

# SHOW ME YOUR CURVES!

The Official  
newsletter of



Volume 15,  
No. 1  
January 2024

Waiting  
for  
Spring



**Editor's Message**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

We have had such a mild winter so far that I'm wondering if I put the Miata away far too early this year. Some of the weather during the Christmas holiday time period reminded me of spring. I fear that when winter finally comes, it will arrive with a vengeance!

Bob Macaulay has written an excellent summary of the year's cruising activities which I'm sure everyone will enjoy. I felt inspired to follow his textual summary with a pictorial summary as well. Even more pictures will be shown at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) as part of the review of previous destinations and activities and the stimulation for new places to visit in the 2024 cruising year. Watch for emails promoting the date, time, and location of the AGM. It is important for all members to come with their personal planning calendars and help select the activities that will get us out enjoying our roadsters!

Cal Lander has once again been very helpful in the preparation of the first newsletter of the year (or more appropriately, the last one of 2023), despite being very busy with family care. I appreciate his willingness to devote a great deal of time and effort in making the newsletter so visually attractive!

The previous edition of the newsletter contained numerous articles about MoM summer and fall outings and had no room for articles that people found in "car magazines" or online. Since we have more room in this edition, we have added some items of interest to Miata owners and aficionados. We hope that you enjoy them!

See you at the AGM.

**Doug**

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Happy  
**2024**  
New year

**Sponsors:**

We are very thankful as a group to be able to have such good friends who are willing to give our organization a helping hand. We strongly urge the membership to give your business to these good folks. They have been a great ongoing support to us throughout the years.

Check out our most recent sponsor.

**Dave's Detailing**  
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As a recent new member of MoM, Dave would love to welcome you to his shop and allow you, a fellow member, a 20% discount on any of his services, mechanical or detailing.

**Call or Text today to book your appointment**  
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Dave VanHuis serving Coldwater since 2024



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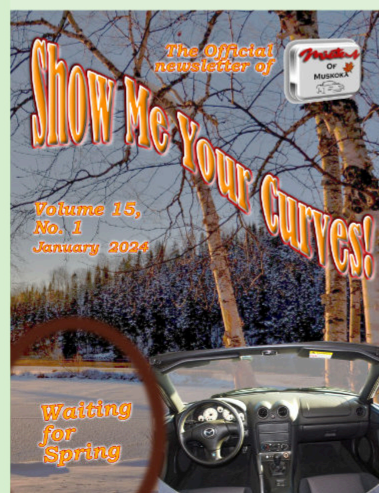
## SHOW ME YOUR CURVES!

Is a quarterly publication by a Miata enthusiasts group known as the Miatas of Muskoka..... We are a small group that like to explore the twisty back roads and and lakes in Canada's premier vacation playground, Muskoka.

Visit our Website at

URL:<http://www.miatasofmuskoka.com/>

Or check us out on facebook: [miatasofmuskoka](https://www.facebook.com/miatasofmuskoka)



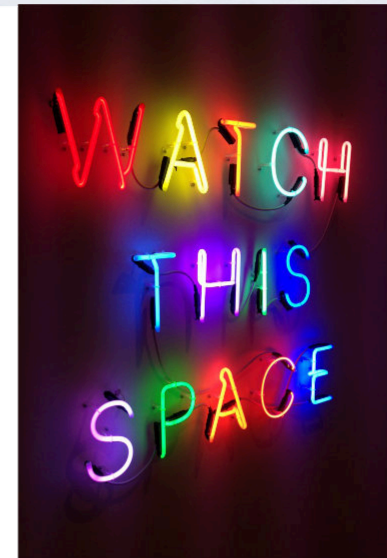
### Our Cover

*Impatiently waiting for spring!!*



# Miata of Muskoka 2024 Cruise Event Schedule

## CALENDER



### "February Blahs" Lunch

Watch for an email from Rick Beutler announcing the date and location of our traditional "February Blahs Lunch", which is usually held in the last week of February but may have to be altered due to evolving situations in the restaurant industry.



