

2014

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EDITION

DAuto NEWS LETTER

Design engineers turn designs into reality. Without them, a great idea but nothing more than, well, a great idea.

Aston Martin confirms limited edition Lagonda sedan

Aston Martin has confirmed the development of a bespoke product program for a new sedan that will revival the historic Lagonda nameplate and will be sold in a strictly limited series from early 2015.



Following the public and critics' reaction to the presentation of a crossover concept at the 2009 Geneva Show, with plans to revive the Lagonda nameplate, Aston Martin has now cleared the remaining doubts about a possible SUV-like Lagonda, and teased a pure-sedan concept, with a sleek, sharp design that recalls the iconic forms of the 1976-1989 Lagonda

THE NEW MINI 5 DOOR

Just a few months after the market launch of the new MINI, the British brand has expanded its model range with the addition of the second body variant – the MINI 5 door – a first in its history.



Compared to the 3 door hatchback, the new model features a wheelbase expanded by 72 millimetres and a body lengthened by 161 millimeters and a height increased by 11 mm, which result into greater interior space.



The 5 door MINI maintains the main design elements of the iconic hatchback, with the body, greenhouse and roof clearly separated from one another in visual terms. The window graphic tapers off to the rear, contributing to a dynamic wedge shape when the car is viewed in profile, and suggesting a forward thrust even when it's stationary.

The new MINI 5 door



The back of the cabin features three separate seats, and rear passengers can benefit from increased legroom and foot space (+72 millimeters), headroom (+15 millimetres) and width at elbow height (+61 millimeters). Traditional design features include the hexagonal contour of the radiator grille, the side indicator surrounds known as 'side scuttles', the circular headlights, the upright rear light clusters and the black periphery at the bottom edge of the body.

The luggage compartment space is 67 liters larger than in the new MINI 3 door, with a total of 278 liters. The car's versatility is also supported by the 60:40 folding split in the rear backrest, that enables the luggage compartment volume to be increased to 941 liters. The wide track and short overhangs emphasise the striking expression of the vehicle's body as it sits powerfully on top of the wheels.



