

'79 IMPORT CAR BUYER'S GUIDE

TRIUMPH TR7: Since the roadster version and V-8 TR8 are still some months off, the TR7 hardtop is the only offering in this line of wedge-shaped sports coupes. The TR7 has a 2-liter dual-carburetor 4-cylinder engine backed by a 5-speed manual or 3-speed automatic.

The 2500-pound TR7 has options such as air conditioning, a sliding fabric sunroof panel, and metallic paints. It is rated at 29 mpg highway with the 5-speed.

The cockpit is accommodating for two, features full instrumentation and rack-and-pinion steering. Current pricing was not available at presstime, but the '78 was based at \$6995.

VOLKSWAGEN BEETLE: Last vestige of another automotive world is the 1979 VW Beetle convertible. More luxurious and expensive than ever (\$6245 base price), the Beetle ragtop has Karmann coachwork, a 1600cc fuel-injected flat four engine, and 4-speed manual transmission only.

New this year are steel radial whitewall tires, leatherette-covered steering wheel, clock, cigarette lighter (first time standard), intermittent wiper control, and woodgrain dashboard trim. The 1850-pound 4-seater is rated by the EPA at 30 mpg highway, 20 city.

VOLKSWAGEN RABBIT: Offered in basic, C-series, and L-series trim levels, the Rabbit includes 3- and 5-door hatchback sedans. Base cars have wider tires, carpeted floors, padded headliner, swiveling visors, trimmed trunk, self-adjusting brakes, new seatbelts, and wide door scuff pads with provision for speaker installation.

American-made Rabbits—all gasoline—will have rectangular headlights. Gas Rabbits use the 1457cc OHC four engine rated at 71 horsepower to achieve 42 mpg highway, while the 1471cc diesel version topped all cars at 55 mpg highway, 41 city in EPA tests.

A 5-speed manual and 3-speed automatic will be offered as options this year over the 4-speed manual. With seats folded down, the Rabbit sedan will hold 38.9 cubic feet of cargo. Prices start at \$4499 for the 3-door hatchback base model; the diesel engine is a \$200 option. There are six optional equipment packages for C and L models.

VOLKSWAGEN DASHER: The Dasher series is made up of a 3-door hatchback sedan, a station wagon, and a new 5-door true hatchback changed from a standard sedan with trunk. All are available either with a 1588cc gasoline engine or the 1471cc diesel engine, with 4-speed manual or 3-speed automatic.

The diesel Dasher rated 46 mpg in EPA testing. The front-drive Dasher series is built on a 97-inch wheelbase. At about 2200 pounds, it is very light for a luxury sedan. New standard equipment



VOLKSWAGEN SCIROCCO



VOLVO 262C

includes AM/FM stereo radio and self-adjusting power disc/drum brakes.

Options encompass air conditioning and a two-way sunroof. Sedans are rated at 46.6 cubic feet of cargo, wagons at 51.6 cubic feet. Prices start at \$6650 for the 3-door Dasher sedan.

VOLKSWAGEN SCIROCCO: The biggest change to any VW model is found in the Scirocco front-drive sports coupe. The Dasher's 1600cc engine is now standard, making 78 horsepower and cutting 0-60 times by more than a full second. Also new this year are an optional 5-speed, factory-installed optional AM/FM stereo radio and optional two-way sunroof.

Standard equipment for '79 includes self-adjusting brakes, adjustable head restraints and redesigned seatbelts. The 5-speed 1600cc Scirocco is rated by the EPA at 42 mpg highway, the 4-speed at 38 mpg. Known for its handling agility and its economy at the pumps, the latest, most powerful Scirocco is base-priced at \$6546.

VOLVO 240. This series of sedans and wagons encompasses the 242, 244, and 245 in the DL class, as well as the 242GT sports sedan. All have new trunk lids, taillights, bumpers, windshield tinting, fuel filler pipes, heavier shocks

and stabilizer bars, improved power steering, wheels with larger air slots, improved air conditioning and ventilation systems, steering wheels, improved manual and automatic transmissions, cold-air induction and extended availability of Lambda-Sond emissions systems as an option on 240 series cars. These improvements to the 2.1-liter sedans come on top of last year's restyling job.

The 242GT sedan is loaded with extra mechanical items and trim, including heavy-duty suspension. Prices start at \$6985 for the sedans.

VOLVO 260. The V-6 2.7-liter engine and a higher level of content distinguish the 264 sedan, 265 wagon, and 262C sports coupe from the 4-cylinder 240 series. The 260 receives all the improvements made to the lower series, plus gas shocks on sedan and coupe as well as one-piece alloy wheels, an improved charging system, and aluminum-coated exhaust components.

The luxury 260 series is topped by the Bertone-designed 262C coupe, with leather interior, air conditioning, cruise control, power steering, power brakes, Michelin radials, full instrumentation, and special suspension components. The 260 line starts at \$11,395, with the coupe at the top, base-priced at \$15,995.