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New Golf GTI Design Study Breaks Cover

Alongside a host of new models appearing at the Frankfurt Motor Show and making its world premiere is Volkswagen's latest design study, the MK5 Golf GTI.

The concept suggests what the GTI version of the fifth generation Golf may look like when it's launched later next year. Though the design is modern and dynamic, it is instantly recognisable as a Golf GTI thanks to styling themes inspired by the original 1976 model. These include a black grille with red outline; distinctive 'GTI' logos; black sills and bumper skirts; and a prominent roof spoiler.

In addition, the GTI prototype features twin exhaust pipes; 18" alloy wheels; red brake callipers; and a striking arrow form that plunges from the bonnet, around the honeycomb grille and down into the deep front air dam. Inside, extensive use of aluminium in the pedals, trim, floor and steering wheel join sports seats and chrome ringed instruments to create a bold, sporty ambience.

The GTI is powered by a 2.0-litre turbocharged, direct-injection FSI engine, producing 200 PS (about 196bhp) which provides the level of performance expected of a GTI. All this power is transferred to the

road via Volkswagen's innovative DSG direct-shift gearbox which has already appeared in the V6 version of the Audi TT. The suspension uses a multi-link design at the rear, is designed to perform outstandingly on this new GTI.

The world debut of the first Golf GTI concept also took place at the Frankfurt Motor Show in 1975. The world had to wait until June 1976 for the production version of a 110 PS model to appear in the dealers. The initial intention was to produce a limited edition of 5,000 cars. The Golf GTI has proved to be so popular that over 1.5 million units have been sold to date, spread over four generations and numerous evolutions.

Volkswagen Touareg to contest in the Paris - Dakar Rally 2004



Volkswagen Motorsport is undertaking intensive preparations for the forthcoming Cross Country Rally season including the world's most famous marathon event, the Dakar Rally which takes place between 1st and 18th of January next year.

Former Dakar winner, Jutta Kleinschmidt, and her co-pilot Fabrizia Pons will drive a Volkswagen Race Touareg, which is being prepared in line with the prototype regulations. This development project, managed by Volkswagen's Motorsport Director, Kris Nissen, will be co-ordinated from now on by the new Cross Country Centre.

Nissen, a Dane who has been Motorsport Director since July 2003, emphasised the progress made and the importance of the project, saying: "Volkswagen has taken on a large and exciting task. Race preparation and support are made under one roof since the formation of the Cross Country Centre. A works team will be systematically built up for this purpose. The marathon project enjoys highest priority within the Volkswagen sport programme."

Eduard Weidl, the Technical Director was responsible for the chassis and body developments. With the aim to get the Touareg classified in FIA T2 Class. Volkswagen opted to use the 2.3-litre five-cylinder TDI engine to power the vehicle. Due to the factor added for turbo diesels the Touareg is categorised in the class with a minimum weight of 1750 kg.

The prototype vehicle will begin testing next month and will be raced for the first time at next years Dakar Rally in January 2004.

Technical Information

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

Rabbit

The next issue of Rabbit is currently being put together and will be out in December in time for Christmas.

Discounts

- I've negotiated a 10% discount for Club members when ordering wheels through BBS Direct, details of their product range can be found at: www.bbsdirect.co.uk To get the discount please have your membership card handy and state you're a member of Club GTI at the time of ordering.
- I've also negotiated a 10% discount for Club members when ordering seats through Recaro Direct, details of their product range can be found at: www.recaro-seats.co.uk As with the BBS Direct discount offer, please have your membership card handy and state you're a member of Club GTI at the time of ordering.
- Club members can get a 5-10% discount on any part purchased from the Leeds branch of Euro Car Parts. To get this discount contact Stuart on 0113 394 5000 or e-mail him on stuart@seatcupra.net. (Please note: This discount is only available at the Leeds branch of Euro Car parts).
- £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.
- Green Light Insurance offer competitive quotes to members of Club GTI. To get the discount please have your Membership Number to hand. For a quote call Green Light on 01277 263030. They're specialists in offering insurance for Modified Vehicles and can add Track Day Cover to a policy if required.

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.

Feedback

I'd 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 correspondence, please email the membership secretary at membership@clubgti.com and request to be removed from the distribution list.

Renewals / Membership

To ensure you continue to reap the benefits of Club GTI membership, you can now renew your membership securely from the Club's website. Just log onto www.clubgti.com and follow the link to the secure server. It couldn't be simpler.

Thanks

It was decided that all further issues of eRabbit will be proof read before being sent out. Thanks to Mike Moorhead for offering to help with this.

Regards

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