

Rabbit

Rabbit Convertible



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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 toe 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. This 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 five-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, low-leaded 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 electronic 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 sensitive 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, it's no 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 to 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 low and all. 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 gear-shift 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 test in Rabbit's support fit and finish. And quality to deliver toughness and longevity.

In the final analysis, quality cannot be improved 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, Logo Blue. Foreground, Rabbit "L" 3-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, 58 cu. ft.
Seat down, 22 cu. ft.



Independent
rear suspension

Diesel engine, optional

Front wheel drive



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.



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, Russel 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!

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



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.



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

Good visibility all around.

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. Shell Brown Metallic. Interior: Gazette leatherette, top, Sand.

Rabbit Convertible. A very rare Original.

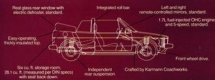
After 31 years and millions of convertibles, we're proud to report that the 1981 Rabbit Convertible is among the best we've ever built. And that the Rabbit Convertible is still a very sensible way to enjoy fresh air and sunshine.

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 1981 EPA estimates. Gasoline—¹ estimated mpg. 28 mpg highway, 22 mpg city. Diesel—² estimated mpg. 30 mpg highway, 24 mpg city. These estimates with the 1.7L fuel-injected per OHV engine. For actual mileage all city with speed, weather and no traffic. 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
Roach-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 overriders*	Not available
Tinted glass, all around	Optional		Standard	
Front vent window	Not available	Optional		
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
Quarter trim		Not available		Standard

*Bumper overriders not on Convertible

Interior	Rabbit	Rabbit L	Rabbit LS	Convertible
Seat belts, front		inertia seat (2 sets)	Passive restraints (2 sets)	inertia seat (2 sets)
Seat belts, rear			Refractor type (2 sets)	
Reclining front bucket seats	Not available		Standard	
Folding rear seat, 4 tie-down 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 headlights, brake, low oil, catalytic converter, seatbelts, dimmer switch for instruments, instrument fuse (plate w/optional w/phone line), tachometer, oilmeter, oil temperature gauge			Standard	
Steering wheel	Not available	Not available	Optional	Standard
Door compartment		Lockable		Lockable, illuminated
Child lock rear doors (all-door)	Not available		Standard 4-door	Not available
Luggage compartment floor		Optional carpeting	Standard carpeting	Rubber floor covering
Luggage compartment light, w/switch switch		Not available	Standard	Not available
Sunvis sunvisor, right side	Not available		Standard	
Vanity mirror, right side	Not available	Optional		Standard
Headliner fully padded			Standard	
Capacitor, lower door panels		Not available		Standard
Airbag, rear	Not available	Optional	Standard	Not available
Cigarette lighter	Not available		Standard	
Fresh air and heater control			Standard	
Coal hooks, left light			Standard	Not available
Seat hinge cover color-keyed	Not available		Standard	
Assist straps, rear passenger			Not available	
Intermittent wiper/wipe feature	Not available	Optional		Standard

Options that make the Original uniquely yours.

The following are individual popular Rabbit options and their availability.

Passive-restraint system (standard "L", 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

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

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—3.22" x 3.40" Metric—81.9mm x 86.4mm
Displacement, gasoline (cubic/inch/metric)	105 cu. in./1716cc
Displacement, Diesel (cubic/inch/metric)	Gasoline—82.1 Diesel—23.1
Compressor ratio	Gasoline—7.4 @ 5000 rpm Diesel—52 @ 4800 rpm
Maximum torque, SAE net	Gasoline—88.6 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 Thermoelectrically-controlled, cross-flow radiator (closed) and pressurized
Fuel/Air supply	Gasoline—Continuous Injection System (CIS) Diesel—Spur belt driven distributor-injection pump, Diesel injectors, "leaf" chambers and glow plugs
ELECTRICAL SYSTEM	
Ratio voltage	12V
Alternator output	55 Amp
Battery capacity	12V/63 Amp/hr (12V/63 Amp/hr with Diesel)
Ignition	Resistorless transistor (Diesel compression ignition)
Cylinder firing order	1-3-4-2
DRIVE TRAIN	
Clutch	Single disc, dry
Transmission, manual	4-speed, fully-synchronized transaxle; 1st gear: 3.45:1, 2nd gear: 1.75:1, 3rd gear: 1.06:1, 4th gear: 1.0:1, 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: 1.0:1, Reverse gear: 2.48:1
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 hard-back model, and 2-door Convertible model
Front suspension	Independent, coil shock absorber struts, negative steering roll valve
Rear suspension	Independent, stabilizer axle with coil shock absorber struts
BRAKES AND WHEELS	
Service brake	Power-assisted hydraulic, dual-diagonal, disc front, drums rear, brake pressure regulator, rear Mechanism, acting on rear drums
Emergency brake	4x4/3 speed rear drum
Tires	15x62 175/62 Convertible
Steering	Rack and pinion, double joint steering column, 3.9 turns, lock to lock
DIMENSIONS	
Length/Width/Height (unloaded)	inches—165.3" L x 68.2" W x 55.6" H Metric—4307mm L x 1655mm W x 1418mm H
Wheelbase (inches/metric)	94.5"/2403mm
Track front/rear	inches—54.7"/1393mm Metric—1390mm/1368mm
Turning circle (curbs to curbs)	Approximately 21.4'
Ground clearance (loaded)	4.9"/125mm
Minimum Break Opening (ft/W Dia)	31%/29%/18" W
CAPACITIES	
Fuel tank	16.0 U.S. gallons
Engine oil	4.7 U.S. quarts
Luggage space (load up/down)	34.0 cu. ft./272.0 cu. ft. 6.0 cu. ft./52.0 cu. ft. Convertible
PERFORMANCE	
Fuel consumption*	Gasoline: 62 (estimated) mpg 38 (estimated) highway mpg Diesel: 62 (estimated) mpg 52 (est.) 55 (1) highway mpg

