

# THE MYSTERY OF CHASSIS NUMBERS:

At Volkswagen, the chassis number is actually a code.

The latter makes it possible to know exactly what type of vehicle we are in front of (Combi, Doka, Sinka, Golf 1 or 2, Jetta, etc.) and above all to be able to determine very precisely the vintage of the vehicle.

Indeed, between the first release and the date of construction, there is sometimes a more or less significant lag. For example, a T3 Westfalia was seen, manufactured in 1982 (Chassis C) and put into circulation in January 1985.

There is also the fact that the next year's vintage always begins in August of the previous year. It is for all these reasons that between enthusiasts, to better understand each other, it is better to speak in vintage or "Chassis", and not in month or year of first registration.

First of all, it must be borne in mind that the vehicles produced have a factory type before having a name. It is therefore necessary to know in front of what type of vehicle we are, to do this here is a small summary table which is of course not complete and definitive:

- **Type 25, T3 Bus - Combi - Vanagon**
- **Type 24, T3 Doka - Sinka**
- **Type 14, Caddy**
- **Type 15, Golf convertible**
- **Type 16, Jetta 1**
- **Type 17, Golf 1**
- **Type 19, Golf 2 et Jetta 2 up to and including 88 year**
- **Type 1G, Golf 2 et Jetta 2 from year 89**
- **Type 53, Scirocco 1 and 2**

The chassis number includes the type of vehicle, the vintage year, its own serial number, and finally, depending on the year, its place of manufacture.

It is necessary to make the difference between the vehicles before the 1981 model year, and those which followed. Before the 1981 vintage, it seems that the manufacturer had the freedom to choose the number of characters needed to identify its vehicles.

But since vintage 1981, appears a European standard obliging the manufacturers to use 17 characters for the identification of the vehicles.

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## Vehicles since 1980.08.01 :

For exemple, chassis number : **WV2 ZZZ 25 Z D H 133 360** :

- **W** stands for “wagen”, translated from German: Car
- **V2** indicates that it is a utility
- the three **Zs** are fillers in order to have the required number of characters
- **25** to indicate that it is a Bus T3 (Type 25)
- **Z** is still filler
- **D** indicates the vintage (1983)
- **H** is the place of manufacture (H = Hanover, G = Graz)
- this is the **133,360th** vehicle to roll off the assembly line, all engines and versions combined.

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**EXCEPTION ! Vehicles year 1980 (1979.08.01 to 1980.07.31):**

for exemple, chassis number : **25 A 0 090 246** :

An exception, the vintages have been listed by letters since the 1980 year. The chassis number therefore incorporates an **A**, despite the old typing system, which gives us, following the example:

- **25** designates a Bus – Combi T3 (type 25)
  - **A** indicates the 1980 vintage (Chassis A)
  - on the other hand, to this day, the **0** remains a mystery.
  - this is the **90,246th** vehicle to roll off the assembly line, all engines and versions combined.
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**Here is the table of vintages (chassis) from 1980 to 1992 with the main modifications:**

<b>A 1980</b>	<b>Start of production of the T3, right and left rear metal grids</b>
<b>B 1981</b>	<b>From January 1981, right and left rear plastic grids,</b>
<b>C 1982</b>	
<b>D 1983</b>	
<b>E 1984</b>	<b>New tailgate lock</b>
<b>F 1985</b>	<b>New side doors with smaller glass</b> <b>- sliding door window before 85: 428 x 1082 mm</b> <b>- sliding door window after 85: 428 x 1052 mm</b> <b>Production of the Syncro model</b>
<b>G 1986</b>	<b>Production of the 2.1 injection engine, new front axle, front brake discs and calipers, new fuse boxH 1987</b>
<b>J 1988</b>	<b>New front grille logo and tailgate logo, new ventilation unit</b>
<b>K 1989</b>	<b>Production of special series xStar (Bluestar – Whitestar – Tristar)</b>
<b>L 1990</b>	
<b>M 1991</b>	<b>Transfer of the production of the T3 from the Hanover factory to the Graz factory, due to the manufacture of the T4 in Hanover.</b>
<b>N 1992</b>	<b>Last vintage year of production of the T3, LLE special series - Production of the RedStar</b>

It should also be remembered that the serial numbers increase starting from 000 0001.

In addition, all categories of models, whether Caravelle, Multivan, Doka, Sinka, Westfalia, panel Van, etc., are all included in the same number increment.

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