

SIMPLY CLEVER

ŠKODA



RAPID

SPACEBACK

ŠKODA RAPID SPACEBACK **PRESS RELEASE**



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New ŠKODA Rapid Spaceback

Photographic Portfolio



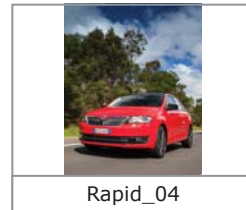
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ŠKODA Australia expands model range with all-new Rapid Spaceback

Byron Bay, May 2014 ŠKODA Australia today introduces its latest hatchback model to the Australian market with the launch of the all-new Rapid Spaceback. Combining all the elements of the new ŠKODA design language, the Rapid Spaceback sits between the repositioned Fabia and the new Octavia model ranges.

The Rapid Spaceback comes available in Australia with a choice of two fuel efficient petrol engines: a 77kW petrol engine mated to a six-speed manual transmission in the Ambition specification, or a 90kW TSI petrol engine paired with a seven-speed DSG transmission in the Ambition and Elegance specification. Both the 77TSI and 90TSI power plants provide excellent fuel economy: 5.4 and 6.0 litres/100km from a combined cycle respectively.

Lots of space, and plenty of 'Simply Clever' solutions

Boasting an impressive 64 millimetres of rear kneeroom and 980 millimetres of rear headroom, the Rapid Spaceback enters the compact car market in Australia as one of its leaders in passenger space. Also featuring a useful 384 litres of boot space and a plethora of unique storage and functional features befitting ŠKODA's 'Simply Clever' ethos, the Rapid Spaceback presents an excellent affordable option to savvy buyers looking to maximize space from a small car.

High level of safety equipment standard on all models

The new Rapid-Spaceback comes standard with an armada of occupant safety features and technology. Equipped with front, side and head airbags, height-adjustable three-point safety belts with pre-tensioners in the front and height-adjustable restraints, electronic stability control with hill hold control and ABS, the Rapid Spaceback offers a high level of safety as standard from the base model.

New optional packages offer greater customisation

Adding greater levels of specification to the Rapid Spaceback lineup, customers can equip the range with two unique optional packages: the Sports Pack, and the Style Pack.

The Sports Pack offers a number of key features, and includes Xenon headlights with cornering function, front sports seats, stainless steel pedals and double-sided, multi-purpose floor matt in the luggage compartment.

The Style Pack also offers greater levels of equipment for customers who choose to customize the Rapid Spaceback, and includes a panoramic glass roof, 'Ray' 17-inch alloy wheels, and a raft of darkened and 'blacked-out' features, including side mirrors, rear spoiler and front fog lights.





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ŠKODA Rapid Spaceback - ŠKODA's Young Compact Car

- > ŠKODA Rapid Spaceback: The first ŠKODA hatchback in the high-volume small car segment
- > Typical ŠKODA: Spaciousness, functionality, and 'Simply Clever' features
- > Personalized: Panoramic glass roof and extended glass design on tailgate

The ŠKODA Rapid Spaceback expands ŠKODA's model range in the high-volume compact segment between the ŠKODA Fabia and the ŠKODA Octavia. For the first time, ŠKODA offers a compact car which combines ŠKODA's good practical qualities with the hatchback shape. As is typical of ŠKODA, the Rapid Spaceback offers a lot of space, numerous 'Simply Clever' ideas, top safety, interesting opportunities for customisation, low fuel consumption and excellent value. The ŠKODA Rapid Spaceback's roominess thus sets new standards in the segment.

"The new ŠKODA Rapid Spaceback is a milestone for ŠKODA: it means that we are entering the strategically important segment of compact hatchback models," says ŠKODA CEO Winfried Vahland. "The Rapid Spaceback is a great addition to this class in that it combines ŠKODA's good practical characteristics with the popular hatchback shape. Sporting the new ŠKODA design, the Rapid Spaceback has a fresh and dynamic appearance. It is a compact car with a sporty chic, spacious and practical," says Vahland.

A sporty-fresh compact car with ample space

The ŠKODA Rapid Spaceback's dynamic silhouette is marked by clear lines, dynamic outlines and a distinctive interplay of light and shadow – ŠKODA's chief designer Jozef Kabaň and his team have ensured the new ŠKODA Rapid Spaceback has a clear, independent appearance – with a special chic. It is a car that exudes sporty freshness and dynamic elegance, making it attractive and appealing at first sight.

