

What Year Is It?



1973 Edition

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VOLKSWAGEN —
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PHONE BEverly 5-6393



How Old Is That Beetle? Here's How to Tell.

In 1949 the first two new Volkswagens were imported to the United States. Some 24 years later the Bug is still a star performer on the American automotive stage—and will be for years to come. The Bug is available in two versions now, the Beetle and the slightly-larger Super Beetle. Both bear out the Volkswagen philosophy that changes are made only for the sake of improvement, never simply for the sake of change.

Each year's Beetle and Super Beetle is better than the last one, but the basic shape remains the same. So whether in Cleveland, New York or New Delhi, it's easy to spot a Beetle. Telling the Bug's model year is something else—and that's why we've produced this handy guide.

All Volkswagens were built according to calendar year prior to 1955. On August 1, 1955, a "model year" was established. In some instances, many exterior changes and inside improvements were made during a particular year's production. The older the VW, the more difficult it is to spot the changes.

The features listed are characteristic improvements in a given model year. The only sure-fire method of identification is to check the chassis number of the car and compare it with the numbers listed.

Locating Chassis Numbers

Effective with the 1970 model year, all VWs have 10-digit serial numbers in compliance with federal regulations. The first two digits of the serial number signify the model; the third is the last numeral of the model year; and the fourth to tenth digits indicate the consecutive production number within each type.

Chassis numbers are located (1) under the back seat, stamped on the frame tunnel; (2) on the chassis identification plate (on the Beetle, this is behind the spare wheel; on the Super Beetle, it is under the front hood beside the hood lock); and (3) on all vehicles produced since January 1, 1969, on a vehicle identification plate fastened to the dashboard near the lower left hand corner of the windshield.

On 1965 through 1969 models, a 9-digit chassis number was used (one more digit was added where production passed one million). These numbers start with the first two digits of the model number; the third digit designates the model year. The remaining digits comprise the production numbers. All models prior to 1965 feature a seven digit chassis number.

For the 1971 and 1972 model years, Beetles and Super Beetles were numbered in the same series. 1973 Beetle serial numbers begin with the number 113 2000 001 and Super Beetles with the serial number 133 2000 001.

Series 100 vehicles (those model numbers beginning with the numeral 1) are Beetles and Super Beetles as well as VW convertibles and Karmann Ghias.

BEETLE

Chassis Numbers: 113 2 000001 —



1. Large, circular taillight complex combining stop light, turn signal, tail and backup lights.
2. Stronger bumpers add an inch to overall length.
3. Front seats adjustable to any of 77 different positions.
4. More durable, easier-to-operate clutch; softer transmission mounting.
5. Improved intake air pre-heating for faster cold-weather starts.
6. Windshield wiper arms have black finish.
7. Inertia-reel safety belts.
8. 6.00 x 15L tires with 4½ inch wide wheels.

In addition to all of the Beetle's improvements, the 1973 Super Beetle also has:

1. New curved windshield, adding to car's interior space.
2. Completely redesigned dashboard with rocker switches and divided glove compartment.
3. Improved flow-through ventilation to provide greater air flow and more even distribution.



SUPER BEETLE

Chassis Numbers: 133 2 000001 —

1
9
7
2



Beetle

Chassis Numbers: 112 2 000001 — 112 2 961362

Super Beetle



1. Larger rear window.
2. Air intake slots on engine compartment increased from two to four.
3. Smoother engine warm-up after cold-weather start.
4. New safety steering wheel with collapsible hub.
5. Lever mounted on steering column for fingertip control of both windshield wiper and washer.
6. Hinged parcel shelf to cover rear-end luggage well.
7. Restyled and easier-to-read speedometer.
8. Automatic electronic check of dual brake system warning light each time the engine starts.
9. VW Computer Diagnosis socket.



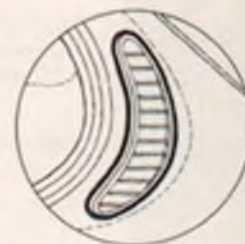
1
9
7
1



Beetle

Chassis Numbers: 111 2 000001 — 111 3 143 118

Super Beetle



1. Increased horsepower, from 57 to 60.
2. Flow-through ventilation with exhaust ports behind rear side windows.
3. Headlights automatically go off and parking lights stay on when ignition is turned off.
4. Larger taillights.



1. In addition to major improvements built into the Beetle, the Super Beetle features fan-powered flow-through ventilation.
2. Nearly double the trunk space of the Beetle. Spare tire positioned horizontally under trunk floor.
3. New coil spring front suspension giving the car a wider front track and tighter turning circle.
4. Carpoted floor.
5. Rubber bumper inserts.

