

Rabbit

Rabbit Convertible



The Volkswagen innovators: Designers, engineers, and craftsmen producing unique vehicles for the '80s.



Space Efficiency.

Rabbit is roomy. Look inside and see for yourself. Rabbit gives you more total passenger and trunk room than many cars in its class.

Volkswagen engineers achieve this space efficiency by mounting Rabbit's engine transversely. Together with space-saving front wheel drive, this means plenty of headroom and legroom. Plus ample room for hips, elbows, and shoulders. Rabbit's trunk space, too, is absolutely astounding in both size and accessibility. With the rear seat folded down, Rabbit converts in seconds into a mini station wagon.

VW engineers and designers scored a breakthrough with Rabbit, producing one of the most space efficient cars ever. Other manufacturers are just now beginning to copy it. But there's still only one Original.

Volkswagen does it again.



Fuel Efficiency.

Volkswagen engineers have innovated time and again with lightweight, highly reliable powerplants.

The high-speed 1.6 liter Rabbit Diesel engine combines snappy performance with surprisingly low maintenance requirements. And for those who prefer it, there is our powerful, time-tested 1.7 liter fuel-injected gasoline engine. Ask your VW salesperson to show you a copy of the 1981 EPA Mileage Guide.

Volkswagen does it again.



Passive Safety.

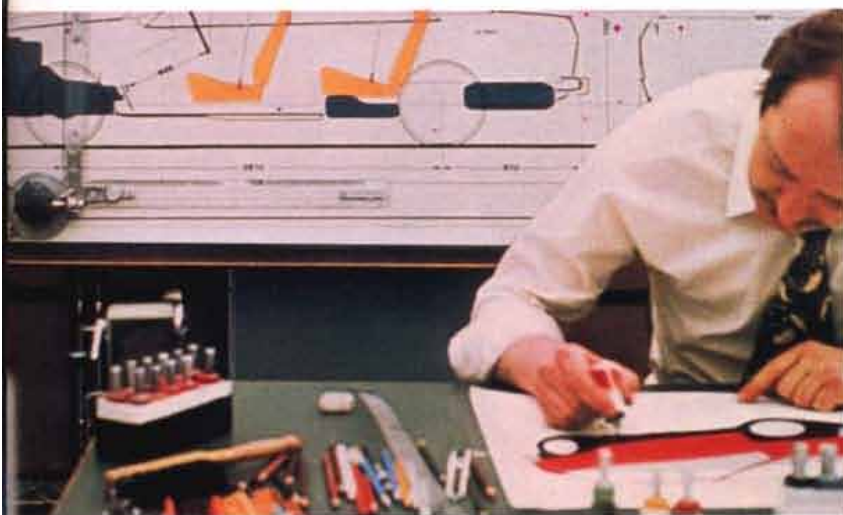
Volkswagen has long been a leader in safety technology to protect both driver and passenger. Volkswagen engineers and designers pioneered the industry's first mass produced passive restraint system. This highly effective economical passive belt system is standard equipment on the Rabbit "LS" two-door and four-door models, and is offered as an option on the Rabbit "L".

Inside every Rabbit you'll find interiors designed to help dissipate impact energy in secondary collisions. Abundant padding and sensible design help protect both the driver and passengers.

As a discerning driver, you'll recognize many safety features when you test drive Rabbit. You'll sense that this is one car with the kind of peace-of-mind features that are best appreciated on the road.

Volkswagen does it again.





Active Safety.

Rabbit's active safety features help make you a better, more "in control" driver. Few cars can surpass Rabbit's exceptional "all around visibility." Or Rabbit's logical placement of controls. And Rabbit's front wheel drive and unique geometry help make you more responsive when it counts. Test drive Rabbit and experience the feeling of being "in control."

Innovative solutions to design challenges are the key to Rabbit's responsiveness. This is reflected in the way Rabbit feels on all kinds of roads, and the way the car responds to your every command.