The ŠKODA Rapid Spaceback's side view offers special accents. Compared with conventional hatchback models, it appears sportier and more stretched. This differentiates the vehicle from the competition, both optically and functionally. The ŠKODA Rapid Spaceback's dynamic silhouette is marked by clear lines, and a sharp, high tornado line. The Rapid Spaceback has a C and a D pillar with a third side window. Together with the slender pillars, the generous window areas create a light and friendly ambiance in the interior and ensure excellent clarity.

Individualisation is a focus area in this vehicle: One of the highlights is the huge, panoramic glass roof, included in the optional Style Pack, offering passengers an unobstructed view of the sky and stretching from the windshield to the rear window. It is the largest glass roof ever available in a ŠKODA.





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Consequently, passengers benefit from ample light and a feeling of air and space. The glass roof measures 1,713 × 1,155 millimetres and offers a viewing space of 1,210 × 780 millimetres.

The Rapid Spaceback's panoramic glass roof appears even more attractive in combination with the elongated rear window. The glazing area then extends all the way from the windshield over the glass roof down to the tailgate. The black tinted, extended rear window reaches roughly ten centimetres farther into the hatchback than the Rapid Spaceback's regular rear window. These are the Rapid Spaceback's two distinct new style elements giving it exclusive individuality.

The rear end emphasises the sporty character of the Rapid Spaceback. Its lines are crisp and clear. A black diffuser element and the reflectors in the bumper underline the horizontal orientation as well as the broad tail lights in brand-typical 'C' design. The centrally-placed brand logo is flanked by the ŠKODA lettering on the left and the 'RAPID' model name on the right.

The ŠKODA Rapid Spaceback's front design includes the characteristic Rapid elements: a prominent grille with 19 vertical slats and a chrome frame, the ŠKODA logo on the rounded front end of the hood, the cloverleaf arrangement of the headlights and fog lights. The Rapid Spaceback comes with a xenon package, included as part of the optional Sports Pack. This includes xenon headlamps as well as fog lamps with cornering light function.

Spacious, attractive interior – 'Simply Clever' to the core

"With its attractive combination of space, functionality, and design, the Rapid Spaceback is a new offer in the compact car segment. This is a very spacious vehicle that represents one of our brand's key values," says Werner Eichhorn, ŠKODA board member for sales and marketing. Passenger space is certainly generous: the rear of the Rapid Spaceback offers the largest legroom (64 millimetres) and the largest headroom (980 millimetres) in its segment. At 384 litres, or 1,349 litres when the rear seats are folded down, boot volumes are among the best in the segment.

Numerous 'Simply Clever' solutions complement this generous space: The new Rapid Spaceback offers multiple practical features, including a ticket holder, a multimedia holder, cup holders in the front and rear, and the parcel shelf that can be stowed behind the rear seats. The interior of the new Rapid Spaceback also boasts a sporty three-spoke steering wheel, stylish trim strips and freshly designed seat covers.





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Safety without compromises

The new ŠKODA Rapid Spaceback offers the high safety standards that have come to be expected of ŠKODA. A comprehensive safety package protects passengers in case of an accident. This includes front, side and curtain airbags, height-adjustable three-point safety belts with pre-tensioners in the front and height-adjustable head restraints. ABS (Antilock Braking System) and ESC (Electronic Stability Control) systems are standard. Other active safety features are optional xenon headlights, standard fog lamps with optional cornering function and 'hill-hold control' assistant.

The Rapid Spaceback is the first in the Rapid model series to be equipped with Column-Electric Power Steering (C-EPS). Electro-mechanical power steering is speed-dependent. In the C-EPS, the driver's steering motions are supported by a program-controlled electric servo motor on the steering column. The hydraulics unit that was used thus far, as well as the servo-pump, hoses, and hydraulic fluid, are no longer needed. Some of the key advantages include better steering behaviour, less weight and less required space.

Two petrol engines

Both ŠKODA Rapid Spaceback petrol engines are direct-injection and turbocharged TSI engines. The new ŠKODA Rapid Spaceback is available with two petrol engines. These advanced power plants produce 77 and 90 kilowatts.

The 1.2 l TSI engine puts out 77 kW with 125 g/km CO₂ emissions and a fuel consumption of 5.4 l/100 km. This engine is available with a manual six-speed transmission.