1970



Chassis numbers:
11 0 2000001 — 11 0 3096945

1. Air intake slots on engine lid.
2. Increased horsepower (from 53 to 57) and displacement (from 1500 cc to 1600 cc).

3. Enlarged front turn signals (combined with side marker lights).
4. Reflectors mounted on rear bumper.
5. Side reflectors built into taillight housing.
6. Tenths of mile indicator on odometer (also appears on late '69 models).
7. Head restraints reduced in size.
8. Buzzer sounds when door is opened and key is left in ignition.
9. Remote control knobs for warm air outlets discontinued.
10. Lock in glove compartment door.



1969



Chassis numbers:
119 000 001—119 1 093 704

1. Rear window defogger and defroster; electric heating wires on inner surface of glass.
2. Double-jointed rear axle for improved ride and handling.

3. Warning lights in speedometer identified by letters or symbols.
4. Ignition lock is combined with a locking device for the steering wheel.
5. Gas tank filler neck flap has lock which has a release under the right side of the dash panel.
6. Front hood release is located in the glove compartment.
7. Day/night rear view mirror.
8. Warm air outlets at base of the doors moved rearward; remote control knobs on door columns.



1968



Chassis numbers:
118 000 000—118 1 016 098

1. One-piece bumpers; bows and overriders eliminated (bumper height raised).
2. Head restraints combined with front seat backrests.
3. Automatic Slick Shift (optional) introduced.

4. External gas tank filler; spring-loaded flap.
5. Front hood air intake louver; push-button front hood catch.
6. Fresh air ventilating system.
7. Collapsible steering column.
8. Exhaust emission control system.
9. Flattened door handles with built in trigger release.
10. Back-up/brake lights and rear turn signals in single housing.
11. Certification sticker on door post that vehicle meets federal safety standards.

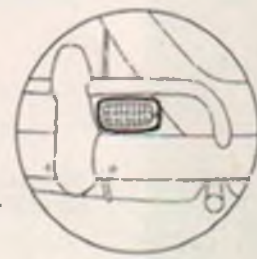


1967



Chassis numbers:
117 000 001—117 644 892

1. Increased horsepower (from 50 to 53) and displacement (from 1300 cc to 1500 cc).
2. Single-unit headlights with chrome rim; fender indented.
3. Dual brake system; front/rear operate independently.
4. Back-up lights.
5. Parking light incorporated into front turn signals.
6. Locking buttons on doors.
7. 12-volt electrical system (36-amp battery).
8. VOLKSWAGEN nameplate on engine lid.



1966



Chassis numbers:
116 000 001—116 1 021 298

1. Increased horsepower (from 40 to 50) and displacement (from 1200 to 1300 cc), number 1300 on engine lid.
2. Ventilating wheel slots; flat hub caps.
3. Emergency blinker switch.
4. Headlight dimmer switch mounted on turn signal.
5. Center-dash defroster outlet.
6. Semi-circular horn ring.

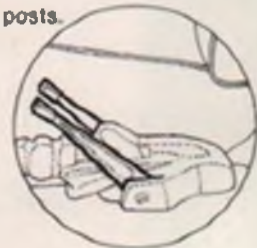


1965



Chassis numbers:
115 000 001—115 979 200

1. Windows enlarged; slimmer door and windshield posts.
2. Heat control levers mounted on tunnel; heater efficiency improved.
3. Rear seatback converts to platform.
4. Push-button catch on engine lid.
5. Thinner, deeply contoured front seats; increased rear seat knee room.
6. Swivel mounted sun visors.



1964



Chassis numbers:
5 677 119—6 502 399

1. Crank-operated sliding steel sunroof replaces the fabric sunroof.
2. Horn actuated by two thumb buttons, formerly by half-ring.
3. Larger license plate light.
4. Aerated vinyl material replaces nonporous leatherette seat upholstery.



1963



Chassis numbers:
4 846 836—5 677 118

1. Leatherette headliner introduced.
2. Wolfsburg hood crest dropped.
3. Folding handle for sunroof.
4. Foam insulated floor.
5. Fresh air heating.
6. Nylon window guides.



1962



Chassis numbers:
4 010 995—4 846 835

1. Spring-loaded hood.
2. Larger taillights.
3. Sliding covers on heat outlets.
4. Compressed air windshield washer.
5. Seat belt mounting points added.
6. Gas gauge; formerly reserve fuel tap.



1961



Chassis numbers:
3 192 507—4 010 994

1. Sunvisor and grab handle provided for passenger's side.
2. Increased horsepower; from 36 to 40.
3. Automatic choke introduced.
4. Transmission synchronized in all forward speeds.
5. Flatter gas tank yields increased luggage space.
6. "Quick-check" transparent brake fluid reservoir.
7. Pump-type windshield washer.
8. Non-repeat starter switch.

