
Company car dinosaur becomes premium estate car

Von Frank Wald

The VW Passat, once the backbone of German company fleets, is entering its (probably) last round - at least as a combustion engine. After eight generations, the company car dinosaur is saying goodbye to the saloon version and German production. It is now being built in Slovakia together with the Skoda Superb. Visually, the classic estate sets modern accents with a chic rear light strip and improved aerodynamics. 14.4 centimeters longer, with a longer wheelbase and plenty of space, it also offers great comfort for everyday driving and long-distance journeys.

The interior is dominated by tidy functionality with clever storage compartments. The new, up to 15-inch touchscreen impresses with its brilliant display and fast operation - VW has obviously learned from previous infotainment missteps. Thanks to illuminated sliders for volume and temperature, the controls are also easy to use at night.

Under the hood of our test version is the entry-level engine, a 1.5-liter TSI petrol engine with mild hybrid technology and 150 PS (110 kW). It is sufficient for everyday use - as long as you have no sporting ambitions. The fuel consumption figures are pleasing: 6.1 liters in the test. The optional adaptive DCC chassis ensures a pleasant journey, the steering is direct, the insulation is excellent - almost a luxury class feeling.

Just like the price. It starts at 41,665 euros, but with some popular comfort extras, you can quickly scratch the 55,000 euro mark - and that with the basic engine. The Passat is therefore no longer an affordable people's car, but a premium estate for higher earners. But it is also a reliable companion for long distances and comfortable travel. (aum)

Images for article



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