### Saturday, August 24, 2024 at 2:00 PM

We have reserved a block of seats for the Miatas of Muskoka to attend this excellent show on Saturday, August 24th. Tickets will be available on a "first come-first serve" basis. We will have a



cruise beforehand, a picnic lunch, the KWT performance and then go out for dinner afterwards. This will be our seventh trip to the King's Wharf Theatre with the MoM club and all of the shows have been terrific. This one will be equally entertaining! There will be more information via email later on, but you should circle the date on your personal planning calendar NOW to make sure you are able to attend. Here's a brief description from the Drayton website:

They had a look, an attitude, and a sound like no other. Sure, they were born in Jersey – but they were made in America.

Jersey Boys is the international musical phenomenon that takes you behind the scenes – and behind the music – of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons. Discover the secret of a 40-year friendship as four blue-collar guys work their way from the wrong side of the tracks to the heights of stardom, thrilling audiences with electrifying performances of chart-topping hits including "Sherry," "Big Girls Don't Cry," "Oh What a Night," and "Can't Take My Eyes Off You."

From the streets of New Jersey to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, this is the musical that's just too good to be true. Don't miss this Tony®, Grammy®, and Olivier Award-winning Best Musical.



## 2023...Another Successful MoM Cruising Season!

By Bob Macaulay

In October, we finished yet another successful *Miatas of Muskoka* cruising season...the fourteenth since inception of the club.

As usual, member input prior to and at our April 2023 AGM resulted in a final Cruise Event Schedule for this year which included a total of 12 planned regular cruise events, plus the end-of-season final banquet event. (This latter event was not a cruise, since its usual November timing was after virtually all members had put their Miatas in storage for the winter.)

Of that total of 12 cruise events, 9 were originally planned to be day-cruises, and 3 were to be overnight trips (2 to be a single overnight, and one to be 2 nights.) All of those were successfully carried out, with only one notable change – the tentative late August cruise to the Honda Plant in Alliston (with a hoped-for plant tour) did not occur because of Honda Canada’s continuing “pause” in plant tours due to COVID concerns. That cruise was replaced by a picnic cruise to northern Muskoka. Hopefully Honda will be back to offering plant tours in 2024, and we can try once again to include this cruise on next year’s schedule.

Excluding our periodic ice cream runs (more about that later), our final tally of 12 regular cruises for the year included 3 overnight trips (Niagara Falls, St. Jacobs and Owen Sound/Grey County), and 9 day-cruises, including the always-popular “Spring Fling” to kick off our season, and the “Fall Colours” to end it. The overnight trip to Owen Sound/Grey County served as our designated 2023 charity cruise, in support of *Mariposa House Hospice*.

A total of 10 different members/member couples agreed to act as Cruise Directors for one (or more) of our 2023 *MoM* events, and of those 10, only 3 of them were *MoM* councillors...an encouraging trend of broader member willingness to take on the Cruise Director role. *MoM* Council is always encouraging “new blood” from among the general membership to give Cruise Director duties a try on our events. The work required is more than offset by both the fun involved and the rewards of enhancing your knowledge of some great “Miata roads” in the broader region and enabling you to better know more club



members in the process. So, we again ask you all to give it serious consideration and come to our April 2024 AGM with an open mind about the possibility of volunteering to organize a cruise next season.

Attendance and participation in our various regular cruise events were generally pretty healthy this year, ranging from a minimum of 7 cars to a maximum of 16 cars at any one event. 8 of the 12 cruise events attracted 10 cars or more, and the overall average for all regular cruises was 11.9 cars per event.

Apart from our regular cruise events, we also had our usual ice cream runs (“ICRs”), both “regular” and “special,” usually in the second and fourth week (Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday) evening of every month. Given the geographic spread of our membership, we continued our practice of alternating the ICR starting points between Bracebridge and Orillia. We planned 5 regular ICRs -- average participation in those was 6.6 cars.

We also planned 4 “special” ICRs, involving social activities beyond just cruising somewhere for an ice cream treat. This year, those special ICRs included a bocce tournament/potluck supper in Ramara, a corn roast in Severn Twp., a mini-golf tournament/lunch in Bracebridge, and a bowling event in Orillia. Average participation in the 4 “special” ICRs was 12.5 cars.