The most powerful petrol engine available for the Rapid Spaceback is the 90 kW 1.4 TSI. This engine is available exclusively in combination with a seven-speed automatic dual clutch transmission. Combined fuel consumption is 6.0 l/100 km, CO₂ emissions are 139 g/km.





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On the safe side with the ŠKODA Rapid Spaceback

- > New compact car offers comprehensive active and passive safety package
- > ABS, ESC and six airbags as standard

As with every ŠKODA, the new Rapid Spaceback offers safety without compromises. The Rapid Spaceback is among the safest vehicles in its class.

When it comes to active vehicle safety the ŠKODA Rapid Spaceback impresses with its extensive safety features. Its ABS (anti-lock brake system) and ESC (electronic stability control) systems are standard features. ABS prevents the wheels from locking up under hard braking. ESC issues commands to the braking system and the engine control to reduce the risk of spinning in extreme situations.

The ŠKODA Rapid Spaceback is optionally available with xenon headlights (25 watts) as part of the optional Sports pack, which are special low energy xenon bulbs with a luminous flux of 2,000 lumen. Because of the special low energy design, the system does not require an automatic headlight levelling or headlamp cleaning system, resulting in a lower price and a reduction in weight compared to xenon headlights with a higher luminous flux.

Additional systems that increase safety are also available. They include optional fog lights with a 'corner' function where turning the steering wheel left or right will turn the corresponding fog light on to illuminate the direction in which the car is turning. These fog lights are standard in the 90TSI Elegance variant, and also form part of the optional Style Pack and Sports Pack.

Tyre pressure monitoring warns the driver both acoustically and visually if tyre pressure is low.

Hill-hold control (HHC) is a practical safety system allowing the car to start up a hill without the risk of it rolling backward. With Hill-hold control active, the driver does not need to use the hand brake as it will be automatically activated for approximately two seconds on an incline of more than five per cent. Both systems (tyre pressure monitoring and hill hold control) are part of the ESC safety function.

The ŠKODA Rapid Spaceback's stable handling is crucial to the car's active safety. In addition to the large wheelbase and the stiff body structure, the light chassis is the basis for the car's outstanding driving performance. The front axle features McPherson strut front suspension with torsion stabiliser, while the rear wheels are attached to a compound link crank-axle.





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The new Rapid Spaceback is equipped with so-called C-EPS (column-electric power steering), in which a program-controlled electric servo motor on the steering column assists the driver in steering the vehicle. The system only activates when the driver actually needs steering assistance. One advantage over a hydraulic power steering is lower fuel consumption.

High passive safety

In the event of a collision, the passengers of the new ŠKODA Rapid Spaceback are protected by various systems, which work together to reduce the risk of injury to the driver and passengers. The car features a total of up to six airbags. Two curtain airbags cover the entire surface area of the side window, deploying from inside the roof lining in front of the side window. Two side airbags protect the driver and front passenger's pelvis and chest in the event of a collision. The driver and front passenger airbags protect the occupants in a head-on collision.

In the event of an accident, all of the passengers are protected by three-point safety belts. The safety belts for the front seats are height-adjustable and have belt tensioners. The belt tensioners will tighten the seat belts within milliseconds. Belt force limiters reduce the force of the seat belt on passenger's chests. An audible safety belt reminder will chime if the driver and passenger do not fasten their safety belts. For child safety, Isofix car seats can be secured in the rear seats with Isofix anchorages and Top Tether straps (subject to Australian Design Regulations approval), which attach child safety seats securely to the car.





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The new ŠKODA Rapid Spaceback: Distinct Sporty Style

- › First ŠKODA hatchback model in the compact segment shows character and style
- › Numerous options for customisation including a panoramic glass roof and a longer rear window, new colours, two wheel designs, two trim levels
- › Highest degree of precision, clarity, and quality

The first ŠKODA hatchback model in the compact car class brings a breath of fresh air into one of the highest-volume car segments. The ŠKODA Rapid Spaceback's dynamically fresh design shows individual style, personality, and expressiveness. At the same time, the newest representative of the ŠKODA model initiative boasts ample space and functionality.

"The ŠKODA Rapid Spaceback is a text book ŠKODA, combining ŠKODA's strong suits: space, functionality, and fresh design," says Frank Welsch, ŠKODA board member for technical development. "With its individualisation options, this is a ŠKODA with a great deal of expressiveness."

