Media Information

27 November 2026

Limited-edition model: world premiere of the manual Golf GTI 1976[1]

- **50 years of GTI** – The Golf GTI 1976 makes its debut in the 50th anniversary year of the first Golf GTI
- **Limited edition** – the new Golf GTI 1976 will be produced in a strictly limited edition of 1,976 units from 2027
- **Manual instead of automatic** – the new model will be launched as the only GTI of the current product line with a manual six-speed gearbox
- **Performance boost** – the optional GTI Performance Package includes 19-inch forged wheels, an exhaust system with titanium tailpipes and a performance chassis

Media contacts
Volkswagen Communications
Product Communications

Philipp Dörfler
Spokesperson Golf
Tel.: +49 5361 9-87633
philipp.doerfler@volkswagen.de

Find out more at
volkswagen-newsroom.com

Wolfsburg/Essen – 1976. A year that every GTI driver knows. The year in which a Volkswagen icon was born. With the first Golf GTI, the story of one of the world's most successful compact sports car product lines began. As a further highlight in the anniversary year, Volkswagen is now presenting the new Golf GTI 1976[1] at the Essen Motor Show (27 November to 6 December 2026). A limited-edition model, of which exactly 1,976 units will be produced. The new Golf GTI 1976 will be manufactured in Wolfsburg and is set to launch in Europe in the first quarter of 2027.



The first Golf GTI from 1976 and the limited-edition model, the new Golf GTI 1976

Each of the 1,976 vehicles will feature a plaque in the interior: 'ONE OF 1976'. With an output of 239 kW (325 PS), the Golf GTI 1976 is exactly as powerful as the Golf GTI EDITION 50[2] and 18 kW (24 PS) more powerful than the current Golf GTI Clubsport[3]. The maximum torque of the new Golf GTI 1976 is 380 Nm[4]. The independent edition model differs in one crucial point: for the first time since the debut of the current Golf GTI[5] (spring 2024), the 1976 special edition will be available exclusively with a manual gearbox. Volkswagen is therefore fulfilling the wish of many GTI fans to once again drive a pure, manual Golf GTI with high power.

Exterior of the 1976. From the outside, the limited-edition model[6] can be immediately recognised by an additional red GTI line in the front splitter and the inscription 'GTI 1976'. Additional graphics enhance the roof spoiler and the inside of the exterior mirrors. The latter feature high-gloss black covers; the specific 'GTI 1976' graphic is projected on to the ground as surround lighting from the exterior mirrors. The Volkswagen badges on the front and rear ends and the rear side windows are darkened in keeping with the overall style. The familiar decal from the Clubsport extends along the side sill between the 19-inch Queenstown alloy wheels with their iconic GTI

design, equipped as standard on the 1976 model. The three classic GTI exterior colours match the customised design: Pure white, Grenadilla black metallic[7] and Tornado red[7].

Interior of the 1976. An exclusive interior detail is the gear knob in golf ball design – a tribute to the first Golf GTI. In addition, the vehicle features premium sport seats with GTI covers in the new design, red seat belts (on the outer seats) and a red accelerator. The multi-function steering wheel (with GTI trim at six o'clock) is finished in ArtVelours fabric; the sill panel mouldings on the door sills are enhanced with the 'GTI 1976' lettering. Decorative trims in carbon in the dash panel and front door trim are another eye-catching feature.

Chassis of the 1976. The extended standard equipment of the Golf GTI 1976 includes the adaptive chassis control DCC, which is normally otherwise available as an option. Tailored for interaction with the DCC are the electronically controlled front differential lock adapted from the Clubsport, as well as the progressive steering. In addition, the Special driving profile, developed for the Golf GTI Clubsport, is also used in the 1976. In this mode, the powertrain, steering and DCC sports chassis are systematically matched to the special features of the Nürburgring Nordschleife.

