

More than just



good looks

Ian Lamming drives the VW Scirocco

Fact File

- VW Scirocco
- Engine: 2.0 diesel
- Power: 150PS
- 0-62mph: 8.6 secs
- Top speed: 134mph
- Combined miles per gallon: 67.3
- Transmission: six-speed manual
- CO2 g/km: 109

LIFE is full of nice surprises, particularly if you drive a Scirocco.

That's because, no matter how hard I tried, I could never remember what car I was in. It could have been any in the VW range, from a Polo to a Passat, it just wouldn't lodge in my psyche.

So every time I saw its reflection in a shop window I had to catch myself with the visual reminder that I was in something special, sporty, select.

Don't get me wrong; there is no level of criticism attached here but recognition that the whole VW range is pretty good to drive.

But as the miles chugged by I did find myself asking am I in a Golf, oh no it's a Passat, only to get out in the car park and think 'that Scirocco is a nice looking car' – weird.

And it is a nice looking car, now sporting the new VW nose but retaining those sexy swollen flanks that make it look about 15ft wide on the road.

That's how it feels too, wide and low-slung, balanced and perfectly planted, like a Golf

GTI – no wonder I'm confused.

The engine isn't like a Golf GTI as in this instance it is the 150PS turbo diesel – nice.

It's a stunning oil burner offering tyre shredding torque but 60mpg fuel economy figures, which is a combo I love.

The ride is so sophisticated and refined yet helm responses are sharp and sporty.

It is comfortable without losing any of its coupe control. Brakes are strong too.

Inside the three door bodyshell is surprisingly spacious and the boot is ok for bags and shopping.

Specification is high with a colour touch screen dominating the dash and interconnectivity that buyers now come to expect.

VW lovers are going to appreciate the recognizable and inimitable feel of the Scirocco that adds a coupe element to the range.

There is pleasure in forgetting exactly what you are in only to look back as you alight and admire the Scirocco's good looks.