Precision, clarity, quality combined with a high degree of functionality – these are the key features of ŠKODA's new design language. "We created the Rapid Spaceback as a lifestyle hatch in the compact class," says ŠKODA chief designer Jozef Kabaň. From the logo on the bonnet to the rear, the entire car shows consistent proportions, clearly formed surfaces as well as sharp lines and radii. A clear focus on the essentials gives the car its high value.

Compact hatchback model with plenty of expressiveness and dynamics

The expressiveness of ŠKODA's newest model is particularly evident in the side and rear view. A dynamically contoured silhouette with its slender pillar units is drawn in a sporty-stretched manner. This optical dynamic is enhanced by a long wheelbase of 2,602 millimetres. A high, sharply modelled tornado line creates clear contrasts between light and shadow surfaces. The new compact hatchback model is 4,304 millimetres long, with significantly shorter rear overhang underlining its dynamic character.

The Rapid Spaceback's generously sized side windows are combined with very slender pillars. This underscores the car's dynamic appearance and provides a great deal of light in the interior, a generous sense of space, and excellent all-round visibility. In the side view, the Rapid Spaceback's attractive wheels provide a sharp accent: the Ambition specification comes with 16-inch 'Dione' alloy wheels, while the 90TSI Elegance specification comes with 17-inch 'Camelot' alloy wheels. Customers can also equip either specification with a unique 17-inch 'Ray' alloy rim, part of the optional Style Pack.





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Clear lines define the rear, intentionally underlining its horizontal appearance. Tail lights in brand-typical 'C' design, a black diffuser element, and triangles with a cubist touch on the right and left sides of the tailgate all emphasise the car's width.

Currently the largest fixed glass roof in any ŠKODA model, the panoramic glass roof is available as an option, part of the optional Style Pack. The glass roof measures 1,713 × 1,155 millimetres and offers a viewing space of 1,210 × 780 millimetres, extending from the front to the rear window, and offering occupants an unobstructed view of the sky. When needed, the glass roof can be completely covered with two opposing blinds.

One of the Rapid Spaceback's distinguishing design elements is the elongated rear window which is available in combination with the panoramic glass roof, part of the optional Style Pack. The rear window's tinted glass extends an additional ten centimetres into the tailgate compared with the regular rear window.

Up to the B-pillar, the ŠKODA Rapid Spaceback's front bears the same face as the ŠKODA Rapid Liftback. It impresses with its brilliance and optical width. The prominent front grille with its 19 vertical chrome-framed ribs mark the centrepiece. The bonnet's harmoniously rounded nose bears the newly designed ŠKODA logo and slightly extends into the grille. To the right and left, prominent headlamps and fog lights characterise the front view.

The wide, sharply cut headlamps are available as xenon headlights. These are special low-energy xenon lamps with a luminous flux of 2,000 lumens. This system requires neither dynamic headlight levelling nor a headlamp cleaning device. Key advantages are their lower price and reduced weight. These lamps can be ordered as part of the Sports and Style Packs, which also includes fog lights with cornering function.

The ŠKODA Rapid Spaceback is offered in a wide variety of colours. One colour is also new in the Rapid model series: Moon White. Other metallic colours include Brilliant Silver, Black Magic with pearl effect, Denim Blue and Cappuccino. There are also two solid colours: Candy White and Corrida Red.

Stylish interior, with a wide variety of customisations

In designing the interior, the ŠKODA Rapid Spaceback's designers followed two key guidelines: clarity and precision. A choice of high-quality materials and close attention to detail creates a spacious interior that offers plenty of room for occupants.

The cockpit is clearly structured and organised. Everything is at its expected location. The controls for various features are ergonomically designed and well within reach. The designers deliberately emphasized the cockpit's horizontal alignment, making the interior appear more spacious.





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All versions of the ŠKODA Rapid Spaceback are equipped with an attractive leather-wrapped three-spoke steering wheel, which has adjustable rake and reach, as well as leather-wrapped hand brake and gear lever.

Customers looking for a particularly sporty interior may choose the Sports Pack. This includes privacy glass, red and black sports seats, a stainless steel pedal set, and a unique black 'Décor'-style strip on the dashboard on the interior, as well as front xenon headlights and fog lights with cornering function complimenting the exterior.

The ŠKODA Rapid Spaceback Ambition specification features a comprehensive safety package, including ABS and ESC, air bags for driver and front seat passenger, head and side airbags, Isofix anchors in the rear, daytime running lights and five 3-point seat belts come as standard equipment. Comfort features on board include power steering and power windows in front and rear. In addition, the Ambition specification offers tinted windows, a multifunction display, painted side window casings and outside door handles, a height-adjustable driver's seat, a sunglasses compartment, central locking with remote control, and seat pockets on the back rests of the front seats.