*MoM* had a few new members who joined the club at the outset or during the 2023 season. As a result, as of the end of the season, which wrapped-up with the Fall Colours cruise in early October, our membership number was a healthy total of 34 cars (58 people.) This provides some perspective on the above event participation numbers.

The current distribution of club memberships (cars), based on local (home or cottage) address, is as follows:

Muskoka – 8 (Bracebridge 5, Gravenhurst 1, Huntsville 2)

Simcoe Cty. – 23 (Orillia area 8, Barrie area 7, Midland area 6, Other Simcoe Cty. 2)

Other – 3 (Vaughan 1, McKellar 1, Alliston 1)

In addition, you may find it interesting to know the distribution of the 4 generations of Miatas in the club, as of the end of the 2023 season:

NA (1990-1998) – 3 cars

NB (1999-2005) – 6 cars

NC (2006-2015) – 16 cars (7 soft tops, 9 PRHT)

ND (2016-present) – 9 cars (6 soft-tops, 3 RFs)



# You CAN Have Your Cake and Eat It Too!



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This statement was proven by the Miatas of Muskoka (MoM) members, who not only drive loveable sports cars with super reliability, but who attended and celebrated our annual End of Season Banquet on Sunday, November 5th! Mother Nature demonstrated again that she is an unofficial MoM Member, as the weather was mostly sunny and travel-friendly on that day!



After we "Fell Back" to Standard Time, 36 MoM members and guests made our way to Tailwinds Bar & Grill in Orillia for 1 pm. Gina (our main server), Rick Beutler (host), and Sheila & Doug Jackson (with camera ready!) greeted the folks arriving in the Pilot's Lounge, where we all enjoyed mingling with our fellow MoM members!

Our meals had been ordered in advance from the special events Menu, and after we were seated began to magically arrive in front of us at around 1:45 pm. There literally was something for everyone, and a highlight was the Pizza of the Day nicknamed "Miata Margarita Vegetarian". While savouring our delicious choices, we had a chance to catch up with how we're doing, share highlights of this year, and of course not-exaggerated-at-all Miata stories! Meanwhile, Marina generously distributed the crisp \$5 bill bonus that this year-end event provides...



Once the meals were almost finished, Rick took a few moments to thank everyone who attended – new and seasoned members -- for their amazing contributions throughout the year. This included: attending events; acting as Cruise Directors, Leads, Sweeps; hosting Corn Roasts with Alpacas; coordinating Charity Events; arranging visits to Aviation museums and Santas Village; coaching how to use CB radios; exchanging "I know someone who can fix that... advice"; and the numerous other behind the scenes activities that our MoM villagers generously share.



Recognition was also given to the Councillors team for how they fulfilled their roles, while Doug continued to take pictures that demonstrate how photogenic we can be.

This culminated with presenting a huge, moist Miatas of Muskoka logo slab cake (donated by the MoM club), that was beautifully and authentically decorated by the artists at Midland Foodland's Bakery. Gina did the honours slicing and plating our dessert, while we continued to mingle and wish each other well over the holiday season.



After settling our bills and saying our farewells, some of us remained to explore the scenic outside waterfront property as the skies turned cloudy. We agreed to plan a visit/cruise next summer when the tables, chairs, and umbrellas will be set up to embrace us on a sunny day, and there are fewer Canada Goose droppings.



Thanks to Head Chef Steve and his team of chefs, Gina and servers, and all those MoM members and guests who attended and made this event such a success. Here is some feedback from those who attended... "Thanks to both of you for an outstanding event! The cake was a nice touch! Everything was wonderful. Venue, food, turnout!" ...and from Tailwinds' chef Steve "Pleasure working with you, and you and your group are always welcome. Stay safe"

Merry Miata Christmas and Happy MX-5 New Year Everyone!