With so many advanced engineering features, is it any wonder that a growing number of drivers worldwide are opting for Rabbit's active, precise driving control?

Volkswagen does it again.



Human Engineering.

Many car makers talk about human engineering. Few pursue it with the resources and dedication of Volkswagen.

Ergonomics—the design practice of making a car fit you better—has been refined by VW to make it possible for tall people and short people to drive the same Rabbit in comfort. Rabbit's front bucket seats adjust fore and aft. And the seat backs recline from straight-up-and-down to all the way down. (Standard on Rabbit "L" and "LS".)

Human engineering in the Rabbit has been refined down to the smallest detail: The smooth operation of switches; the logical placement of instruments and warning lights; and the ease of clutch, brake, and gearshift operation.

Human engineering is what makes Rabbit an Original.

Volkswagen does it again.



Total Performance.

In your new Rabbit, total performance means many things. From exhilarating handling, delivered by the four-wheel independent suspension, to Rabbit's proven front wheel drive.

Total performance also means high standards of product quality. Quality you can see and feel in Rabbit's superb fit and finish. And quality to deliver toughness and longevity.

In the final analysis, quality cannot be improvised or added on. It must be designed in from the very beginning. When you seek a car capable of delivering total performance and complete satisfaction—you'll want "The Original."

Volkswagen does it again.





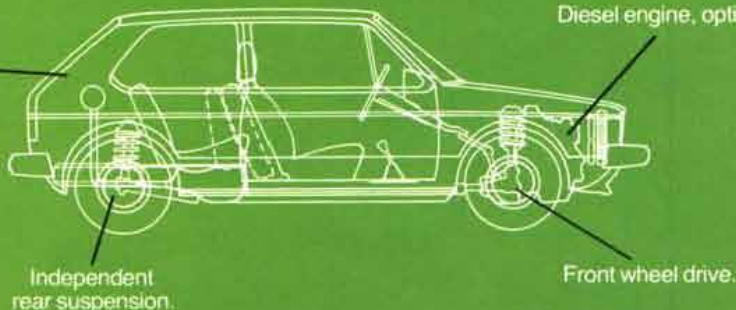
Background: Rabbit hatchback, Lago Blue. Foreground: Rabbit "L" 2-door hatchback, Sunbrite Yellow.

VW Rabbit.
The more you know it,
the more you like it.

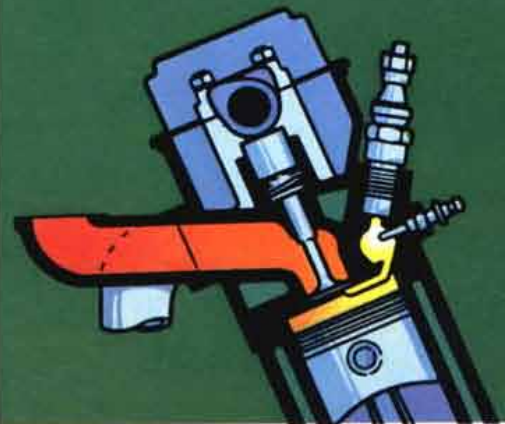
Way back in 1974, Volkswagen reinvented the automobile. And ever since, we've been perfecting and improving our Original.

Today, Rabbit is among the most space-efficient cars you can own. And it is available in fuel-injected, gasoline engine models, as well as the popular Rabbit Diesel. Either way, our Original is available with VW's highly original passive restraint system.

Storage:
Seat up, 14 cu. ft.
Seat down, 22 cu. ft.



Diesel engine, optional.



Cut-away of Diesel combustion chamber.



Handsome Rabbit interior with flat woven cloth seats.

Front wheel drive with transverse-mounted engine — the key to Rabbit's space efficiency — has been refined and fine-tuned by VW engineers for six years. Today other manufacturers are coming to realize the value of this configuration. And some are just beginning to introduce it on their cars.

