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SCOOP!

AUDI REINVENTS THE QUATTRO

Amazing supercoupe mixes 340bhp V8 and 4WD for M3-busting punch





Scoop! All-new 6-series p12 **Autocar races in BTCC p15**

Computer-generated image shows how S4 Quattro Coupé could look



DAVID WILKINSON

Hot S4 coupé to take

Audi's secret star Sleek new A4 coupé range to be topped by 340bhp S4 Quattro that's targeting

AUDI WILL crown its A4 range with stunning coupé variants in 2005, including the three-door S4 Quattro, a V8 performance star to take on BMW's M3.

The coupé will expand the A4 line-up to four models when it arrives a year after next summer's cabriolet; the saloon and Avant estate have already reached the showrooms.

Audi's overall strategy is plain: to steal a leaf from the success of the BMW 3-series, which spins five model variants from one platform. The template for an A4

coupé will also mix the sort of potent six and eight-cylinder engines that Mercedes uses in its CLK with the hatchback body of the C-class Sports Coupé.

The flagship model will be the S4 Coupé Quattro, revealed in our computer-generated image. It will run a new 4.0-litre V8 – thought to have direct injection like Audi's Le Mans-winning car – and dish up about 340bhp, a match for the latest M3.

The S4 is expected to dispatch the 0-60mph sprint in less than five seconds, pushing the new

model up with the current RS4 rather than the outgoing S4, saloon which has only 265bhp.

With Audi's fuel-stratified injection (FSI) technology, the new supercar also promises to set a new standard for economy.

Volkswagen's W8 engine, also of 4.0 litres, will slot under the bonnet of the A4, but has been rejected in favour of Audi's own, more high-tech and almost as compact V unit – details of which are still on the secret list.

Audi's rejection of the W8, along with its beating of Bentley



Coupé's interior is set to be modelled on new cabrio's

New face for Audi A3

AUDI'S HATCHBACK offensive will be kicked off by the all-new A3, which will hit showrooms in 2002, a year before the A4 coupé.

The butch styling of the new A3 is an evolution of last year's Steppenwolf concept. It will also offer direct-injection engines in the form of three four-cylinder units and a V6.

The new model will ride on an all-new platform, said to offer sharper handling and a smoother ride, while Avant and Allroad models could also be launched to create a radical new range.

See p10

Full story on the new A3

Audacious styling of new A3 echoes Steppenwolf concept; better ride is promised

AUDI SPECIAL

A4 cabriolet will share V6 engines with new coupé



TT IS TOO TOO SUCCESSFUL

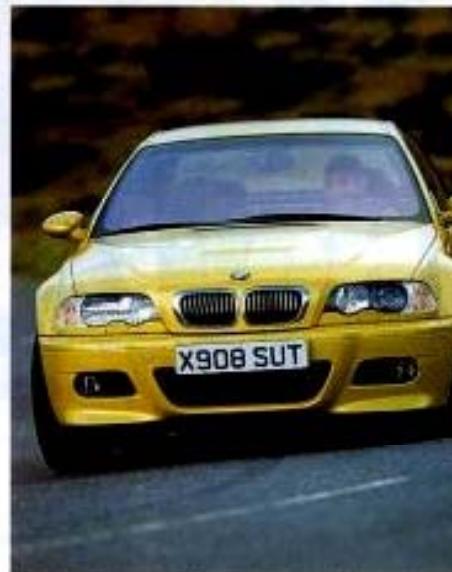


AUDI'S OTHER coupé, the TT, has taken the UK by storm. Its success has surprised even Audi.

The UK has embraced it more warmly than any other European market - we Brits currently buy more even than the Germans. Last year, 3729

were registered here, bolstered by another 2015 roadsters - and coupé sales are on course to surpass that in 2001.

Indeed, demand is so great that Audi UK is snaffling unwanted coupés allocated to other right-hand drive markets.



BMW's M3 a key rival for new A4 coupé

EXCLUSIVE on M3

BMW's M3; it arrives in 2003

at Le Mans, is thought to be one of the reasons behind soon-to-retire VW supremo Ferdinand Piech's attack on Audi in June for not being bold enough.

But the S4 Quattro should be bold enough, even for Piech. On both cylinder count and hatchback body style, it will be unique in the small premium class. Both are seen to be critical, not just to outflanking BMW and Mercedes, but also to attacking the forthcoming supercharged Jaguar X-type R. "We have to get some emo-

tion back into the brand," said one insider. "We are in danger of becoming too clinical."

However, there is uncertainty within the company that a hatchback is right for the class. Audi has developed both three- and five-door versions of the coupé, though executives have still to decide which will get the production nod. The sportier three-door is the favourite, although five doors would further differentiate the four-seat A4 coupé from the smaller TT.

BMW and Mercedes hatch-

back versions are pitched below their main C-class and 3-series models in a move away from premium-priced hatches. Even hatch stalwart Saab has admitted defeat and will major on a saloon body for the next 9-3.

One Audi insider said: "This is uncharted territory for us. But we see a new market here and think it will be a classic new Audi."

The coupé takes design cues from the new Audi cabriolet, launched at the Frankfurt Motor Show last month. It is also likely to share the same

V6 engines as the drop-top: the 140bhp 2.4 and a 3.0-litre packing 220bhp. Audi's direct-injection 2.0-litre four is also tipped to join the party.

Dynamically, however, the coupé is expected to surpass the drop-top. "Refined ride and handling should give it a more youthful feel," said a source.

Inside, following the cabrio's lead, the coupé should adopt styling cues from the TT - such as brushed aluminium trim and distinctive air vents.

Bob Murray

MEMO TO:

AUDI

Re: A4 Coupé

- The TT, S3 and RS4 have all suffered safety scares. Your reputation for quality needs shoring up.
- Inject some fun into the A4. The saloon's image and refinement are not in question, but more steering feel and driving thrills with the coupé, please.