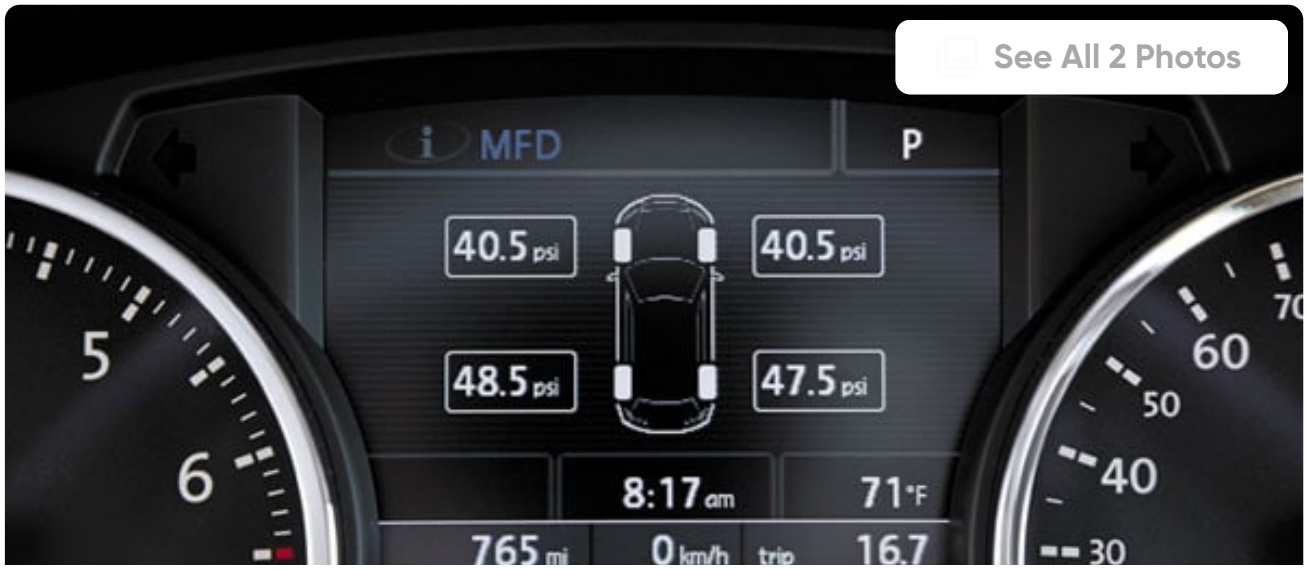
All Volkswagens built after 2008 to get touchscreen system

Rory Jurnecka - Writer | Nov 12, 2007



Volkswagen will be doing away with conventional controls for its heating, air conditioning, entertainment, navigation, and trip-computer systems, incorporating them all in a new touch-screen system, according to an *Automotive News Europe* report.

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The switch to a touch-screen interface will reduce the number of buttons and switches required in VW's automobiles, as well as make vehicle manufacturing more efficient, according to the report. Volkswagen group design chief Walter de' Silva has said the touch-screen system will increase the simplicity of operation for all of the functions it controls. Because the touch-screen unit controls so many functions, including the navigation unit, all Volkswagens built after the 2008 model year will receive the system whether they are ordered with optional navigation or not.

Volkwagen's Touareg, Tiguan, and Europe-only Touran models already offer a touch-screen unit for controlling the navigation system and radio, while the Space Up! concept showing in Tokyo also had a touch-screen unit installed with an Apple iPhone-like interface for controlling all interior functions. VW CEO Martin Winterkorn reportedly met with Apple CEO Steve Jobs in August to discuss the incorporation of Apple technology in its cars, although the outcome of the meeting has not yet been announced.

The head of Volkswagen electrical and electronics development Volkmar Tanneberger has reportedly said he believes the automotive industry will be

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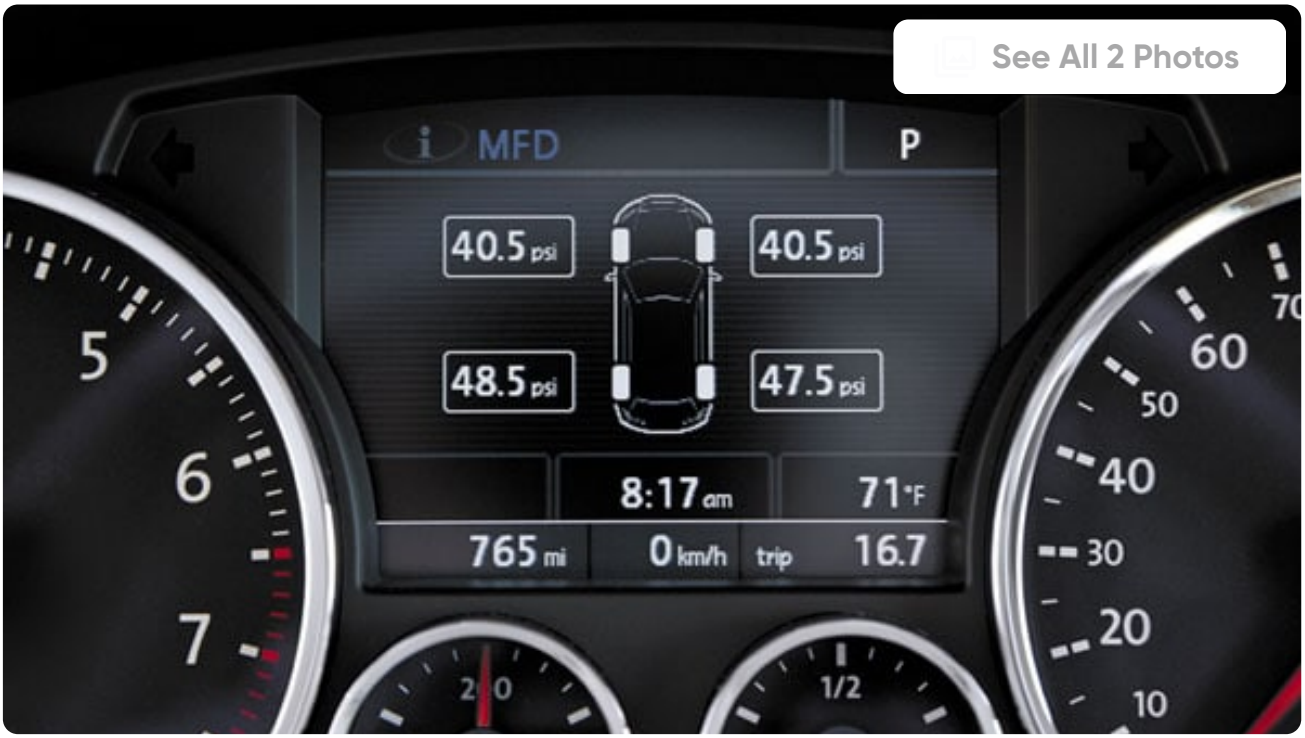
shifting towards touch screens as more electronic systems are incorporated in automobiles.



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