When you consider owning the Original, check on its long record for commanding high resale prices. A look

at Rabbit's fine finish and high quality workmanship and materials tells the story.

Today's VWs are thoroughly engineered to meet your driving needs for years to come. Slip behind the wheel and test drive Rabbit. Up close, you'll know it's the Original.

Volkswagen does it again.

Specifications, standard equipment and options subject to change without notice.

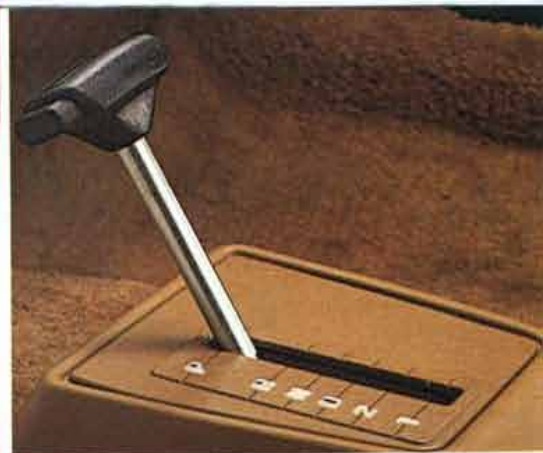
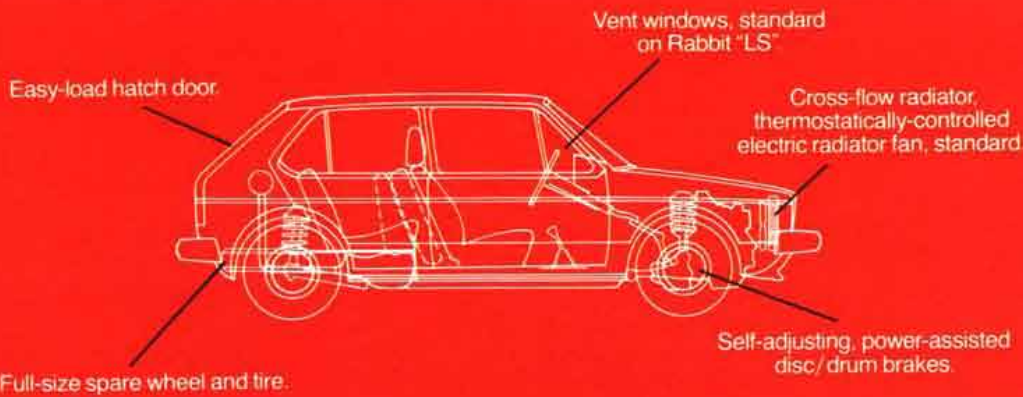


Rabbit "L", 4-door hatchback, Royal Red.

The Original. 1981 Edition.

Volkswagen engineers are always striving to make a good thing even better. So like its predecessors, the 1981 Rabbit brings with it a number of refinements and improvements that help make it even more engaging to own.

For openers, Rabbit's front and rear bumpers are now made of aluminum instead of steel, to make them even more efficient. And inside you'll find a redesigned interior and a whole new instrument panel with newly designed speedometer, fuel gauge, and seven-digit odometer. A quartz crystal chronometer is included with our L and LS models.



Optional Rabbit Automatic Transmission.



Rabbit "L" interior, Russet Vinyl (optional). Trunk holds a generous 14 cubic feet.

You'll find Rabbit's full-size spare stowed out of the way in its own special compartment beneath the floor of the spacious cargo area. You can substantially increase the cargo space by folding down the rear seatback.

For added safety, both our four-door Rabbit L and LS are equipped with special rear door locks. When you're traveling with children, simply flip a lever concealed in the door frame, and the rear doors can only be opened from the outside. To reduce weight and increase Rabbit's fuel efficiency, VW engineers designed a cross-flow aluminum radiator. And to save power, the electric fan is thermostatically-controlled. That means it runs only

when needed, permitting faster warm-ups in winter.