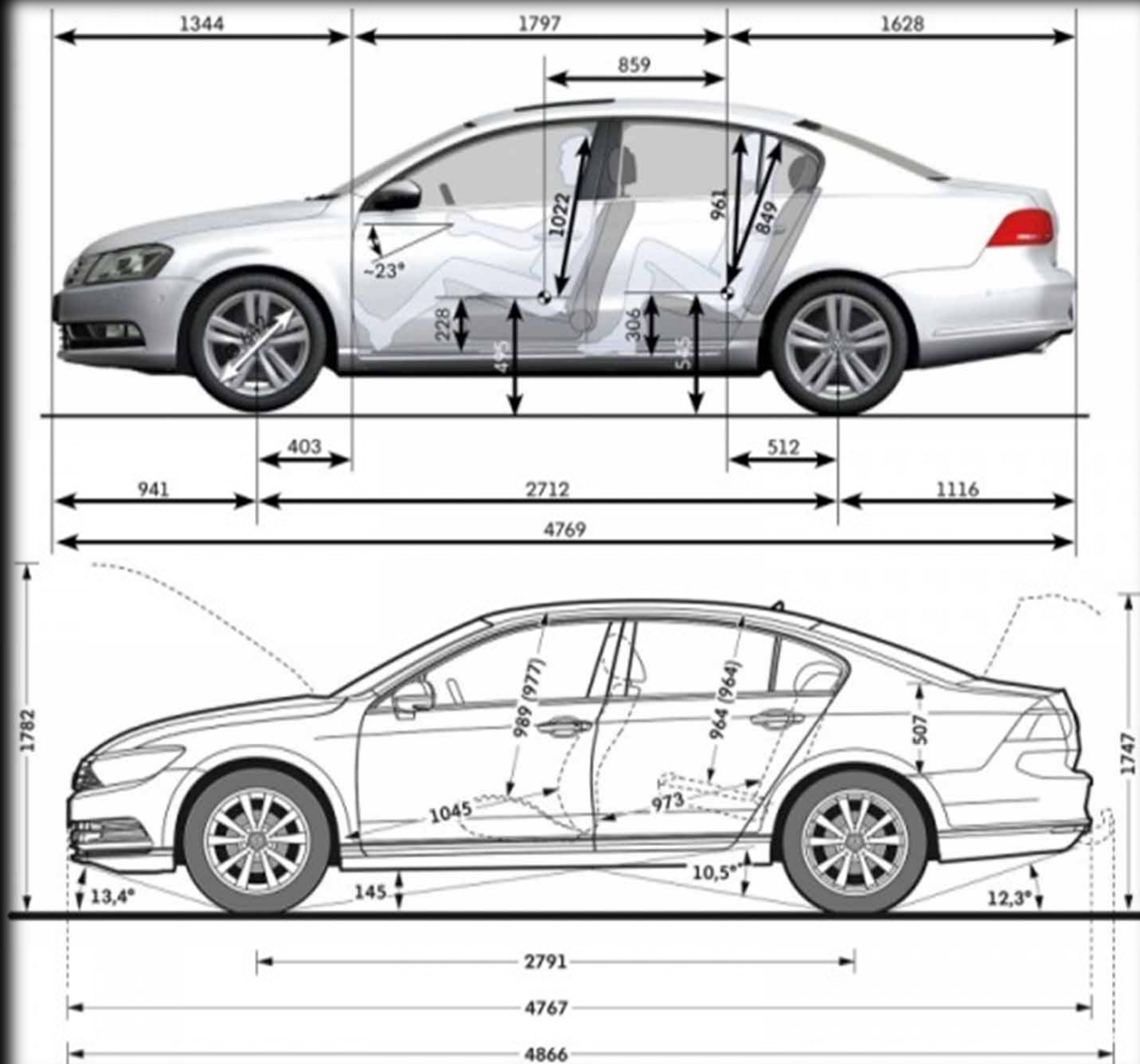
Volkswagen reveals the new Passat

Volkswagen has presented the eighth generation Passat, featuring an all-new design, extensive weight savings, improved efficiency and a host of advanced onboard technologies.

The surface treatment makes use of precisely drawn edges and creases: in particular, the main side character line originates from the front wheel-arch rather than the headlight, which enhances the muscular front fender. The new Passat features a total weight reduced by up to 85 kg and fuel economy figures improved by up to 20 per cent. The model will be also available with a plug-in hybrid drive system. At the front, the new Passat's radiator grille features four chrome bars which bend inward towards the headlights in a trapezoidal shape. The lower most chrome bar of the grille is continued into the headlights.



VOLKSWAGEN REVEALS THE NEW Passat



Compared to the outgoing model, at 4,767 mm the new Passat is two millimetres shorter, while the wheelbase is 79 mm longer at 2,791 mm and therefore the body overhangs significantly shorter. At the same time, the Passat is 14 mm lower at 1,456 mm, and 12 mm wider at 1,832 mm. Because of the optimized engine orientation, it was possible to lower the hood and shift the windscreen towards the rear. As a result, the new Passat has a more dynamic look and the 'cab backward design' helps to create the impression of a premium-class car.

Volkswagen reveals the new Passat

The interior has been developed to match the sophisticated exterior of the eighth-generation Passat. New technologies to be offered on the new Passat include the optional Active Info Display, which replaces the instrument cluster with a fully configurable interactive 12.3-inch TFT display; a heads-up display; the latest Modular Infotainment System, including the Car-Net remote app; a further-developed 360-degree Area View function; and the latest generation of Park Assist.



Safety technology includes Side Assist with Rear Traffic Alert; Traffic Jam Assist which makes stop-and-go driving more comfortable; Emergency Assist, which can potentially halt a vehicle when the driver is incapacitated; and the latest Front Assist system with City Emergency Braking, which optionally combines both radar and camera sensors to add pedestrian detection.

Inside Bloodhound SSC's 1,000 mph cockpit

The world's fastest car is being built in a workshop on the outskirts of Bristol, England. Known as Bloodhound SSC, it has the goal of hitting the heady target of 1,000 miles per hour, and inspiring millions of school children in the process. Behind the wheel of the arrow-shaped machine is current world land speed record holder and military pilot.



Inside there will be more than a few aerospace ingredients in the Bloodhound recipe, including at its heart a Rolls Royce EJ220 jet engine from a Eurofighter Typhoon. This is paired with a Falcon hybrid rocket from Norwegian company Nammo, a supplier to the European space industry. the front of the car "This is all carbon fibre. The rear part of the car where the rear wheels will be mounted is aluminium.

Aston Martin unveils DP-100 Vision Gran Turismo Concept

Aston Martin has revealed the DP-100, its own interpretation of the Vision Gran Turismo Concept Series for the GT6 racing game.

