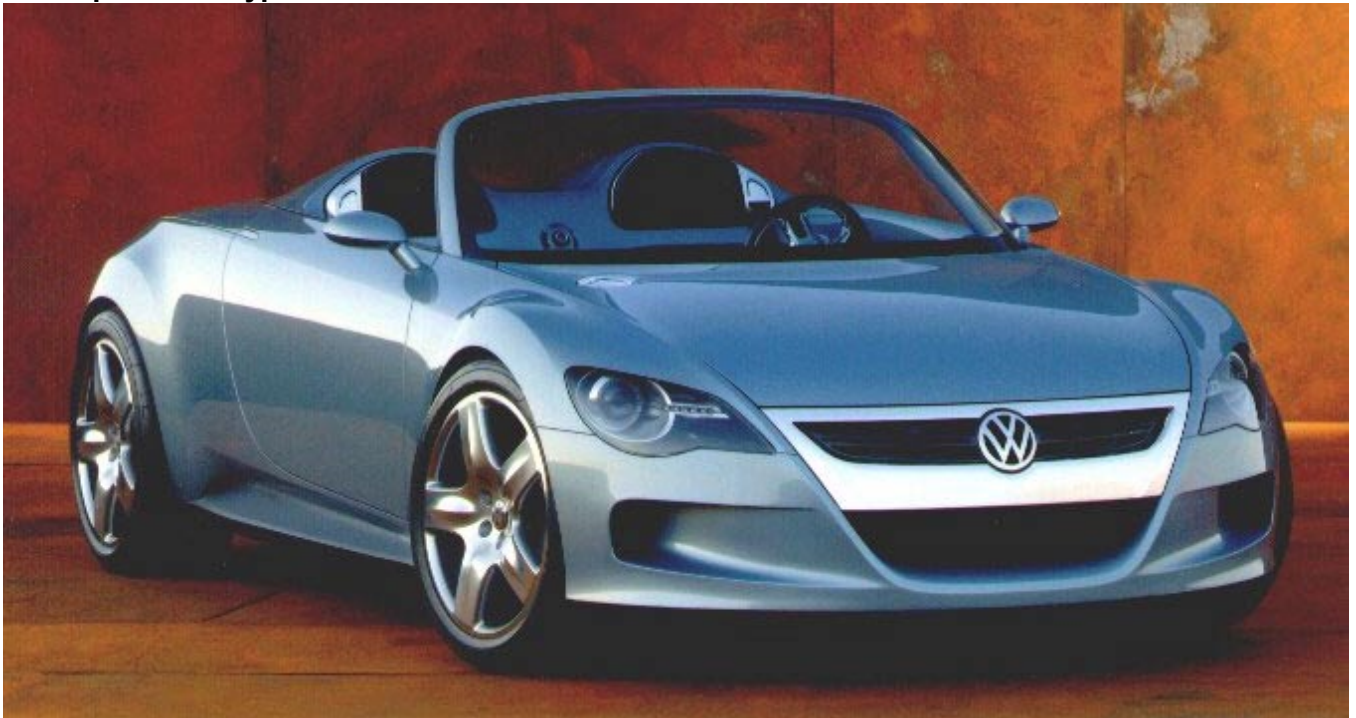


@rabbit

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Concept R Prototype



Volkswagen has revealed a mid-engined roadster prototype, named concept R at the Frankfurt Motor Show. The concept R points to the future of the Volkswagen brand, and hints at a possible involvement in the world of genuine sports cars.

Power for the roadster comes from a 265 PS V6 mid-engine, which takes the car from 0 to 62 mph in 5.3 seconds, and on to a limited top speed of 155 mph. With the limiter removed a top speed of 167 mph would be possible. The peak torque of 258 lbs ft at 2800 rpm is transferred to the road via a six-speed direct selection gearbox and rear wheel drive.