*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. 55% estimate not available at all times of driving.

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

Rabbit Hatchback Colors and Trim

Exterior



Lago Blue*



Sunrise Yellow



Majestic Beige



Black



Royal Red*



Cashmere White*



Forest Green Met.



Diamond Silver Met.



Sandstone Met.



Stone Gray Met.

Colors shown here are as accurate as modern, high-speed printing permits. Please ask your Volkswagen dealer to show you actual vehicle and actual paint and trim samples.

Interior



Midnight Blue*

Midnight Blue interior available with Lago Blue, Black, Sunrise Yellow, Majestic Beige, Cashmere White, Diamond Silver Met., Sandstone Met., Forest Green Met., Stone Gray Met.



Midnight Blue*



Silver Gray*

Silver Gray interior available with Lago Blue, Black, Sunrise Yellow, Majestic Beige, Cashmere White, Diamond Silver Met., Stone Gray Met.



Silver Gray



Autumn Tan*

Autumn Tan interior available with Lago Blue, Black, Sunrise Yellow, Majestic Beige, Cashmere White, Diamond Silver Met., Forest Green Met., Sandstone Met., Stone Gray Met.



Autumn Tan*



Russet

Russet interior available with Sunrise Yellow, Majestic Beige, Black, Royal Red, Cashmere White, Diamond Silver Met., Forest Green Met., Sandstone Met., Stone Gray Met.



Russet

Carpeting

Rabbit carpeting is color coordinated for all interiors. A quality cut-pile, 13-oz. grade is standard on all models, or gray Rabbit, 15-oz. Blue, or optional 1.5" interior, an 18-oz. grade is included in these same coordinated colors.

Instrument Panel, Interior Trim Panels

Rabbit instrument panels are color coordinated with the interior color scheme in gray, russet, tan or blue. Steering wheel/Columns, inner door panels, and inside trim panels are, likewise, color matched.

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

*Non-patterned velour cloth standard on Rabbit LS.

*Rabbit to be fitted in these colors only.

Rabbit Convertible Colors and Trim

Exterior



Mars Red



Black



Alpine White



Color Green Metallic



Indiana Red Metallic



Brain Brown Metallic



Diamond Silver Metallic



Cosmos Silver Metallic

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

Specifications standard on green and options subject to change without notice.

Interior

Leatherette



Black

Black interior available with Mars Red, Black, Alpine White, Color Green Met., Indiana Red Met., Diamond Silver Met., Cosmos Silver Met.



Red

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



Ermine White

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



Royal Blue

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



Gazelle

Gazelle interior available with Color Green Met., Brain Brown Met.

Cloth (Sport Seat only)*



Russet/Black

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



Black/Gray

Black/Gray interior available with Color Green Met., Cosmos Silver Met.



Convertible Sport Seat, optional

*Not available on Brain Brown Metallic.



Sand



Black

Top Color availability

Top color is offered in Black and Sand in the following combinations:

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

Sand Top with Mars Red, Black, Alpine White, Color Green Metallic, Indiana Red Metallic, Brain 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 Giorgetto 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 Karman.



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 fearless 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.