*Rick Beutler (and Brian Atkinson)*





**Council Meeting in January**



**"February Blahs" Lunch**



**AGM in Gravenhurst in April**



**"Spring Fling", May 6**

**May 25-26**



**LOOKING BACK**



**"Buddy Holly" Story at King's Wharf, on June 24**



**Edenvale Airport and AVRO Arrow June 9**



**Halliburton Cruise on July 5**



**"Santa's Village" Mini-golf on June 28**



**"Bocce" Potluck - July 11**



**Whitestone, Magnetewan Charity Cruise, July 26**



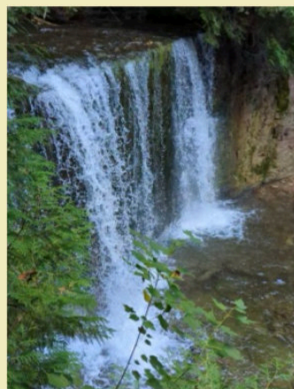
**St. Jacob's Overnight Cruise, August 9 - 10**



**"Corn Roast" at Wellman's on August 15**



**Rossueu Picnic Cruise on Aug. 21**



**Grey County waterfalls and Owen Sound Sept. 6-7**



**"Bowling" Special ICR - Sept. 27**



**"Fall Colours" Ottawa with Ottawa Club on Oct. 5**



**Kearney, Sand Lake - September 20**



**Bigger image from Year-end lunch,**

**Thurs. Oct. 5, 2023**

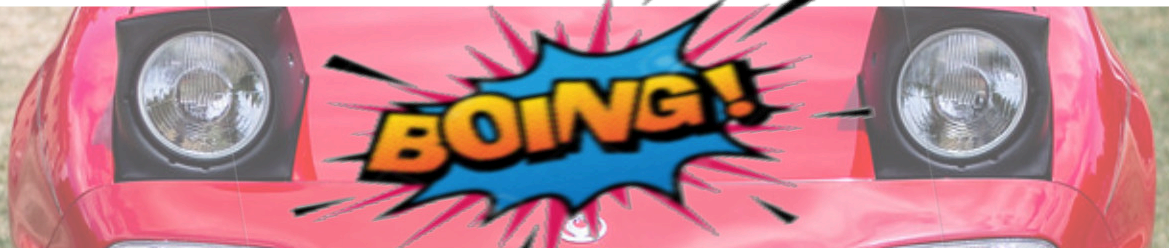
**Michael Topping, cruise director**

Paul Bennett, a Miata owner and former member of the Miatas of Muskoka, took an amazing video from his drone of the 29 cars from the Muskoka and Ottawa Clubs when we all joined together for the Fall Colours Cruise.

**BUT!!!**

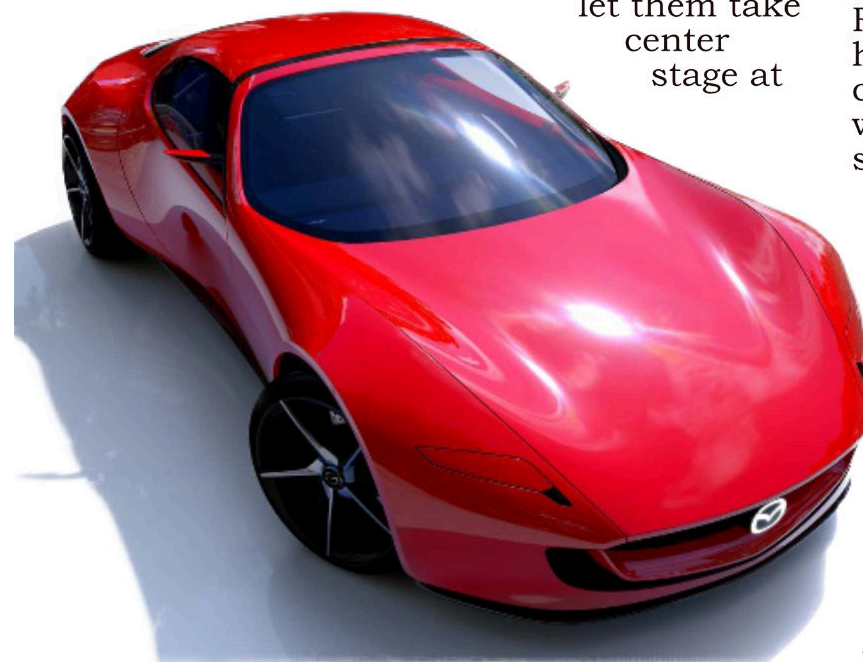
The video file is enormous! It was our intention to provide a link to the video in this newsletter so that we could view it on our computer screens in full resolution. Paul, as many of you know, is a professional photographer, and he provides links to his clients so that they can see images online. These links, however, are time sensitive and expire after a brief time period. If possible, we will get the drone "fly-by" video ready to view at the AGM in April. Here is an enlargement of a still image from the drone:





you, hater, I say that you're wrong.

See, pop-up headlights are a gift from a bygone time, when car designers didn't have to worry about pedestrian impact standards and could instead conceal headlights during the day to let them take center stage at



night. As a former NA Miata owner, one of the true delights of that car was seeing another Miata and quickly popping the headlights up, a friendly gesture recognized throughout the little roadster community as the defacto way to say "hi, I like your Miata, pal!" That subtle detail on this concept does recall the Miata, sure, but it also recalls the car that it might actually succeed, the FD RX-7. I still maintain that the FD RX-7, even with those very Nineties headlights, could pass for a brand-new car if it debuted today. The way Mazda has utilized those lights here seems like a modernization of the FD design, a signal that perhaps, finally, after nearly a decade of constant rumors declaring the return of the RX-7, it may not be far off.

This is also the sort of retro design we want to see. It's a distinctly modern car with a small detail that tugs at the hearts of car geeks everywhere. Just imagine if this catches on. Maybe pop-ups will reappear across sports and supercars everywhere. That's the future I want to live in. Don't you?



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### The Rotary-Electric Mazda Iconic SP Concept Marks The Return of Pop Up Headlights

This car just keeps getting better.

By: [Travis Okulski](#)

There's a lot to love about the Mazda Iconic SP Concept. It's gorgeous inside and out with perfect proportions, it has a two-rotor engine, and it's a signal of how the sports car can survive and thrive in an all-electric future. Thing is, it has one design element that stands out above all else: pop-up headlights.

If you're like me, you didn't notice that the concept had pop-up headlights when it first appeared last night. The focus was on the innovative powertrain and the stunning design, not on how the road ahead is illuminated. Some of you are probably freaking out, delighted that the headlights have their own little home to emerge from at night. Others probably don't care and think that pop-up headlights are bad and should be gone forever. To







# Mazda MX-5 Miata To Get Even More Special Editions

**CAR BUZZ**

NOV. 06, 2023  
BY ANTHONY CAPRETTO

*And you know they're going to be something special.*

Mazda has a history of launching cool special editions of the MX-5 Miata, and it has now emerged the Japanese automaker has no plans to stop this, with more special editions to come from the ND platform.

The ND Miata is the gift that keeps on giving even if it's coming up on 10 years old. Australia's Carsguide spoke with Mazda MX-5 Program Manager Shigeki Saito at the 2023 Japan Mobility Show, who said, "We are already planning [special editions] to make something very cool - we are already thinking about cool special editions."

Cool special editions are the brand's forte, as it's been shelling out unique versions of the car from the very beginning. The ND generation hasn't had as many as the generations before it, but it has had its fair share, including the vivid orange 30th Anniversary Edition and the classy two-tone 100th Anniversary Edition. The brand knows the platform is versatile, so it's no wonder more are on the way.



The prospect of getting the most out of this generation Miata seems an important endeavor for Saito, especially with its successor on the horizon. "We like to do whatever we can, utilizing the ND, because we think that the ND has a very high potential, therefore, we'd like to do everything - whatever we can do," he said. "And then I think as time comes, probably the shift to EVs is even more accelerated, after that we think we can [deliver an electric MX-5]."



It appears his focus is still firmly on the present, even as the company plans to electrify its entire lineup by 2030. We don't blame him, as this generation Miata has turned out to be the brand's most successful ever, helping push the MX-5 nameplate to new record sales since its debut.

