

Volkswagen Crafter Police Support Unit Is Here To Quench Riots

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Marvin Gaye wrote an extremely popular song to quench riots, but Volkswagen took a different approach compared to the Grammy-winning musician. Enter the Crafter Police Support Unit, featuring a long-wheelbase chassis and an “unbreakable” windshield.



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If you were wondering, “unbreakable” is Volkswagen for polycarbonate plastic resin. More to the point, the windshield is made of KASIGLAS mar-protect material. In addition to seating for seven people in the rear and the half-width prison cell, the Crafter Police Support Unit also comes with a storage system designed to store riot helmets, shields, and various other equipment.

Converted to anti-riot specification by Coleman Milne Specialist Vehicles in Wigan, the Crafter PSU will debut on April 30th at the Commercial Vehicle Show 2019 at NEC Birmingham. The five-tonne van started out as the Crafter Trendline, packing 177 PS (175 horsepower) and 410 Nm (302 pound-feet) of torque from the 2.0 TDI four-cylinder engine.

The turbo diesel is matched to an eight-speed transmission, not the six-speed Shiftmatic from yesteryear. The Shiftmatic is an automated manual that differs from the three-pedal setup through additional hydraulic components and additional control technology. According to Volkswagen, this design is “both practical and a low-cost alternative to an automatic” with a torque converter.

“We’re delighted to reveal our latest blue light conversion – a riot van based on the long-wheelbase Volkswagen Crafter – after months of hard work by our dedicated team alongside our Accredited Blue Light Conversion Partner,” said Steven Cowell, technical sales manager at Volkswagen Group Fleet Services. *“The PSU will be put into service across the country supporting police forces in their vital roles.”*

The German automaker will demo a fleet of PSUs with the police in the United Kingdom, hoping to sell a few of them. But Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles also offers conversions for ambulance services, which is a win-win situation considering these babies are present at riots in addition to riot vans.

Volkswagen hasn’t given a price for the Police Support Unit, but don’t expect it to be cheap. For reference, the Crafter panel van Trendline with the LWB Maxi configuration, 2.0 TDI, 4MOTION, and eight-speed automatic retails at £51,315 in the United Kingdom. 