Every detail in Rabbit's design represents a thoroughly researched development. The best way to appreciate Rabbit's engineering is to drive Rabbit yourself. Then you'll understand why The Original is better than ever. Inside and out!

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Rabbit "LS", 4-door hatchback, Lago Blue

The 1981 Rabbit. Behind the wheel, you know it's not a copy.

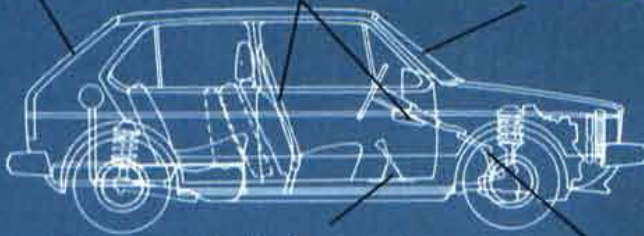
Consider VW's innovative passive restraint system — one of many original features found on Rabbit "LS" models. It's quick and easy to use. Comfortable as you drive. And most important, it's effective.

An original feature found on all Rabbit models is our huge glass area for clear visibility in all directions. Rabbit has more glass area than many larger cars. It's easier to drive and park and probably handles better in snow, mud, and on country roads. Inside, you'll find a space-efficient interior that gives even six-footers room to stretch out and relax. A back seat that's built for adults. And a trunk that's really built for carrying.

Electric rear window defroster, standard on all Rabbit models.

Passive restraint system, standard on Rabbit "LS", optional on "L".

Good visibility all around.



4-speed standard, 5-speed optional with 1.7L and Diesel. Automatic optional with 1.7L only.

Rack and pinion steering.



Optional Rabbit sunroof.



Good looking new interior, 1981 Rabbit LS. Silver Gray velour-cloth. Head restraints are adjustable.

One reason for Rabbit's generous interior room is front wheel drive. Another is the fact that Rabbit's engine is mounted transversely (sideways) between the front wheels. So there's less engine compartment and more passenger compartment. For responsiveness and quick handling, Rabbit has rack and pinion steering. And to soak up road irregularities, there's four-wheel independent coil spring suspension.

These original features and many more can best be appreciated by driving Rabbit yourself. In fact, we suggest you drive both the Diesel and the gasoline-powered Rabbits to help you choose the one that's best

for you. And while you're checking out our Rabbits, notice the standard operating vent windows on Rabbit "LS". The electric rear-window defroster standard on all Rabbit models. And discuss the benefits of "negative steering roll radius" with one of your dealership's knowledgeable salespersons.

Give Rabbit a really close inspection. Get the feel of its superb fit and finish. And check "under the surface" for the engineering that has made Rabbit one of the most copied cars in automotive history.

Behind the wheel and under the hood, you know it's not a copy!

Specifications, standard equipment and options subject to change without notice.



Rabbit 4-seater Convertible, Brazil Brown Metallic. Interior: Gazelle leatherette; top, Sand.

Rabbit Convertible. A very rare Original.

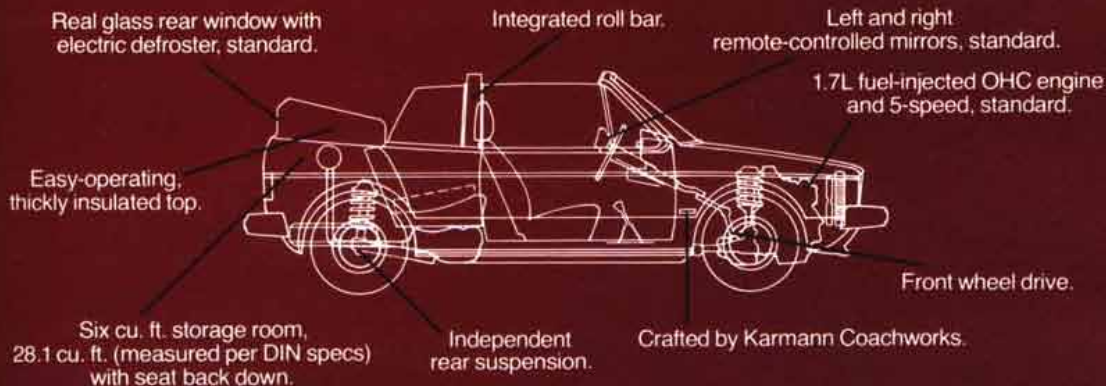
After 31 years and millions of convertibles, we're proud to report that the 1981 Rabbit Convertible is among the best we've ever built. And that the Rabbit Convertible is still a very sensible way to enjoy fresh air and sunshine.

