



eRabbit

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Welcome

Once again another year has passed and may I, on behalf of the committee and myself wish you and your families a happy new year. This latest issue shows the R32, which was launched at the Madrid motor show last year.



The Golf R32

When the MK4 was initially launched it looked like the VR6 engine had been dropped from the range. It was replaced by the V6 4MOTION which offered more power and 4 wheel drive. Was this the Rallye that the UK enthusiasts had been waiting for ?. Whilst it offered more power my first impression was that it was aimed more towards the luxury end of the market.

Late last year the Golf R32 was launched in the UK. The 3 and 5 door car now appear on the UK price list at £22340 for the 3 door and £22960 for the 5 door.

The engine is based on the VR6 but now the engine is 3.2 litres, with a peak power of 240 bhp at 6250 rpm, with maximum torque of 236 lbs ft produced at just 2800 rpm. The engine has been reworked to include variable geometry intake manifold, continuously variable inlet valve timing.

The styling of the R32's is aggressive. The front bumper houses massive air inlets to feed the engine. The rear bumper has two cut outs, incorporating twin chrome exhaust pipes. Redesigned sills and 'R32' chrome badges complete the picture.

Power is transmitted to the road through a six speed gearbox mated to the 4MOTION system. This along with the new engine produces a 0 to 62 mph time of 6.4 seconds, whilst the top speed is quoted at 152 mph.

The R32 is fitted with lowered suspension and 18-inch multi-spoke alloy wheels barely covered with 225/40 ZR 18 tyres. Blue brake callipers a visual styling cue for the R range are visible behind the wheels, which act on all-round ventilated disc brakes.

Inside the car sports lots of brushed aluminium. Items include racing pedals, gearstick and trim plus unique chrome-ringed instruments with 'R32' livery. The standard equipment for the R32 is very impressive so much so that only Cruise Control, Combined Radio & CD Player, Glass Sunroof and Sat Nav are the only options.



I was fortunate enough to have a test drive in an R32 and can report that the car is a worthy successor to the Rallye. All in all, the package seems good value for money when compared with car costing a similar amount. If all goes well the R range may be expanded to R32 Bora and perhaps an R40 Passat

Website

For more information on Club GTI please see the website.

Feedback

I would be grateful if you have any comments on this publication if you could email me. If you do not wish to receive this type of correspondence please email the membership secretary and request to be removed from the distribution list.

Regards

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