

Škoda Rapid 1500 OHV “highway” (1939-1941)

Designed for highway travel, this specific version of Rapid was produced between 1939 and 1941. It featured a four-stroke, four-cylinder engine with a displacement of 1558 cc, generating 46 horsepower, paired with a three-speed gearbox, allowing it to reach up to 110 km/h. The aerodynamic design included a rounded front part, protruding fenders, and a slanting roof, optimizing efficiency and fuel consumption.

Innovation in car design

The Rapid 1500 OHV represented an innovative approach to automotive design, aerodynamics, and efficiency. It was offered in various body styles, including sedan, convertible and van. In total, 1.804 units of the Rapid 1500 OHV were built. Among these, 110 units of the "highway" version featured a closed two-door body referred to as the "highway body", intended for driving on motorways. Its aerodynamic body enabled high-speed travel at low fuel consumption. Notably, the Škoda Rapid 1500 OHV was the first historically documented model from Škoda to be tested in a wind tunnel.

The model is on display as part of the museum collection. This vehicle was acquired in 2013, with its renovation completed in 2021.

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- > aims to become one of the top three best-selling brands in Europe by the end of the decade by offering its customers the best of both worlds through a range of attractive BEV, hybrid & ICE products;
- > effectively exploits the potential in important growth markets such as India, Vietnam and the ASEAN region;
- > currently offers customers 12 passenger car model ranges: Fabia, Scala, Octavia, Superb, Kamiq, Karoq, Kodiaq, Elroq, Enyaq, Slavia, Kylaq and Kushaq;
- > delivered more than 926,000 vehicles to customers worldwide in 2024;
- > has been part of the Volkswagen Group, one of the world's most successful car manufacturers, for more than 30 years;
- > is part of Brand Group CORE, an organisational merger of the Volkswagen Group's volume brands, with the aim of achieving joint growth and significantly increasing the overall efficiency of all five volume brands;
- > independently develops and produces components such as MEB battery systems, engines and transmissions for other Volkswagen Group brands;
- > operates three production plants in the Czech Republic; has production capacities in China, Slovakia and India, mostly through group partnerships, as well as in Vietnam and Ukraine in cooperation with a local partner;
- > employs around 40,000 people worldwide and is active in almost 100 markets.