

Volkswagen Scirocco Coupe

WhatCar? verdict



For:

The Scirocco has sharp lines, drives sweetly, and it's a steal, too.

Against:

The few drawbacks are limited to the cramped rear seats and dinky boot.



On the road verdict

Performance



Rapid pace, even from the diminutive 1.4

At first, you'll only be able to buy a turbocharged 197bhp 2.0-litre petrol engine. Its 0-62mph sprint time of 7.2sec may not worry power-crazed, axle-twisting hot hatches, but you'll rarely feel short-changed for speed, thanks to its sweet-revving nature. In 2009, a 158bhp 1.4 petrol will be added; this may be diminutive, but its combination of supercharging, turbocharging, and light weight gives the Scirocco real spice. A diesel will be added next year, too, but we haven't tested it yet.

Ride and handling



Supple ride, strong grip, crisp steering

The Scirocco's handling is safe, grippy and predictable, complemented by plenty of steering feel and an electronic stability system that allows just enough playfulness before it applies its steadying hand. Adaptive chassis control comes as standard, which allows the driver to choose the stiffness of the suspension, the weighting of the steering and the speed of the throttle responses.

Refinement



Smooth and cultured

Flat-out blasts only serve to confirm the Scirocco's excellent high-speed stability and negligible wind noise. The steering and pedals work with great precision, while both the DSG semi-auto and the six-speed manual gearboxes have a positive, precise action.

In the cabin verdict

Behind the wheel

Ownership verdict

Buying



Hot property new and a scorching used prospect

The Scirocco looks to be an absolute steal, all the more so when you consider its probable high resale values. Fuel consumption will take a hit if you use the performance to the maximum, but take it easy and the 1.4's 43.4mpg and 2.0's 37.1mpg look reasonable.

Quality



Excellent build and proven mechanicals

Plip the remote central-locking and the frameless windows drop a couple of centimetres to prevent them snagging when you open the doors. The dash and door cappings owe more to the Eos than to the Golf, but the same solid fixtures, fittings and exquisite attention to detail dominate the interior. Proven mechanicals should guarantee longevity.

Safety and security



Ticks all the boxes

The Scirocco certainly doesn't skimp on safety equipment. Front, side and curtain airbags, large-diameter brakes and electronic stability control are standard. There are also active front head restraints to minimise whiplash injuries. Deadlocks and an alarm are fitted to deter thieves.

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Vehicles	Finance	Tracking	Valeting	S.M.A.R.T	Maintenance
New and Used Cars and commercial SuperCars Part Exchange	Contract hire Finance lease Hire purchase Conditional purchase	Live vehicle tracking Timesheets Site reports Mileage	Internal and external Supagard Autoglym DiamondBrite	Dents Scatches Alloy Wheels Repairs	Pay as you go Fixed Fleet support Breakdown recovery



Elegant cabin, excellent attention to detail
 Triangular door handles are a neat stylistic touch, and a touch-screen control panel for the stereo is complemented by silkily damped switches and rotary dials for the heating and ventilation systems. The door panel inserts and sports seats are finished in a classy, meshed weave, and there's a generous range of adjustment for the chunky, leather-covered, flat-bottomed steering wheel.

Space and practicality



Two-plus-two with limited boot space
 Up front, there's plenty of space, but getting into the back requires a degree of flexibility and caution to avoid banging your head. Once seated, there's a good kneeroom and plenty of space under the front seats to slide your feet. That plunging roofline, though, means headroom is tight. At 292 litres, there's just about enough room in the boot for half-a-dozen carrier bags, so you'll need to flip down at least one of the 50-50 split/fold rear seats if you want to fit in your golf bag.

Equipment



No more than you expect for the money
 Along with electric windows and mirrors, a CD player and remote central locking, the Scirocco also has dual-zone climate control, a leather steering wheel and sports suspension. Six airbags, climate control and 18-inch alloy wheels are also standard, and options include a panoramic sunroof, 19-inch alloy wheels, leather trim and touch-screen satellite-navigation.

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