

...e and silver are the most  
...s for R32s. The rarest  
...s grey anthracite, with  
...ookers sold wearing it.

## ONES WE FOUND



**Price** £6999, 53-reg, 71,000 miles  
Shabby R32s start from about £6500, but a little more cash gets you a decent car. This three-door has indigo blue metallic paint and has just had a new clutch fitted.  
**Call** Private seller, 07041 382168



**Price** £7695, 03-reg, 75,000 miles  
Dealer-sold car with a full history, average miles and fashionable metallic silver paintwork.  
**Call** RA Motors, 07817 402778



**Price** £7995, 03-reg, 78,000 miles  
The five-door doesn't look as good as the three-door, but it's more practical and the two are pretty much identical. This has all the right bits and plenty of service history.  
**Call** Kenyon S&P, 01535 637637



**Price** £8495, 53-reg, 58,000 miles  
The R32 is a great all-rounder, standing a car with only 58,000 miles on the clock – backed up by a full service history. This means this example looks good on paper.  
**Call** Private seller, 07041 368825



**Price** £10,489, 04-reg, 40,000 miles  
Only the best Mk4s are still in five figures. Here's an immaculate low-miler with full service history and new tyres. Pricy, but you'll struggle to find a better one.  
**Call** Volkswizard, 0121 474 3901



**Price** £10,000, 06-reg, 125,000 miles  
Mk5 R32 never matched its predecessor as a driver's car, but early ones are attractive and cheap. This is a high miler but has a full service history and one owner.  
**Call** Star Sales, 07405 878936

## What we said then

Test date | 5.2.03

Mk4 Golf GTI is no driver's car, so a performance-oriented R32 is a welcome arrival

### Design and engineering

The R32 shares a great deal of its DNA with the V6 4Motion, including the Haldex four-wheel drive system and six-speed gearbox. Distinguishing styling cues include 18-inch wheels, chrome tailpipes, subtle side skirts and aggressively styled bumpers.

### Interior

König bucket seats have some of the biggest side bolsters we have seen on a road car and a chunky leather steering wheel. Despite the flashes of brushed aluminium, the design is showing its age, with the climate controls mounted too low.

### Performance

Given the R32's traction advantage, its 0-60mph time is unexceptional. The V6 greets you with a delicious bark and a brush of the right pedal sends the red needle whipping around the revcounter, something its turbocharged adversaries can't replicate.

### Ride and handling

VW has finally made a hot Mk4 that's as capable as it is fun. Grip is borderline sensational in the dry and the ESP system only intrudes at the last second. The ride never feels anything less than stiff, but it's only on the rougher stuff that it becomes jarring.

### Buying and owning

The R32 has the burden of a big normally aspirated engine and 1477kg, but the tall sixth gear manages to salvage a competitive touring consumption figure. The Golf's list price is also £2500 more than the Focus RS and the new Impreza.

**Verdict** The best Golf in years, yet as an entertainer it falls short of the excellent Focus RS. Wonderful V6 engine and peerless cabin quality are compensation.



### Volkswagen Golf R32

**Years produced** 2002-2004 **Total made** 5000 (approx)  
**Price** £22,340 **Engine** V6, 3189cc, petrol **Power** 237bhp at 6250rpm **Torque** 236lb ft at 2800-3200rpm **0-60mph** 6.5sec **0-100mph** 15.6sec **Standing quarter mile** 14.7sec at 97mph **Braking (30-0, 50-0, 70-0)** 9.4m, 26.2m, 51.5m  
**Top speed** 153mph **Fuel economy** 24.6mpg



V6 is thirsty, but sixth gear helps cruising fuel figure

### Where you buy...

...needs to be from either a  
...or reputable specialist.  
... Category D cars can look  
... impossible to insure.  
... mate control blows icy  
... of its compressor clutch is  
... problem.  
... discs and pads are  
... 2 – and priced accordingly  
... using original VW parts).  
... or a lack of power is  
... by a faulty mass air-flow  
... about £150 for a new one.