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Skoda gives Fabia a makeover

Fabulous Fabia

by Jonathan Goddard published on 12 December 2006

One of the most underrated superminis is getting a much-needed makeover following the news that Skoda is finally updating the Fabia.

The "finest Czech export since the writings of Franz Kafka and pilsner lager" - according to the somewhat overcooked press release - retains the space and build quality of the outgoing model, but adds a handy makeover that brushes away the somewhat depressing demeanour of old.

With a new Suzuki Swift-esque profile, the new Fabia has more headroom, 300 litres of boot space with the rear seats up and gets a choice of four petrol and three diesel engines.

Unfortunately, until the vRS comes along, you'll have to make do with a meagre 105bhp from the most powerful 1.6 petrol and 1.9 turbodiesel units.

In keeping with the new Fabia's funky looks, customers will be offered a wide range of body colours rather than the post-communist drabness of the past. For the first time, a six-speed automatic Tiptronic transmission is being made available as an option, while climate control and an MP3/iPod compatible stereo also make their way onto the options list.

Full UK spec details will be made available closer to the Fabia's UK launch date in May, and it will get its first public viewing at the Geneva Motor Show in March.

