



October 15, 2019

Countdown to the new Golf: Golf I – the pioneer

- October 24, 2019: 9 days to go to the world premiere of the eighth Golf generation
 - A worldwide success for 45 years: the first Golf generation was launched on the market in 1974
 - 6.99 million Golf Mk I models were built up to 1983
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Wolfsburg (Germany) - The first series-production Golf rolls off the production line in Wolfsburg in March 1974 and is available at dealerships from May in the same year. Where the Beetle had dominated the scene with its rear-mounted engine and rear-wheel drive for many decades: the era of the front-mounted engine installed across the body and front-wheel drive had finally dawned. The Scirocco and the Passat, introduced in 1973, had kicked off this trend shortly before. With the Golf, the class with the highest volumes had now also been converted to the new technology.



Golf Mk I built between 1974 and 1983

The Golf Mk I developed by Giorgetto Giugiaro had to live up to immensely high expectations: As the successor to the legendary Beetle that had been produced more than 21.5 million times, the Golf Mk I had to continue the success story of the most successful car of all time up to that point. However, the modern and safe drive concept, generous space with a boot lid and folding rear seat backrest, as well as its design, were so convincing that the

production of the one millionth Golf could already be celebrated in October 1976.

Back in the day, Volkswagen wrote the following about the new model: "The Golf offers maximum usable space and safety. It has been uncompromisingly geared towards practicality. The low beltline gives drivers a clear overview and the sloping bonnet guarantees that the road right in front of the vehicle is always in view. The low rear window makes reversing very easy." This all still applies today.

Just like all following Golf generations the first generation was also a reflection of the current technical progress and automotive trends of the time. For example, Volkswagen made the vehicle class more dynamic with the introduction of the first Golf GTI (1976). In 1979 Volkswagen launched the Golf Cabriolet – temporarily the most-sold convertible car in the world – and it was like a breath of fresh air for this vehicle class which was already commonly known as the Golf Klasse at that time. Including all derivatives, such as the Cabriolet and the Jetta (back then with identical design), 6.99 million units were sold in all corners of the world – the Golf had proved to be a worthy successor of the Beetle.

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Golf Mk I annual figures:

- 1974: Debut of the first Golf
- 1976: 500,000th Golf in March
1,000,000th Golf in October
First Golf GTI
First Golf with diesel engine
- 1978: 2,000,000th Golf in June
Debut of the US Rabbit version in July
- 1979: 3,000,000th Golf in September
First Golf Cabriolet
Debut of the Caddy van
Facelift
- 1982: 5,000,000th Golf in February
First Golf with turbocharged diesel engine (GTD)
- 1983: First generation phased out in western Europe
after 6.99 units had been produced

About the Volkswagen brand:

The Volkswagen Passenger Cars brand is present in more than 150 markets throughout the world and produces vehicles at over 50 locations in 14 countries. In 2018, Volkswagen delivered 6,2 million vehicles including bestselling models such as the Golf, Tiguan, Jetta or Passat. Currently, 195,878 people work for Volkswagen across the globe. The brand also has over 10,000 dealerships with 86,000 employees. Volkswagen is forging ahead consistently with the further development of automobile production. E-mobility, smart mobility and the digital transformation of the brand are the key strategic topics for the future.