GTI Performance Package of the 1976. The GTI Performance Package[7] optionally available for the new special-edition model includes a lightweight R-Performance exhaust system with titanium tailpipes, 19-inch Warmenau forged wheels (also with lower weight compared with the standard-equipment wheels) and a comprehensively modified performance chassis. Thanks to the adapted chassis and the reduced unsprung mass of the forged wheels, a high level of traction between the tyres and the road surface can be achieved, while maintaining neutral handling characteristics and an agile steering response. The GTI Performance Package can be optionally extended with semi-slick tyres. The technical modifications of the GTI Performance Package in detail:

- Lightweight R-Performance exhaust system with titanium tailpipes from Volkswagen R
- 19-inch Warmenau forged wheels with less unsprung mass per wheel compared with standard alloy wheels
- Lowered by five millimetres compared with the Clubsport chassis (20 mm compared with the Golf base model)
- Stiffer suspension strut mountings, stiffer control arm mountings in the transverse link and modified wheel carriers to increase camber on the front axle
- Stiffer shock absorber mountings and a wheel carrier with modified tie rod connection on the rear axle
- Specific data sets for DCC adaptive chassis control, vehicle dynamics manager, progressive steering and the ESC

GTI family of the 1976. Since 1976, well over 2.5 million Volkswagen Golf GTI models have been sold worldwide. However, the Lupo, up!, Polo[8] and Scirocco were also available as GTIs. The three letters have long since become a globally recognised product brand. Today's Volkswagen GTI line-up consists of the ID. Polo GTI[9], the ID.3 GTI[10], the Golf GTI[5] and the Golf GTI Clubsport[3]. A special concept vehicle is also

celebrating its trade fair premiere at the Essen Motor Show: the all-electric ID. Polo GTI Clubsport Concept with 270 kW (367 PS)[11] and a top speed of 240 km/h – an E-GTI that is ready for the racetrack.

1. Golf GTI 1976 – The model is not yet available for sale. Provisional WLTP-values: Combined energy consumption 8.2 -7.9 l/100 km; combined CO_2 emissions 188-180 g/km; CO_2 class: G
2. Golf GTI EDITION 50 – Combined energy consumption: 7.8–7.6 l/100 km; combined CO_2 emissions: 178–173 g/km; CO_2 class: G-F. The vehicle can no longer be ordered in Germany with individual equipment
3. Golf GTI Clubsport – Combined energy consumption: 7.5–7.4 l/100 km; combined CO_2 emissions: 171–167 g/km; CO_2 class: F
4. Forecast value
5. Golf GTI – Combined energy consumption: 7.3–7.0 l/100 km; combined CO_2 emissions: 166–160 g/km; CO_2 class: F
6. All equipment information applies to the model range offered in Germany. There may be differences for other countries
7. Optional equipment
8. Polo GTI – Combined energy consumption: 6.9–6.5 l/100 km; combined CO_2 emissions: 156–149 g/km; CO_2 class: F-E
9. ID. Polo GTI – Combined energy consumption: 15.7–14.2 kWh/100 km; combined CO_2 emissions: 0 g/km; CO_2 class: A
10. ID.3 GTI –The model is not yet available for sale. Provisional forecast values: Combined energy consumption 14.5 kWh/100 km; combined CO_2 emissions 0 g/km; CO_2 class: A
11. ID. Polo GTI Clubsport Concept – concept vehicle

The Volkswagen Passenger Cars brand has a global presence and produces vehicles at 28 locations in twelve countries. In 2025, Volkswagen delivered over 4.7 million vehicles. These include bestsellers such as the Polo, T-Roc, T-Cross, Golf, Tiguan and Passat as well as the successful all-electric models from the ID. family. Last year, the company handed over around 382,000 all-electric vehicles to customers worldwide. Volkswagen currently employs around 170,000 people worldwide. With its "BOOST 2030" strategy, Volkswagen is advancing its evolution into the most desirable brand for sustainable mobility.