The ŠKODA Rapid Spaceback Elegance sits on 17-inch alloy wheels and comes with reversing camera, foglights with cornering function and chrome elements on the steering wheel, the gearshift, and the parking brake handle. The car has features such as a storage compartment in the front centre armrest, fabric floor mats, power-adjustable, heated side-mirrors, power front and rear windows, and the Swing stereo system.

Both trim levels are enhanced with numerous additional elements. A number of electronic systems are standard, such as cruise control, tyre pressure control, hill-hold control and air conditioning (manual for Ambition and Climatronic for Elegance).





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ŠKODA Rapid Spaceback: Spacious and practical

- > Maximum interior space with compact external dimensions
- > Outstanding marks in terms of space for rear passengers
- > ŠKODA Rapid Spaceback offers many 'Simply Clever' solutions

The new ŠKODA Rapid Spaceback impresses in terms of space and everyday practicality with many 'Simply Clever' solutions. ŠKODA's new offering combines all the good and practical ŠKODA qualities and the hatchback shape in a compact car. This means excellent space utilization within compact external dimensions and new benchmarks for rear passengers and boot volume. Customers get a lot of car for their money: a sporty chic, dynamic as well as practical, family-friendly vehicle with all typical ŠKODA values.

"The new ŠKODA Rapid Spaceback is the new standard for spaciousness and functionality in the compact hatchback class," says Frank Welsch, ŠKODA board member for technical development. "Our developers and product designers have come up with smart vehicle solutions that make our customers' lives with the car as easy as possible. They have created an extremely spacious and clever car that looks good in any situation," says Welsch.

Maximum space utilization in a compact body

The ŠKODA Rapid Spaceback impresses with lots of room for the entire family despite its compact external dimensions of only 4.30 metres long, 1.71 metres wide and 1.46 metres high. This optimal utilization of the interior is made possible by, among other things, the vehicle's long wheelbase of over 2.60 metres. The rear passengers therefore enjoy one of the best rear knee rooms (64 millimetres) and one of the best head rooms (980 millimetres) in this class.

The boot of the new Rapid Spaceback also features ample room, with a capacity of 384 litres. Loading the boot is extremely easy due to the height of the boot opening (841 millimetres) and low loading sill (677 millimetres). With the rear seats folded down, maximum boot volume increases to 1,349 litres. The rear safety belts can be secured to the side with a narrow belt receptacle to ensure they are not in the way when the seats fold down - another 'Simply Clever' feature.

Furthermore, the ŠKODA Rapid Spaceback offers all of ŠKODA's clever solutions. The ŠKODA Rapid Spaceback features an optional double-sided mat in the luggage compartment area, only available as part of the optional Sports Pack. One side is a high-quality carpet for normal use, the other is a dirt- and water-repelling surface. Simply flip the cover over when transporting dirty objects in the cargo area. Other practical solutions concern storage compartments and hooks. The cargo area features two bag hooks, storage compartments (on the sides behind the wheel houses) and illumination in the boot.





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No millimetre is wasted in the passenger compartment. A multimedia holder in the centre console cup holder can hold a mobile phone, iPod or other small mobile device. The large storage compartments in both front doors feature beverage holders that can hold one 1.5 litre PET bottle each. There is also a beverage holder for a 1.5 litre PET bottle in the back of the centre console. The storage compartments in both rear doors can hold one 0.5 litre PET bottle. No more looking for parking tickets as they have their place in the ticket holder in the A pillar on the driver's side.





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Pricing

Rapid Spaceback Ambition 1.2 77TSI Manual	\$18,990*
Rapid Spaceback Ambition 1.4 90TSI DSG	\$21,890*
Rapid Spaceback Elegance 1.4 90TSI DSG	\$23,750*

** Prices quoted are Manufacturer List Prices excluding dealer delivery charges, which may vary from dealer to dealer and statutory charges, which vary from state to state.*

Style Pack [Ambition]	\$2,100
Style Pack [Elegance]	\$1,800
Sports Pack [Ambition]	\$1,600
Sports Pack [Elegance]	\$1,000
Sports Pack [Ambition with Style Pack]	\$1,400
Sports Pack [Elegance with Style Pack]	\$1,000

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