While most of the very few convertibles still being built today are too small to be practical, Rabbit Convertible is big enough for four big people. And all their luggage, too. Even with the top down!

All this, and the Rabbit Convertible gives you excellent fuel economy,* too.

In fact, our Rabbit Convertible is quite unlike anything else you can own.

*Based on 1980 EPA estimates: Gasoline — 24 estimated mpg; 38 mpg estimated highway. Diesel — 40 estimated mpg; 52 estimated highway. Compare these estimates with the "estimated mpg" of other cars. Your actual mileage will vary with speed, weather, and trip length. Highway mpg will probably be less. 1981 estimates not available at time of printing.



Integrated roll bar.



4-passenger Rabbit Convertible. Diamond Silver Metallic exterior. Black leatherette interior. Black top.

In fact, our Rabbit Convertible is quite unlike anything else you can own.

The top is three layers thick and made virtually by hand. And insulated to help keep out heat, cold, noise, and water. And in back, the rear window is made of glass and electrically heated to keep off ice and snow. The coachwork, by the way, is painstakingly crafted by the famous old-world firm, Karmann. So the fit and finish is nothing short of superb.

For power, our convertible is equipped with a 1.7L fuel-injected overhead cam engine, matched to a

5-speed gearbox with economical overdrive ratios. And inside the car, the appointments are luxurious. From the sumptuous upholstery to the cut pile carpeting. For your listening pleasure, Rabbit Convertible comes with an AM/FM stereo cassette sound system as standard equipment—complete with right and left in-door speakers. And there are front vent windows and remote-control outside mirrors on both sides.

As you can see, when Volkswagen promises you a rare original we go to any length to deliver.

Specifications, standard equipment and options subject to change without notice.

There are more ways than one to own the Original.

Exterior	Rabbit	Rabbit L	Rabbit LS	Convertible
Hatch-door support	Pneumatic spring			
Windshield wiper/washer	Electric, 2-speed wiper; electric washer			
Radiator grille	Black with bright edge plus horizontal bars			Not available
Bumpers	Bright aluminum w/black tape stripe	Bright aluminum w/black tape stripe	Bright aluminum with rubber strip and bumper overrides*	
Tinted glass, all around	Optional	Standard		
Front vent window	Not available	Optional	Standard	
Outside rearview mirror, left	Black		Black, remote control	
Remote-controlled outside rearview mirror, right	Optional		Standard	
Rocker panel molding	Black		Bright	
Hubcap	Bright	Bright w. trim rings	Full wheel covers, chrome	
Bright molding around all windows, rear hatch	Not available	Standard		
Protective molding, beltline	Not available	Standard		
Lockable fuel filler cap	Available thru dealer			Standard
Dual-tone horn	Not available			Standard

*Bumper overrides not on Convertible.