This is why everyone worries about what will happen to the model when it goes electric. The company has previously said it had plans to hybridize the model in the future, but recent comments have been made that the company is seriously considering a fully electric version. This will only happen if the company can keep the weight down to current levels, something that will be very difficult in the near term. But not impossible. Caterham recently announced its Project V electric sports car boasting weight under 2,700 pounds and over 200 miles of range. We imagine if Miata can acquire the technology to create something similar, our electric Miata future may not be so bad after all. But in the meantime, we want to enjoy the ND to the fullest while we still can.





## Electric Mazda MX-5 Possible But Current Batteries Are Too Heavy:

**Mazda's engine development boss admits the company needs to "think about" an MX-5 EV.**



Oct 12, 2023  
By: Angel Sergeev

If we have to make a very short description of the Mazda MX-5, we'd probably say it is one of the last remaining old-school cars still on sale today. It seems that even the Japanese automaker is now looking into the future of the roadster though, as a new report indicates that Mazda is contemplating the idea of electrifying the four-wheeled legend.



Kato Matsue, the powertrain development boss at Mazda, shared insights into Mazda's electrified future with TopGear. The publication seized the opportunity to explore the possibility of an electric MX-5 with Matsue. In response, Matsue stated, "That's a possibility. The MX-5's main markets are the United States, Europe, and Japan. Japan is a bit behind, but the market demand is changing towards electrification. So we need to think about that."

He further explained: "By 2030, all our products will have some electrification. So that means the sports car is not outside of that scope. But I can't say exactly when we'll introduce a battery on the MX-5 at this moment."

One cannot ignore the fundamental Mazda philosophy, Jinba Ittai, TopGear elaborates, which emphasizes the perfect harmony between horse and rider. It's a concept that seemingly contradicts the industry's ongoing shift towards heavier lithium-ion batteries in electric vehicles. Matsue seems to be worried, too.

"Thinking about our development duration [until 2030], seven years is a short time. I don't expect power density to become two or three times



[better] compared to the current power density. Of course, I expect better, but I don't think that will happen. We don't want to have a very heavy MX-5. So if the MX-5 is 1.5 tonnes of peak weight, that is not the MX-5."

It's worth pointing out that Mazda currently has one of the most conservative approaches toward electrification in the automotive industry. The brand's only battery-powered model is the MX-30, and it follows its own philosophy that is different from most other EVs. It seems that the focus will remain on hybrid vehicles as Matsue uses the word electrified instead of electric when speaking about the MX-5.

The current MX-5, now in its fourth generation, remains as popular as ever. A total of 7,569 units have been delivered to customers in the United States so far in 2023, which represents a major increase over last year's results. Another facelift is reportedly on the horizon, possibly extending the fourth-gen MX-5's lifespan beyond 10 years.



If Mazda gives the production green light for an electric version of the roadster, the current model in a refreshed form will most likely fill the gap until the zero emissions version arrives. The manufacturer has also recently announced its focus on the MX-5 at the Japan Mobility Show, formerly known as the Tokyo Motor Show, teasing a mysterious MX-5 concept just a few days ago.



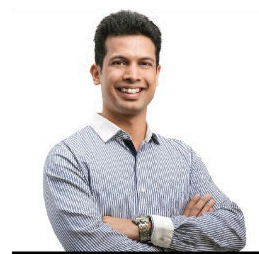
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## Drum Brake Makes A Comeback On EVs

**& It does make sense.**

**Source : VW website**



**Ikshith Jain**

Product Development Manager at Maruti Suzuki India Ltd. | Ex. VOLVO GTT | Ex. Bajaj Auto  
Published Jun 24, 2021

Drum brakes are on the verge of extinction from medium to high end modern passenger cars. However, they have made an appearance on Volkswagen's new ID.3 & ID.4 electric crossover on rear corner module. The low-cost antiquated technology is often seen in low end cars as a measure to keep the overall vehicle's cost in check. So, what made VW choose the same for their latest technologically superior electric offerings. Is it to lower down the costs or there is some thought out strategy? Let's try to understand:

1) Rolling Resistance

Rear drum brakes are used primarily to decrease rolling resistance. The disc brake pads have the tendency to slightly drag on the rotors as the vehicle is coasting. Drum brakes, just by nature of their design, do not have this tendency. Drag reduction leads to increased mileage.

