

The new ID. Polo GTI – 50 years after the first GTI, the first electric GTI makes its debut at the IAA



The start of a new GTI era

Exactly 24 months after the IAA world premiere of the ID. GTI Concept¹ concept vehicle, Volkswagen is once again revealing an early insight into the series production version of the first ever electric GTI at the IAA in Munich: the new ID. Polo GTI². And so, the International Motor Show will mark a full-circle moment: 50 years ago at the IAA (which was held in Frankfurt at that time), Volkswagen unveiled the world premiere of the very first GTI – the Golf GTI I. Half a century later, Volkswagen is propelling its DNA into the era of electric mobility with the ID. Polo GTI, which is also a front-wheel drive.



¹ ID. GTI Concept – Concept car
² Production-ready concept car

Most powerful production Polo of all time

The ID. Polo GTI² brings the GTI experience to the electric world and shows just how much driving pleasure electric mobility offers

Spirit of a legend

The DNA of the ID. Polo GTI dates back to the 1976 Golf GTI. The icon reinterprets front-wheel drive, performance and flair

GTI performance

The ID. Polo GTI is the first electric Volkswagen with an electronic front axle differential lock in the style of the Golf GTI

IAA 2025 provides insight into 2026

Volkswagen will still be showing the new ID. Polo GTI in camouflaged form at the IAA. The world premiere will be celebrated in summer 2026



In brief

The ID. Polo GTI^{1,2}, which will still be camouflaged in Munich, will receive its world premiere with every detail on show in summer 2026; pre-sales will then start in Europe in autumn.

The ID. Polo GTI has been a contender from the start

Like the first Golf, the new ID. Polo^{1,2} is the perfect base for creating a GTI. Its lightweight front-wheel drive, the extremely powerful electric drive motor when pulling away from a standstill, and its positive, strong and pure design make the ID. Polo the ideal fit for the first GTI of the electric era. In fact, Volkswagen Head of Design Andreas Mindt already had the ID. Polo GTI in mind when he produced the first sketches for the ID. Polo back in 2023. And it was also clear from the outset for Kai Grünitz, the Volkswagen brand's Chief Development Officer, that the latest evolutionary stage of the modular electric drive (MEB) platform – the MEB+ – would open up a new GTI chapter with its potential. At the IAA MOBILITY 2025 in Munich, the 166 kW (226 PS) ID. Polo GTI will now be within touching distance for the first time.

¹ Production-ready concept car
² All technical data for the ID. Polo models are forecast values
³ ID. GTI Concept – Concept car

GTI goes electric

The ID. POLO GTI will offer customers a new and powerful GTI experience: maximum power and torque will be available at lightning speed, as is typical for electric vehicles. The worlds of the electric GTI and turbocharged Golf GTI models merge when it comes to power transmission to the front axle. This is because a front differential lock – electronically and smartly controlled by a Vehicle Dynamics Manager – can also be used in the electric ID. Polo GTI just like in the current generation of the iconic Golf GTI sports car. Following on from this, the letter “I” for injection in the GTI name now also stands for intelligence – in the form of high-performance drive and chassis intelligence. With the ID. Polo GTI, Volkswagen is launching a next-evolution version of these electronically networked dynamic driving systems onto the market.

Going back in time with the GTI

Thanks to this electronic networking, a wide range of dynamic properties can be achieved. Volkswagen already showcased an example



of this on board the ID. GTI Concept³ in 2023: using a newly developed GTI Experience Control on the centre console, the driver could choose which characteristics the powertrain of the ID. GTI Concept should have. For example, it was possible to tune the drive, running gear, steering, sound experience and even the simulated shift

points in the style of one of the historic GTI models – similar to the Golf GTI I of 1976. A wonderful idea for the production version. So, the world premiere of the ID. POLO GTI in summer 2026 will be all the more exciting – a high-tech compact car to take drivers back in time.

Technical data for the ID. Polo GTI^{1,2}

Modular drive (MEB) platform		MEB+
Drive		Front-wheel drive
Power	kW/PS	166/226
Length	mm	4,053
Width	mm	1,816
Height	mm	1,530
Wheelbase	mm	2,600