

Press Release

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VOLVO 850 (1991-1996)

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Volvo unveiled the first car of an entirely new model series in June 1991, the Volvo 850 GLT. The Volvo 850 GLT was launched under the banner of "A dynamic car with four world-beating breakthroughs".

The four new features were: a transverse 5-cylinder engine driving the front wheels, a Delta-link rear axle which combined the dynamics and ride comfort of independent suspension with the security of a live rear axle, the SIPS integrated side-impact protection system, and the self-adjusting front seat belt mechanism, the ARH reel.

The exterior design of the 850 bore a strong Volvo identity, and its 740 and 940 heritage was immediately apparent.

The Volvo 850 GLT received a tumultuous welcome; seldom has a new car reaped so many awards as the 850.

Over the following years, the 850 series was expanded with additional variants, among them turbocharged petrol versions and a direct-injection turbo-diesel.

Less than two years after the introduction of the 850 GLT in 4-door sedan form, the 5-door estate car version was unveiled in February 1993.

The design of the 850 estate showed a rear section with a typical Volvo profile, that is to say an almost vertical tailgate - a practical feature that maximised interior space. The estate was awarded the prestigious Japanese "1994 Good Design Grand Prize" award.

When Volvo decided to return to the racetracks in 1994, it did so under the banner of the British Touring Car Championship (BTCC). The first Volvo to take on the competition was an eye-catching Volvo 850 estate car, a load-lugger and road-burner in one.

The Volvo 850 was also the first car in the world to offer side-impact airbags, which were introduced in autumn 1994.

In model year 1997, the S70 and V70 replaced the 850 Sedan and Estate.

MODEL SPECIFICATIONS

Model: 850

Variants: AWD, T5 R

Produced: 716,903

Body: 4-door sedan, 5-door estate

Engine: 5-cylinder in-line DOHC unit, 1,984 cc to 2,435 cc or 5-cylinder in-line 2,461 cc SOHC turbo-diesel

Transmission: 5-speed manual or 4-speed automatic, FWR or AWD

Brakes: Hydraulic, all-round disc brakes

Dimensions: Overall length 467 cm Wheelbase 267 cm.

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Descriptions and facts in this press material relate to Volvo Cars' international car range. Described features might be optional. Vehicle specifications may vary from one country to another and may be altered without prior notification.

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