Starting from a 'blank sheet of paper' the design team and design engineers worked for six months to create the Aston Martin Concept for the Vision Gran Turismo series of exclusive prototypes.

At the rear, the typical C-shaped tail lights are mounted on floating blades



The DP-100 features an extreme, aggressive design, with a very low stance and a single, arched line that defines the whole profile of the car and is contrasted by the sharp, muscular shoulders and the front "floating" fenders. The front end features a new interpretation of the company trademark grille, which is positioned at the very bottom right above the front splitter, and distinctive headlights shaped like NACA air intakes.

Qoros 9 Sedan Concept

The Qoros 9 Sedan Concept is an official project of a futuristic flagship sedan for the year 2020. The concept was created by 29-year-old Korean student Jihoon Seo during a five-month internship at Qoros Design Centre in Shanghai and was showcased as a 1:4.5 scale clay model



The Qoros 9 Sedan Concept displays a next-generation interpretation of Qoros' pioneering New Premium philosophy. It exhibits several design cues evident in the brand's Qoros 3 Sedan and the upcoming Qoros 3 Hatch. It also introduces some new concept design themes for the future. Clean horizontal lines and generous proportions give the Qoros 9 Sedan Concept a simple, modern and distinctive look and the present-day Qoros signature hockey-stick design theme is featured in several individual styling elements around the car.

CONCEPT CAR OF THE WEEK: ALFA ROMEO Navajo (1976)



The Navajo's wedge-shaped fiberglass body included a built-in rhomboid rear wing that rose from the beltline to bridge the glasshouse. Inspired by contemporary aerodynamics, the Navajo's nose was tapered, reducing the frontal area. The car also featured an active front spoiler, which adjusted automatically according to the car's speed, while the rear wing's top section was also adjustable. The cabin actually ended with a rear screen mounted just behind the rear seats. However, the glasshouse appears to continue, forming a tunnel that ran below the rear wing, again ending in a rhomboid shape at the rear. This was designed to improve aerodynamics and help extract air from the 2.0-liter V8 mounted underneath. As was the trend at the time, the Navajo featured pop-up lamps. However, instead of emerging from the hood, the retractable lamps folded out from the front fenders.



Modern Automotive technologies



Lane Departure Warning (LDW) - Here's the most popular tech of 2014. Most major manufacturers now offer a form or another of lane departure warning systems in their new models. These systems alert the driver when he crosses a line without signaling first. The goal is to address drowsiness at the wheel, although studies have shown it is not as efficient as expected.



Intelligent braking - ...or lazy brakes, if you wish. Acura's new RLX sedan features a "Brake Hold" button that will keep the brakes pressed automatically. Useful while waiting for that red light to turn green, or for that long train to cross the road.

