

# Pump up the



# Volume

Ian Lamming enjoys the trip in the VW Passat Estate

## Fact File

VW Passat Estate

Engine: 2.0 diesel

Power: 150PS

0-62mph: 8.9 secs

Top speed: 134mph

Combined miles per gallon: 62.8

Transmission: six

speed auto DSG

CO2 g/km: 119

SOME people, the unkind, the unruly, the uninformed, might accuse the Passat of being a bit of a snore.

But what matters more to me is what you see when you turn the key – 805 miles to empty. That will do me. I love this car.

That's what you can expect to get on a tankful as 60mpg comes up on the trip computer without really trying.

I reckon with a bit of effort you could drive from John O'Groats to Land's End without filling up, which is 874miles.

That's VW diesels for you and this is one of the best. The broad band of power starts at virtually tickover and coupled with the best auto on the market, the legendary DSG, this car romps through the uber-slick ratios with remarkable speed.

It's a big car, true. It's a whopper. It's wide, long and very very spacious. But as soon as you are behind the wheel it transforms.

The steering wheel could be off a Golf GTI, the alloy dash is metal-icious, the ergoComfort driver's seat, with seat cushion tilt adjustment, thigh support and electric backrest adjustment, is gloriously comfortable and sporting.

The interior is truly impressive, particularly with the touch screen infotainment centre. There is sheer volume, for passengers and luggage, and a peerless sense of quality.

The combination of sharp handling, peerless ride and stonking performance make the Passat a great drive as well as a supreme load bearer.

It's a contradiction, a paradox, but a fabulous one. Enjoy the trip.