Interior	Rabbit	Rabbit L	Rabbit LS	Convertible
Seat belts, front	Inertia reel (2 sets)		Passive restraints (2 sets)	Inertia reel (2 sets)
Seat belts, rear	Retractor type (2 sets)			
Reclining front bucket seats	Not available	Standard		
Folding rear seats, to expand luggage space	Not available	Seatback and cushion, Standard		Seatback only Standard
Luggage compartment cover	Not available	Standard		
Front seat headrest	Integrated (non-adjustable)		Individual, adjustable	
Courtesy light switch	On driver side only	On driver and front-passenger doors		
Radio	AM/FM radio, optional			AM/FM stereo w/cassette player opt.
Electric rear window defroster	Standard			
Instrument cluster	One round instrument cluster with speedometer/odometer, fuel gauge	Two instrument clusters, with resettable trip odometer, coolant temperature gauge, electric quartz chronometer.*		
Indicator and warning lights for oil pressure, coolant temperature, alternator, turn indicator, high-beam headlamps, brake "on", EGR, catalytic converter, seat belts, dimmer switch for instruments	Standard			
Instrument face-plate woodgrain w/chrome trim	Not available		Standard	
Tachometer, voltmeter, oil temperature gauge	Not available	Optional		Standard
Steering wheel	Midnight Blue	Color-coordinated	Color-coordinated padded	Foam-padded wheel
Glove compartment	Lockable			Lockable, illuminated
Child lock rear doors (4-door)	Not available	Standard 4-door		Not available
Luggage compartment floor	Vinyl-covered, one color	Optional carpeting	Standard carpeting	Rubber floor covering
Luggage compartment light, w/hatch switch	Not available		Standard	Not available
Swivel sunvisors, right/left	Not available	Standard		
Vanity mirror, right visor	Not available	Optional	Standard	
Headliner fully-padded	Standard			
Carpet trim, lower door panels	Not available		Standard	
Ashtray, rear	Not available	Optional	Standard	Not available
Cigarette lighter	Not available	Standard		
Fresh air and heater control	Standard			
Coat hooks, left/right	Standard			Not available
Seat hinge cover color-keyed	Not available	Standard		
Assist straps, rear passenger	Not available			
Intermittent wash-wipe feature	Not available	Optional	Standard	

*Digital clock on Convertible

Options that make the Original uniquely yours.

The following are individual popular Rabbit options and their availability.

Passive-restraint system (standard "LS"; optional "L" models).

Radio, AM/FM (optional).

Radio, AM/FM stereo pushbutton with cassette player (optional).

Diesel engine, 1.6 liter, 52 hp, L/LS only (with 63 Amp/hr battery, 55-amp. alternator). N.A. California.

Rear window wiper and washer, L/LS only.

5-speed manual transmission (L/LS only, with Diesel engine; Std., Convertible).

Sunroof, steel, with wind deflector (L/LS only).

Tinted glass, all around (std. L/LS and Convertible).

Air conditioning (optional on L/LS and Convertible).

Heavy-duty heat exchanger, all models.

Floor mats, front and rear.

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Rabbit Specifications.

ENGINE

Number of cylinders	4
Bore x stroke, gasoline.....	Inches—3.13" x 3.40" Metric—79.5mm x 86.4mm
Bore x stroke, Diesel	Inches—3.01" x 3.40" Metric—76.5mm x 86.4mm
Displacement, gasoline (inches/metric)	105 cu. in./1715cc
Displacement, Diesel (inches/metric)	97 cu. in./1588cc
Compression ratio	Gasoline—8.2:1 Diesel—23.0:1
Horsepower, SAE net	Gasoline—74 @ 5000 rpm Diesel—52 @ 4800 rpm
Maximum torque, SAE net.....	Gasoline—89.6 ft. lbs. @ 3000 rpm Diesel—71.5 ft. lbs. @ 3000 rpm
Fuel requirements	Gasoline—Unleaded only Diesel—No. 2 Diesel fuel

ENGINE DESIGN

Engine block	Cast iron
Cylinder head	Aluminum alloy
Valve train	Spur-belt driven, overhead cam
Cooling system	Water-cooled, electric radiator fan thermostatically-controlled; cross-flow radiator closed and pressurized
Fuel/Air supply	Gasoline—Continuous Injection System (CIS) Diesel—Spur-belt driven distributor-injection pump; Diesel injectors, "swirl" chambers and glow plugs

