GENERAL

aston martin dbs or auto

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Introduction

When you think of the pinnacle of British automotive craftsmanship, the Aston Martin DBS inevitably comes to mind. A blend of aggressive styling, blistering performance, and luxurious refinement, the DBS has evolved through several generations, each iteration pushing the boundaries of what a grand tourer can achieve. For enthusiasts debating whether to go with the classic DBS or opt for an automatic variant, this article provides a comprehensive guide that covers history, design, powertrain, technology, and ownership considerations. Whether you're a seasoned Aston Martin aficionado or a newcomer intrigued by the brand's heritage, you'll find the information you need to make an informed choice.

History of the Aston /Martin DBS

The DBS name first appeared in 1967, derived from the "DB" (David Brown) lineage that defined Aston Martin's early era. The original DBS was a lightweight, high performance coupe that showcased a 3.3 liter V8 engine, setting a new standard for the brand's racing pedigree. Fast forward to 2007, when the modern DBS was introduced, featuring a 6.0 liter V12 that produced 590 hp, revving up to 7,500 rpm. This generation was a direct descendant of the DB9, but with a more aggressive stance and a focus on grand touring comfort.

In 2018, the DBS Superleggera arrived, boasting a lighter aluminum chassis and an upgraded 5.2 liter twin turbo V8. While the name "DBS" has remained consistent, each version has introduced significant technological advancements, reinforcing Aston /Martin's reputation as a brand that marries heritage with innovation.

Design and Styling

The Aston Martin DBS is instantly recognizable by its sculpted body, flowing roofline, and the signature "crown" grille. The design team has carefully balanced aerodynamic efficiency with visual drama. Key features include:

- Low, wide stance with a 2.9 meter wheelbase that enhances stability.
- Carbon fiber roof and rear spoiler for reduced weight and improved airflow.
- LED headlights and taillights that incorporate the brand's iconic "A" motif.
- Customizable paint options ranging from classic metallics to bold, high gloss finishes.

Inside, the cabin reflects the same level of meticulous attention: hand stitched leather, carbon fiber trim, and a driver centric layout that places controls within easy reach. The overall aesthetic is one of understated opulence, a hallmark of Aston /Martin's design philosophy.

Powertrain and Performance

At the heart of the DBS lies a powerful V12 engine, a hallmark of Aston Martin's performance ethos. The latest iteration delivers:

- 6.0 liter naturally aspirated V12.
- 590 /hp and 540 /lb ft of torque.
- 0–60 /mph in 3.8 /seconds.

- Top speed of 205 /mph (electronically limited).

The engine’s smooth power delivery, combined with a finely tuned suspension, ensures that the DBS feels both agile on twisty roads and composed on long stretches of highway. The car’s braking system, featuring carbon ceramic discs, allows for rapid deceleration and precise control.

V12 Engine and Power Output

Unlike many modern supercars that rely on turbocharging for peak output, the DBS’s naturally aspirated V12 offers an unfiltered, linear power curve. This characteristic appeals to purists who appreciate the raw connection between driver and machine. The engine’s high rev range (up to 7,500 rpm) ensures that every shift delivers an audible, exhilarating experience.

Transmission Options: Manual vs Automatic

Aston Martin offers both manual and automatic gearbox options for the DBS, catering to a wide spectrum of driving preferences. The 6 speed manual provides a more engaged, hands on experience, while the 8 speed automatic, equipped with paddle shifters, offers seamless gear changes and reduced driver fatigue on long journeys. For those who prioritize convenience without sacrificing performance, the automatic variant is an attractive choice.

Driving Dynamics and Handling

The DBS’s handling is a product of meticulous engineering: a double wishbone front suspension, multi link rear setup, and an adjustable dampening system. The car’s weight distribution is balanced at 52% front, 48% rear, ensuring predictable behavior under acceleration, braking, and cornering. Coupled with a low center of gravity and a rigid chassis, the DBS offers a driving experience that is both thrilling and reliable.

Interior and Technology

Beyond performance, the DBS is a showcase of cutting edge technology and bespoke luxury. The cabin is equipped with:

- Dual 10.2 inch touchscreen infotainment systems.
- Apple CarPlay and Android Auto integration.
- Premium Bose audio system with 12 speakers.
- Adaptive climate control and massage seats.
- High definition digital instrument cluster.

Luxury Features

Every element inside the DBS is crafted to provide maximum comfort. The seats, upholstered in high quality leather, feature adjustable lumbar support and integrated heating. Ambient lighting allows drivers to customize the cabin atmosphere, while the panoramic roof adds a sense of openness.

Driver Assistance and Auto Technology

While the DBS remains a pure driving experience, it is not devoid of modern safety and convenience features. Key technologies include:

- Adaptive cruise control with lane centering assistance.
- Collision avoidance system with automatic emergency braking.
- 360 degree camera view for parking and low speed maneuvering.
- Night vision and night vision camera for enhanced visibility.
- Smartphone connectivity for remote vehicle status monitoring.

These systems provide a safety net that complements the car's exhilarating performance, ensuring that drivers can enjoy the thrill without compromising on modern safety standards.

Comparing the Aston /Martin DBS to Other Models

When evaluating the DBS, it's useful to compare it with other Aston Martin models to understand its unique positioning within the brand's lineup.

DBS vs DBS Superleggera

The DBS Superleggera, introduced in 2018, is essentially a lightweight, high performance variant of the standard DBS. Key differences include:

- All aluminum chassis reducing weight by approximately 200 /kg.
- Upgraded 5.2 liter twin turbo V8 producing 715 /hp.
- Enhanced aerodynamic package with larger rear wing.
- More aggressive exterior styling cues.

While the Superleggera offers superior performance metrics, it also comes at a higher price point and reduced interior space due to the lighter construction.

DBS vs Aston /Martin Vantage

The Vantage is a more compact, track oriented model that emphasizes agility over sheer power. Compared to the DBS, the Vantage offers:

- Smaller 5.2 liter twin turbo V8 (V8 Vantage) or 4.0 liter twin turbo V8 (V8 Vantage).
- Lower top speed but quicker 0–60 times in certain variants.
- More pronounced track ready suspension tuning.
- Less emphasis on luxury interior features.

Choosing between the DBS and Vantage hinges on whether you value grand touring comfort or track centric performance.

Buying Considerations: DBS or Auto?

Deciding between the manual and automatic variants of the Aston Martin DBS involves weighing several factors, from driving pleasure to practical everyday use.

Performance vs Comfort

Manual transmissions offer a tactile connection and a sense of mastery that many enthusiasts cherish. However, the automatic variant's rapid, precise gear changes can actually enhance performance in certain scenarios, especially when paired with the car's sophisticated torque management systems.

Cost and Ownership

While both variants share similar base pricing, the automatic gearbox may incur slightly higher maintenance costs due to its complex electronics. Additionally, automatic models often command a premium resale value because of broader market demand.

Resale Value

Historically, automatic variants of high performance cars tend to retain value better, partly due to their appeal to a wider demographic. If you anticipate selling the vehicle within a few years, the automatic option could offer a more

favorable return on investment.

Maintenance and Reliability

Like any luxury performance vehicle, the Aston Martin DBS requires diligent upkeep. Key maintenance considerations include:

- Regular oil changes using high performance synthetic oils.
- Scheduled checks of the cooling system to prevent overheating.
- Routine inspection of the transmission fluid, especially for the automatic variant.
- Periodic replacement of brake pads and rotors due to high speed usage.
- Software updates for the infotainment and driver assist systems.

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