2) Longer periods of Disuse

EV's regenerative braking system handles most of the stopping. This leads to long inactive periods for brakes which further cause disc to corrode specially in the case of Rear Brakes. This means that the brakes no longer work evenly and may pull the car to one side. Drum



brakes offer superior performance and reactivity after long periods of disuse as they form a closed system as opposed to Disc Brakes. This results in saving of some upfront cost and make maintenance intervals a bit longer (~150000 Kms).

3) Disc brake is a Specification only

As explained, EVs are capable of getting all the braking they need in non-emergency situations from regenerative braking. Hence, the friction brakes are only needed to provide enough stopping power to make up the difference in an emergency situation. Due to dynamic load transfer during braking in majority of cars, all braking power is provided by the front brakes. Rear brakes are left with not much work to do. Usage of drum brakes can optimize for efficiency and longevity rather than raw stopping power.

4) Electronic Parking brake integration

Drum brakes make the emergency brakes design simpler and newer technologies like electronic parking brake are easier to integrate in the same. Refer Continental's [Electric Parking Brake - Simplex Brakes \(EPB-Si\)](#)

There is also the environmental aspect as the technology produces less fine dust and most of the brake wear remains in the drum.

Of course, drum brakes also have disadvantages like low thermal stability (high fade tendency), Serviceability of Brake pads etc. However, it has helped VW to squeeze some extra range out of the vehicle's battery pack.

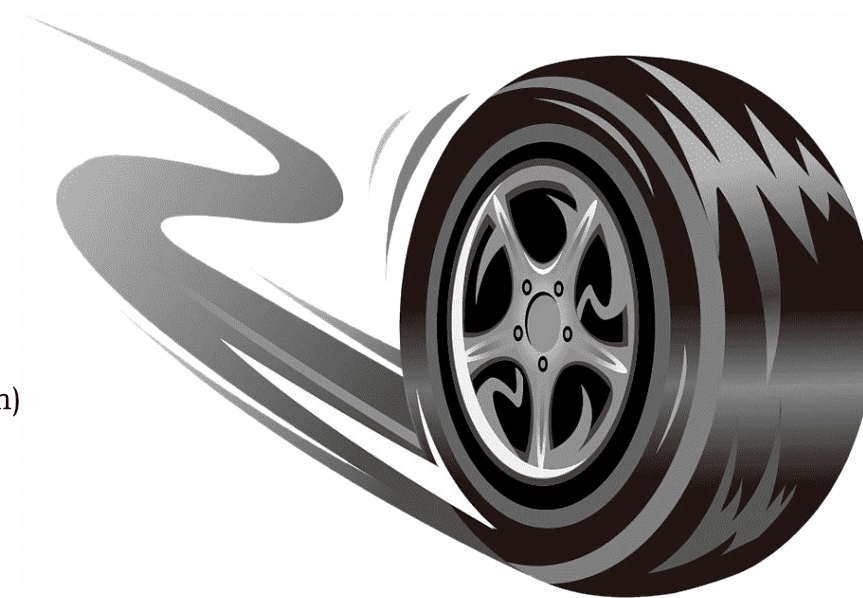
The very Core of product engineering is delivering value to the customer without significantly effecting the end product. With this kind of value engineering, VW has made the product better (reduced drag and longer service intervals). In future, Drum brakes are expected to be having wider application for non-performance EV's.

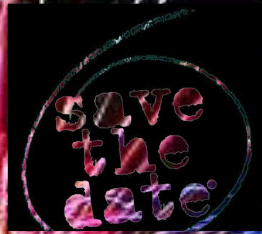
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Why the New Volkswagen ID.4 Electric Crossover Has Rear Drum Brakes (thedrive.com)

VW electric car: Why the ID.3 drum brake makes sense | CAR ENGINE AND SPORT (topgear-autoguide.com)





2024

