

Main

<b>Find New Vehicles</b>
Cars
Commercial Vehicles
Motorcycles
<b>Find Used Vehicles</b>
Cars
Commercial Vehicles
Motorcycles
<b>Find Rental Vehicles</b>
<b>Sell Cars</b>

Driver's Guide

<b>Directories</b>
Choice Dealers
Motoring Directory
Download Pricelist
Car Events & Promotions
Car Clubs
<b>Tools</b>
ERP Rates
Carpark Rates
Loan Calculator
Road Tax Calculator
Useful Car Links
<b>Guides &amp; Articles</b>
Motoring Reviews
Motoring News
Buying New Car Guide
Motoring Glossary
Newsletter

**COE Open Bidding**  
May 2011 2nd Exercise

CAT A	\$ 46,989	▲
CAT B	\$ 56,300	▲
CAT C	\$ 22,989	▲
CAT D	\$ 2,013	▼
CAT E	\$ 56,889	▲

[View COE History](#)




Just Ask

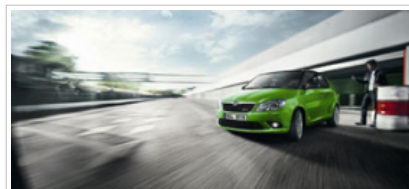
<b>CARS</b>
General Car Discussion
Performance and Maintenance
Tires and Detailing
I.C.E (In Car Entertainment)
Continental Cars
Japanese Cars
Korea, China and Other Asian Makes
Commercial Vehicles Discussion
General Bike Discussion
Bike Stuff and

ST701 Cars Vertical > Guides & Articles > Car Reviews > Highlight

**Pocket rocket**

Skoda's Fabia RS is a hot hatch offering decent ride comfort and enough power to keep most drivers entertained

By Christopher Tan  
Published: April 16 2011,  
The Straits Times



The fab Fabia, makes quick getaways seem almost effortless. -- PHOTO: SKODA

Along with early automotive groups such as Daimler and Renault, Skoda has been making cars for more than 100 years.

To mark its 106th anniversary this year, the Volkswagen-owned Czech marque is doing what every spritely centenarian dreams of doing - go for a quick makeover and paint the town red with a young, sexy model.

The makeover involves tweaking its flying arrow emblem to make it three-dimensional. Painting the town red involves a hot-blooded hatch called the Fabia RS, which Skoda has launched ahead of the VW Polo GTI, its sister brand's latest power prodigy.

Like the Polo GTI, the Fabia RS is shod with a 1.4-litre inline-4 that is both supercharged and turbocharged. The compressor ensures a relatively beefy low end, while the turbo takes care of shove from the mid range.

With 180 horses and 250Nm of torque, it is currently the most highly tuned 1.4-litre in town.

Being part of the Volkswagen empire means the fab Fabia is also equipped with the group's latest seven-speed DSG transmission. Paired with the compact, competent engine, it makes quick getaways seem almost effortless.

The RS has steering-mounted shift tabs which allow you to change gears on the fly without your palms ever leaving its stout steering wheel. Manual changes are fairly swift, but downshifts are not nearly as satisfying as swapping cogs with a real stick shift.

Thankfully, the hatch is adequately responsive when simply left in D. If you wish to have a more spirited drive, just pull the lever to Sport.

At the wheel, the Fabia has the three basic prerequisites for fun: strong and linear throttle response; easy handling; and competent ride characteristics.

If it had a more communicative chassis, a more stirring exhaust note and a slightly higher equipment level, it would have been truly a gem.

The Fabia is a tad larger than the Polo, so there is more space onboard. As a consequence, it is also more than 100kg heavier than the Polo, which blunts its outright performance. The car does the century sprint in 7.3 seconds, versus 6.9 by its VW twin.

Even so, few will label the Skoda a sloth. Beyond the yardstick to measure standing start acceleration, the car has the athleticism to keep most enthusiasts entertained.

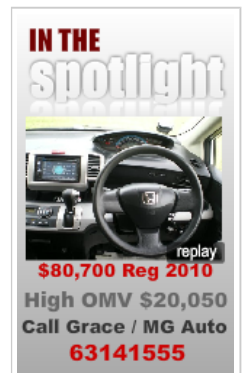
It also has an electronic differential that sharpens cornering prowess.

And in the realm of hot hatches, it offers one of the highest standards of ride comfort ever.

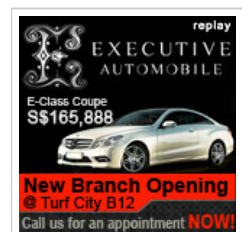
Skoda tries to differentiate the RS from the other products in its stable by giving it a new palette of paints. Most body colours are contrasted with a differently shaded roof - a practice popularised by Mini and followed recently by Citroen and Audi.

The colour combinations suit the Fabia's unconventional beauty.

Other RS-distinguishing marks include twin tailpipes, newly styled 17-inch rims and an aerodynamic kit that stops short of showiness.









## Accessories

Inside, you will find sporty and supportive seats, armrests for the front passengers and connectivity for your mobile devices.

Beyond that though, the Fabia embodies the rudimentary values of the marque. There is no auto-cruise, auto headlights, auto aircon or auto dimming rear-view mirror. And the sunroof is so small it reminds you of cars in the 1980s.

Then again, the car is somewhat less expensive than Volkswagens with the same level of performance.

While the RS' cabin is relatively austere, it is, like the rest of the car, well put together.

What is irritating, though, is the remote key: Clicking twice to open all doors does not always work.

On the whole, however, the Fabia RS fares well as Skoda's latest pocket rocket project - ample proof that an old marque can learn new tricks.

[See all new Skoda models.](#)

**Post Your Question**

Enter your question below:




USED HONDA CRV 2.4A  
S\$ 88,800



USED VOLKSWAGEN GOLF  
1.4A TSI  
S\$ 90,800



Honda Civic 1.8L 5AT  
S\$ 81,800



USED HONDA CIVIC VTI  
1.6A  
S\$ 63,800

**CARS:** [Home](#) | [Place Ads](#) | [Search Ads](#) | [Guides & Articles](#) | [Choice Dealers](#) | [Just Ask](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [FAQ](#)

**ST701:** [ST701](#) | [About Us](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Advertise with Us](#) | [Terms & Conditions](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Sitemap](#)  
**SPH:** [The Straits Times](#) | [AsiaOne](#)

Copyright 2011 Singapore Press Holdings Ltd. Co. Regn No. 198402868E

The Leading Online  
Marketplace by:

