



**ŠKODA**  
SIMPLY CLEVER

# PRESS RELEASE

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## ŠKODA OCTAVIA COMBI design study celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary

- › Concept car of the spacious ŠKODA OCTAVIA COMBI made its debut at the IAA in Frankfurt am Main on 10 September 1997
- › Design study now belongs to the ŠKODA Museum collection in Mladá Boleslav
- › First generation of the modern OCTAVIA laid the foundation for the success of ŠKODA's current bestseller

Mladá Boleslav, 9 September 2022 – ŠKODA AUTO presented the [design study of the OCTAVIA COMBI](#) at the IAA in Frankfurt am Main 25 years ago on 10 September 1997. The production model debuted in spring 1998, differing in only a few details from the concept. Now in its fourth modern generation, the OCTAVIA COMBI has since made a significant contribution to the great success of the brand's bestseller.

In September 1996, five and a half years after joining the Volkswagen Group, ŠKODA AUTO opened one of the most modern car plants in Europe at the time in Mladá Boleslav. Series production of the first modern-generation ŠKODA OCTAVIA marked the beginning of a new era for the Czech carmaker. Development work on the liftback model, which at the time was based on a new platform from the Volkswagen Group, began as early as 1992. Led by Dirk van Braeckel, the design team used CAD technology to create the timelessly modern body.

On 10 September 1997, just over a year after the production launch of the liftback version, ŠKODA presented a design study of the OCTAVIA COMBI at the 57<sup>th</sup> IAA in Frankfurt am Main. The eye-catching purple vehicle now belongs to the ŠKODA Museum collection in Mladá Boleslav.

Less than six months later, series production of the OCTAVIA COMBI began in February 1998. In the process, ŠKODA set new standards in manufacturing: Produced at what was then the Czech carmaker's largest pressing plant, the side section of the body was formed in a single piece from deep-drawn sheet metal. The equipment ensured accuracy to a tenth of a millimetre and the weight of the required press mould was 63 tonnes.

The following March, the OCTAVIA COMBI celebrated its world premiere at the Geneva Motor Show, with the first customers taking delivery of their vehicles two months later. The wheelbase of the 4.5-metre-long model was 2,512 mm – the same as the liftback, while the estate was 6 mm longer and 26 mm taller. It weighed only 15 to 30 kg more, depending on the configuration. The elegantly designed rear offered a generous boot capacity of 548 to 1,512 litres.

The Czech car manufacturer's current bestseller has built on the remarkable success of the first OCTAVIA COMBI model in the company's history: ŠKODA presented the vehicle with a central tubular frame, longitudinally mounted front engine and rear-wheel drive at the International Engineering Fair in Brno on 11 September 1960. ŠKODA produced the model measuring 4,065 x 1,600 x 1,430 mm from the summer of 1961 to 1971.



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## Media images:



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The design concept of the subsequent ŠKODA OCTAVIA COMBI model debuted on 10 September 1997 in Frankfurt am Main. The original exhibit has been preserved to this day in the ŠKODA Museum's depository of prototypes and sports cars.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



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The timeless design was the work of the in-house ŠKODA AUTO team led by Dirk van Braeckel. Series production of the ŠKODA OCTAVIA COMBI began in February 1998 at the modern plant in Mladá Boleslav.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



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The 4.5-metre wheelbase of the estate was similar to that of the liftback at 2,512 mm, albeit 6mm longer and 26 mm taller. Depending on the version, it weighed only 15 to 30 kg more. The elegantly designed rear attracted the most attention, offering space for 548-1,512 litres of luggage.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO

## ŠKODA AUTO

- › is successfully steering through the new decade with the NEXT LEVEL – ŠKODA STRATEGY 2030.
- › aims to be one of the five best-selling brands in Europe by 2030 with an attractive line-up in the entry-level segments and additional e-models.
- › is emerging as the leading European brand in important growth markets such as India and North Africa.
- › currently offers its customers twelve passenger-car series: the FABIA, RAPID, SCALA, OCTAVIA and SUPERB as well as the KAMIQ, KAROQ, KODIAQ, ENYAQ iV, ENYAQ COUPÉ iV, SLAVIA and KUSHAQ.
- › delivered over 870,000 vehicles to customers around the world in 2021.
- › has been a member of the Volkswagen Group for 30 years. The Volkswagen Group is one of the most successful vehicle manufacturers in the world.
- › independently manufactures and develops not only vehicles but also components such as engines and transmissions in association with the Group.
- › operates at three sites in the Czech Republic; has additional production capacities in China, Slovakia and India primarily through Group partnerships, as well as in Ukraine with a local partner.
- › employs 45,000 people globally and is active in over 100 markets.