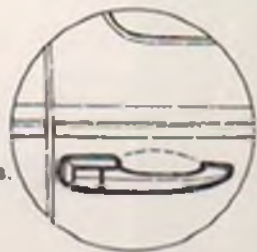


1960



Chassis numbers:
2 526 668—3 192 506

1. Steering wheel "dished."
2. Door handles become grab-handles with pushbuttons; were formerly pull-out lever type.
3. Padded sunvisor; formerly transparent plastic.
4. Generator output increased from 160 to 180 watts.
5. Steering damper added for improved handling.
6. Seat back contoured for greater comfort.



1959



Chassis numbers:
2 007 616—2 526 667

1. Stronger clutch springs.
2. Improved fan belt.
3. Frame reinforced for greater strength.



1958



Chassis numbers:
1 600 440—2 007 615

1. Brake drums and shoes widened for faster, surer stops.
2. Rear window and windshield enlarged.
3. Front turn signal lights moved to top of fender.
4. Radio grille moved left, in front of driver.
5. Flat accelerator pedal replaces roller type.

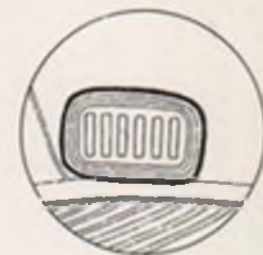


1957



Chassis numbers:
1 246 619—1 600 439

1. Tubeless tires replace tube-type tires.
2. Adjustable striker plates fitted to doors.
3. Front heater outlets moved back to within five inches of door for better heat distribution.



1956



Chassis numbers:
929 746—1 246 616

1. Chromed dual tail pipes added; formerly single tail pipe.
2. Taillight housing moved two inches higher.
3. Bumper overrider "bows" added.
4. Sunroof made of plastic fabric; formerly cloth.
5. Steering wheel diameter spoke (horizontal) moved lower, off-center.
6. Heater knob moved forward.
7. Adjustable front seat backs.
8. Redesigned gas tank yields larger luggage space.



1955



Chassis numbers:
722 935—929 745

1. Flashing directional indicators mounted low on front fenders replace the semaphore turn indicators.

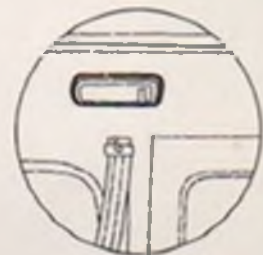


1954



Chassis numbers:
575 415—722 934

1. Starter now incorporated with ignition switch; formerly separate button on dashboard.
2. Increased horsepower (from 30 to 36) and displacement (from 1131 cc to 1192 cc).
3. Oil bath air cleaner introduced; formerly felt element filter.
4. Break-in driving requirement dropped for engine.
5. Automatic three-way courtesy light added.
6. Top window in taillight housing dropped.

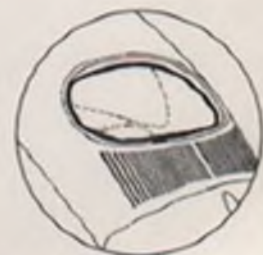


1953



Chassis numbers:
428 167—575 414

1. Oval, one-piece rear window replaces split window.
2. Lock button added to vent window handles.
3. Brake fluid reservoir relocated behind spare tire; formerly at master cylinder.



1952



Chassis numbers:
313 830—428 156



1. Vent windows added, vent flaps in front-quarter body panels discontinued.
2. Heating control by rotary knob; formerly pull-knob.
3. "T" type rear hood handle introduced, formerly loop-type.
4. Two brake and taillights; formerly one brake and stoplight in center of rear hood.
5. Window crank makes 3½ turns; formerly 10½ turns.
6. Glove compartment gets door; formerly open bin.
7. Turn signal control moved to steering wheel from dashboard.
8. 5.60 x 15 inch tires replace 5.00 x 16 tires.
9. 2nd, 3rd and 4th gears synchronized; formerly crashbox.

1951



Chassis numbers:
220 472—313 829



1. Chrome garnish molding added to windshield.
2. Wolfsburg crest added to front hood above hood handle.
3. Vent flaps added to front-quarter body panels.

1950



Chassis numbers:
138 555—220 471



1. Hydraulic brakes introduced; formerly mechanical brakes.
2. Sunroof introduced.
3. Noise mufflers for heating ducts added.
4. Automatic air cooling by thermostatically controlled throttle ring.
5. Fuel mixture heating device (heat riser) introduced.

1949



Chassis numbers:
91 922—138 554



1. License plate indentation on rear deck dropped.
2. Inside pull cable release for front hood; no lock on hood handle.
3. Solex carburetor introduced as standard equipment.
4. Starting crank hole dropped.