ELECTRICAL SYSTEM

Rated voltage	12V
Alternator output	55 Amp
Battery capacity	12V/54 Amp/hr (12V/63 Amp/hr with Diesel)
Ignition	Breakerless transistor (Diesel: compression ignition)
Cylinder firing order	1-3-4-2

DRIVE TRAIN

Clutch	Single disc, dry
Transmission, manual.....	4-speed, fully-synchronized trans-axle; 1st gear: 3.45:1; 2nd gear: 1.75:1; 3rd gear: 1.06:1; 4th gear: 0.70:1; Reverse gear: 3.17:1
Transmission, automatic.....	3-speed transverse front mounted transaxle, 1st gear: 2.55:1; 2nd gear: 1.45:1; 3rd gear: 1.00:1; Reverse gear: 2.46:1
Final drive	Front wheel drive, double-jointed drive axles with constant-velocity (CV) joints

CHASSIS AND SUSPENSION

Chassis	Unitized body/chassis, bolt-on front fenders; 2-door and 4-door hatchback models, and 2-door Convertible model
Front suspension	Independent, coil shock absorber struts, negative steering roll radius
Rear suspension.....	Independent, stabilizer axle with coil/shock absorber struts

BRAKES AND WHEELS

Service brake	Power-assisted, hydraulic, dual-diagonal; discs front, drums rear; brake pressure regulator, rear
Emergency brake	Mechanical, acting on rear drums
Rims	4½Jx13 steel rim; 5Jx13 Convertible
Tire size.....	155x13; 175SR13 Convertible
Steering	Rack and pinion, double pivot steering column, 3.9 turns, lock to lock

DIMENSIONS

Length/Width/Height (unloaded)	Inches—155.3" L x 63.4" W x 55.5" H Metric—4397mm L x 1615mm W x 1360mm H
Wheelbase (inches/metric)	94.5"/2400mm
Track front/rear	Inches—54.7"/53.5" Metric—1390mm/1358mm
Turning circle (curb to curb).....	Approximately 31.2 ft.
Ground clearance (loaded).....	4.9"/125mm
Hatchback Opening (Ht/W/Diag)	51¾/29½/48¹/₃₂

CAPACITIES

Fuel tank	10.0 U.S. gallons
Engine oil	4.7 U.S. quarts
Luggage space (seat up/down) ..	14.0 cu. ft./22.6 cu. ft. 6.0 cu. ft./25.0 cu. ft. Convertible

PERFORMANCE

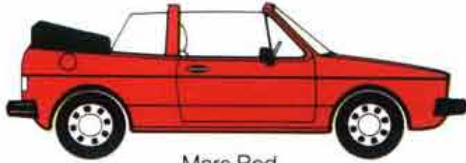
Fuel consumption*	Gasoline: (24) estimated mpg; 38 estimated highway mpg Diesel: (40) estimated mpg; 52 estimated highway mpg
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*Based on 1980 EPA estimates. Compare these estimates to the "estimated mpg" of other cars. Your actual mileage will vary with speed, weather, and trip length. Highway mpg will probably be less. 1981 estimates not available at time of printing.

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Rabbit Convertible Colors and Trim

