

Coming soon...

There are plenty of new launches coming your way in the next year or so – here's our pick of some of the most important models

AUDI TT COUPE

On sale September, from £24,625

It's lost some of the 'concept car' looks of the original, but it's hard to resist the sculpted lines of the new TT – a car likely to be another big hit in the UK. There's a new range of engines and a choice of front- or four-wheel drive. Most importantly, the driving experience is said to be much improved over the outgoing, rather disappointing TT, thanks to a chassis derived from the current VW Golf.



OTHER NEW LAUNCHES

SUPERMINIS

Fiat Cinquecento Spring 2007

Joint project with Ford (below)

Ford Ka Spring 2007

Joint project with Fiat (above)

Mini Spring 2007

All-new version, with new engines

Mitsubishi i-Car Winter 2006

Interesting long-and-thin

Japanese supermini

Renault Twingo Autumn 2006

Right-hand drive for first time

MEDIUM CARS

Alfa Romeo 149 2008

Will share much with new Fiat Stilo

Fiat Stilo Spring 2007

Replaces slow-selling current model

Peugeot 308 2008

307 replacement with some

407-like styling cues

Renault Logan Spring 2007

Budget medium car, could cost

less than £5,000

Subaru Impreza Autumn 2007

All-new car will be a hatchback, not saloon

Toyota Corolla Spring 2007

New hatchback arrives first; saloon and estate to follow

MPVS

Citroën C4 Picasso Spring 2007

Replaces Xsara Picasso, with seven-seat option

Kia Carens October 2006

All-new budget mid-sized MPV

LARGE CARS

Renault Laguna Winter 2007

Renault claims improved quality

Ford Mondeo Autumn 2007

See it first in the new 007 film,

Casino Royale

Mercedes-Benz C-class

Summer 2007

Promises to be sportier this time

SPORTS CARS

Audi TT Roadster Autumn 2007

Same engine range as new coupé

BMW 3 Series Convertible

Summer 2007

Based on 3 Series Coupé (on sale)

Lotus Europa Autumn 2006

Based on a 'stretched' Elise platform for greater comfort

Alfa Romeo Brera Spider

Spring 2007

Drop-top Brera, with electric fabric roof (optional)

OFF-ROADERS

BMW X5 Spring 2007

Longer X5 will seat seven

Dodge Nitro Spring 2007

Big, brash 4x4 from the US

Ford C-Max SUV Winter 2006

Small 4x4 based on Focus C-Max

Honda CR-V Spring 2007

New model with radical styling

Jeep Wrangler 'Unlimited'

Spring 2007

New 4x4 using VW engines

Mazda CX-7 Spring 2007

Sleek-looking soft-roader

Mercedes-Benz GL-class

Winter 2006

Big seven-seat MPV/off-roader

Vauxhall Antara Summer 2007

Based on the Chevrolet Captiva 4x4

LAND ROVER FREELANDER

On sale December, from £22,000

Land Rover's 'baby' off-roader, the Freelander, will move considerably upmarket with the introduction of this Mk2 version. Prices start at a steep £22,000 (£8,000 more than the old car) which puts it in direct competition with the BMW X3. But you get more room for your money, plus a stylish Discovery-themed exterior. Let's hope Land Rover can improve its reliability for this model.

VAUXHALL CORSA

On sale October, from £7,495

It may not set pulses racing, but this is a crucial new launch for Vauxhall. The Corsa is a consistent top-ten seller, thanks to its huge choice of engines and trims and Vauxhall's wide dealer network. Inevitably, the new car has grown (like its rivals the Fiat Grande Punto and Renault Clio) and there's a stylish coupé-like three door or practical five door to choose from. It's full of clever ideas, such as the (optional) retractable 'FlexFix' bike rack and 'cornering' headlamps.



From left: Land Rover Freelander, Vauxhall Corsa, Volvo C30, Nissan Qashqai

VOLVO C30

On sale December, from £15,000 (est)

This is Volvo's smallest car since the 480 coupé and 340/360 hatchbacks of the 80s. Like the rest of the Volvo range the C30 majors on style but is unlikely to sacrifice the brand's trump card of safety. It's strictly a four-seater, so won't be as flexible as some rival medium cars. A lot of the running gear comes from the Ford Focus, so it should drive well. Volvo hopes to pinch sales from the Audi A3 and BMW 1 Series.

NISSAN QASHQAI

On sale Spring 2007, from £15,000 (est)

It may be unpronounceable, but fortunately Nissan's 'crossover' concept car (part off-roader, part hatchback) is going to be renamed when it hits showrooms in spring 2007. The concept car shown below, which debuted at the Geneva show in 2004, is actually pretty close to the production car, which was designed here in the UK. In part, it will replace the dull-but-worthy Almera, with those buyers who don't fancy the Qashqai being pointed towards the new Nissan Note instead.