Modern Automotive technologies

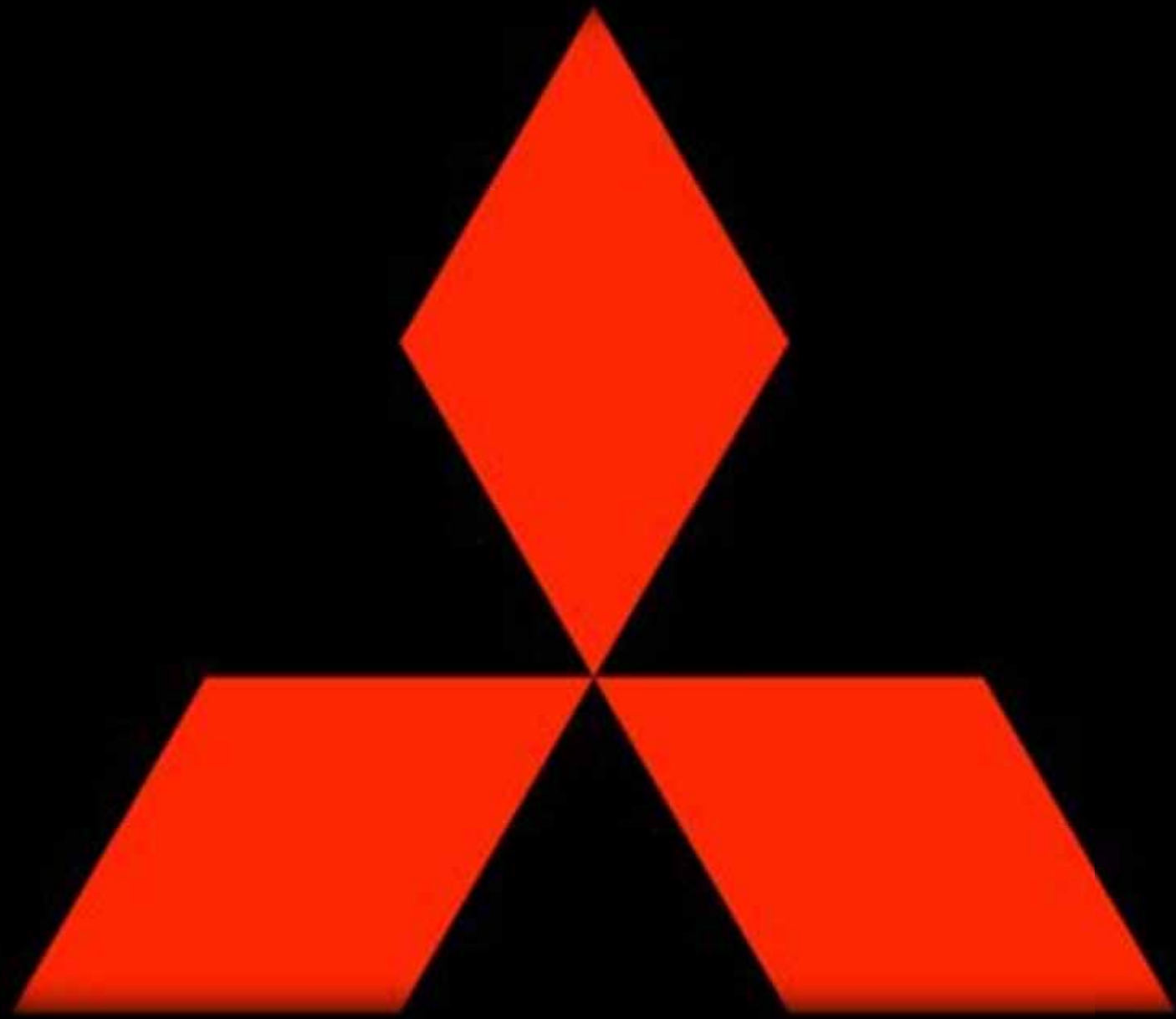


Hot-stone massage - Because the all-new 2014 S-Class does not pack enough new features as it is, Mercedes-Benz has found it necessary to include exclusive hot stone massage bucket seats. 14 tiny air bags inflate and deflate to stimulate the occupant's backside in a traditional, shiatsu fashion.



Traffic signs recognition - This is already happening in Europe, where Audi and Mercedes-Benz, among others, use front-facing cameras to identify road signs. Combining that information with the data contained in today's navigation systems, the car can replicate the speed limit right in the middle of the information cluster behind the wheel, for example.

Three Diamonds Of Mitsubishi



Color of the Mitsubishi Logo:
The Mitsubishi logo is colored red which denotes the confidence and attraction of the car company's brands.

Shape of the Mitsubishi Logo:

The name Mitsubishi was a combination of the words "mitsu" (three) and "hishi" (water chestnut, used in Japan to mean a rhombus or a diamond shape). The official translation of the name was "three diamonds." The Mitsubishi logo was a combination of the Iwasaki family crest, three stacked diamonds, and the three-leaf crest of the Tosa Clan dating back to the companies origins in the 1800s. Some believe that the Mitsubishi logo represents a ship's propellers, however that is a misconception.

The three diamonds signify reliability, integrity and success that helps Mitsubishi win the trust of its customers. The company is committed to provide its customers a safe and eco-compatible driving experience.

Safety Tips



A study conducted by researchers at Virginia Tech reported that 20 percent of all accidents have sleepiness as a contributing factor. If a driver is tired enough to actually fall asleep while driving, the results are predictable. Even on a relatively straight highway, a sleeping driver will eventually drift off the road. Trees, utility poles, ravines and bridge abutments turn this into a deadly scenario -- and that doesn't even take other cars into account.

The solution is simple: Get a better night's sleep! Make sure you get a solid eight hours of sleep, not just on the night before a long drive, but on a regular basis. Failure to get enough sleep every night builds a sleep deficit that can leave you drowsy and unable to focus. If you're driving and feel the least bit groggy, take action immediately. Don't think you'll get any kind of warning before you fall asleep, or that you can fight it off. People can move from drowsy to sound asleep without warning. If this happens to you, have a friend take over behind the wheel, find a rest area where you can catch a few hours of sleep or take a break until you're feeling more alert.

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