Exterior



Mars Red



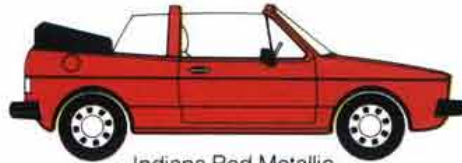
Black



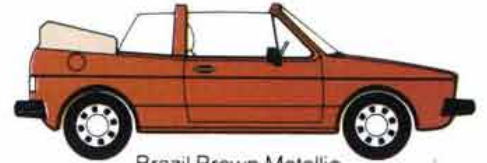
Alpine White



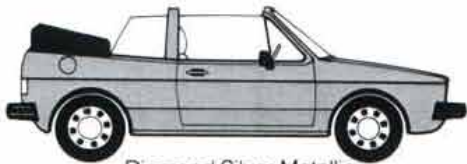
Cedar Green Metallic



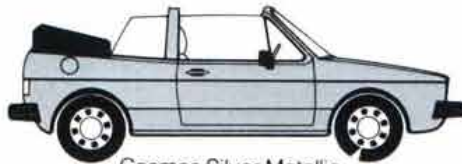
Indiana Red Metallic



Brazil Brown Metallic



Diamond Silver Metallic



Cosmos Silver Metallic

For other exterior/interior color combinations, please ask your Volkswagen Dealer for details.

Specifications, standard equipment and options subject to change without notice.

Interior

Leatherette



Black

Black interiors available with Mars Red, Black, Alpine White, Cedar Green Met., Indiana Red Met., Diamond Silver Met., Cosmos Silver Met.



Red

Red interiors available with Mars Red, Black, Alpine White, Indiana Red Met., Diamond Silver Met.



Ermine White

Ermine White interiors available with Black, Alpine White, Indiana Red Met.



Royal Blue

Royal Blue interiors available with Alpine White, Cosmos Silver Met.



Gazelle

Gazelle interiors available with Cedar Green Met., Brazil Brown Met.

Cloth (Sport Seat only)*



Red/Black

Red/Black interiors available with Mars Red, Black, Alpine White, Indiana Red Met., Diamond Silver Met.



Black/Gray

Black/Gray interiors available with Cedar Green Met., Cosmos Silver Met.



Convertible Sport Seat, optional

* Not available on Brazil Brown Metallic.



Sand



Black

Top Color availability

Two top colors are offered, Black and Sand, in the following combinations:

Black Top with Mars Red, Black, Alpine White, Indiana Red Metallic, Diamond Silver Metallic, Cosmos Silver Metallic.

Sand Top with Mars Red, Black, Alpine White, Cedar Green Metallic, Indiana Red Metallic, Brazil Brown Metallic, Cosmos Silver Metallic.

The Volkswagen Family of Originals.



Rabbit.

In an era when most manufacturers are cutting performance, it is refreshing to find an extra measure of performance in the Rabbit Plus room, comfort, handling and quality that's every inch VW. And there's even a convertible! All with Volkswagen's advanced engineering.



Scirocco.

An unbeatable combination: Aerodynamic styling by Giugiaro, fuel-injected, overhead-cam performance; and front wheel drive handling. Scirocco gives you real 2+2 seating comfort, and a surprising amount of luggage space. You'll like the exclusive look and the superb fit and finish of coachwork by Karmann.



Dasher.

The luxury car from Volkswagen. Front wheel drive plus your choice of fuel-injected gasoline or Diesel powerplants. And, of course, all the amenities you expect from a luxury car. Enjoy the benefits of advanced engineering in a roomy Dasher sedan or station wagon.



Jetta.

The exciting luxury sport sedan with a trunk that is large enough for six good size suitcases. Fit and finish in the tradition of fine European sedans, plus the advanced engineering that has become a VW trademark.



VW Pickup Truck.

An exciting sports pickup truck. Front wheel drive for easier handling, and a fuel-injected gasoline or Diesel powerplant for great performance. Practical and fun to drive. It's built like a truck — but it drives like something else!



Vanagon/Vanagon® Camper.

Another exciting Volkswagen original. With great new looks and advanced engineering from the ground up. It combines the best of a van with the best of a wagon. The Vanagon Camper carries on a long tradition of careful craftsmanship and flawless design.

VOLKSWAGEN DOES IT AGAIN



Volkswagen of America, Inc. believes the specifications in this brochure to be correct at time of printing. However, specifications, standard equipment, and options are subject to change without notice.

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