The concept R's design team, led by Murat Günak and Peter Schreyer, broke new ground for the Volkswagen brand in developing the roadster, demonstrating how a sports car packed with aesthetics and emotion could look in the future. At 4.16 metres long, 1.78 m wide and 1.25 m high, the two-seater is around the same length and width as the Golf hatchback.

There are many interesting design features of the concept R, one of the most unusual is, when the ignition is turned on, the Volkswagen logo, which is generated digitally by a display, begins to pulsate in the so-called OLED screen.

Another highly unusual feature is that the concept R's bucket seats do not adjust in any way. Instead, to find the correct position, the driver moves the electrically activated polished metal information block on the instrument panel and also makes adjustments to the steering wheel and pedal cluster, moving them back or forth. And for the first time in a sports car, leather-covered active foam is used. This adapts to the body shape of the driver and passenger; meanwhile the hardness of the springs in the seats can be adjusted according to whether a harder or softer ride is desired.

A decision on whether the concept R will go into production or not is yet to be taken. The Volkswagen Group have been banding this type of car around for a number of years. In December 2002 I saw a very similar version in vivid green with a SEAT badge. At the time the SEAT rep told me that only two things were in the way of production, firstly the roof needed to be designed and secondly the Group MD had to authorise the start of production. Earlier in the year it was reported that Audi were looking to build a cheap two wheel drive roadster version of the TT. Hopefully one of the Volkswagen Group brands will get the chance to put this car into production.

concept R - Technical Data

Length - 4163 mm
Width - 1778 mm
Height - 1250 mm
Front track - 1471 mm
Rear track - 1250 mm
Engine - 3189 cc V6
Max power - 265 PS @ 6250 rpm
Max torque - 258 lbs ft @ 2800 rpm
Gearbox - Six speed direct selection gearbox (DSG)
Drive - Rear wheel drive
Wheels - 8.5J x 19, ET 50 with 255/40 R 19 tyres
Acceleration – 0 - 62 mph 5.3 seconds
Top speed - 155 mph (limited), 167 mph (unlimited)



Technical Information

If you have any technical tips, please email them to me at chairman@clubgti.com the best may see some eRabbit space allocated to them or inclusion in Rabbit.

Events

The events for 2004 are yet to be completely finalised, but this should be finished by the New Year, after which time they'll be posted on the Club website at www.clubgti.com .

Delay for eRabbit

Sorry for the delay in Issue 8 of eRabbit, but I've had trouble with my email account and this has hindered this publication.

Discounts

I have negotiated a 10% discount for Club members when ordering wheels through BBS Direct for details of their product range, see www.bbsdirect.co.uk To get the discount please have your membership card handy and state that you're a member of Club GTI at the time of ordering.

I have negotiated a 10% discount for Club members when ordering seats through Recaro Direct for details of their product range, see www.recaro-seats.co.uk To get the discount please have your membership card handy and state that you're a member of Club GTI at the time of ordering.

£5 off, Used Car Checks 140 Point Check. Contact Used Car Checks on 08700 46 86 02 and mention you're a member of Club GTI to get the discount.

If you're aware of a company who will offer Club GTI members a discount, please let us know so we can pass the information on to other members.

Gifts

Look at the front cover of a Haynes manual and you will see a line drawing of a MK1 Golf GTI. This line drawing is now available reproduced on a Black premium quality T-Shirts. Available in three sizes Small (40") / Medium (44") / Large (48") at a cost of £27.95+p+p. The print is officially licensed from J.C.Haynes the owners of Haynes manuals. The T-Shirts are available from www.woodenheartltd.co.uk or by ringing 015242 72150. If it's for a Christmas present please phone and check the delivery times.

Feedback

I would be grateful for any comments on this publication, you can email me at chairman@clubgti.com although if you don't wish to receive this type of correspondence, please email the membership secretary and request to be removed from the distribution list.

Renewals / Membership

To renew online, just log onto www.clubgti.com and follow the link to the secure server.

Thanks

Thanks to Mike Moorhead for helping out with this issue.

Christmas & New Year

This time is upon us again. The committee would like to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Pete Seeva
chairman@clubgti.com