GENERAL

audi 2009 a4 s

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Introduction

The 2009 Audi A4 S stands out as a benchmark in the compact luxury sedan segment, offering a blend of performance, refined design, and cutting edge technology. As a mid generation model, it inherits the solid engineering foundation of the B8 platform while introducing updates that keep it competitive against rivals like the BMW 3 Series and Mercedes C Class. This article dives deep into every facet of the 2009 Audi A4 S—its exterior styling, interior craftsmanship, powertrain, driving dynamics, technology suite, and maintenance considerations—providing you with a thorough understanding whether you're a prospective buyer, an enthusiast, or simply curious about this iconic vehicle.

Exterior Design and Styling

Signature Audi A4 Aesthetics

The 2009 Audi A4 S retains the unmistakable quattro logo front fascia, featuring a bold grille, sculpted hood, and sleek LED headlamps. Its aerodynamic silhouette, with a low stance and subtle side skirts, delivers both visual appeal and functional airflow. The S line trim adds sportier accents: a distinctive front bumper, dual exhaust outlets, and larger alloy wheels that emphasize performance.

Dimensions and Practicality

- Overall Length: 4,732 mm (186.2 in)
- Wheelbase: 2,822 mm (111.1 in)
- Width: 1,838 mm (72.4 in)
- Height: 1,423 mm (56.0 in)
- Ground Clearance: 139 mm (5.5 in)

These proportions strike a balance between cabin space and road presence, offering ample legroom for front passengers while maintaining a sporty stance.

Powertrain and Performance

Engine Options

The 2009 Audi A4 S is primarily equipped with a 2.0 liter turbocharged inline four engine, the BMW derived 2.0 L TFSI. This powerplant delivers:

- Horsepower: 190 hp (142 kW)
- Torque: 236 lb ft (320 Nm)
- Redline: 6,600 rpm

Its twin charged design—combining a turbocharger and a supercharger—ensures immediate throttle response, eliminating lag and providing a smooth power curve from low RPMs to peak output.

Transmission and Drivetrain

The A4 S is offered with a 6 speed Tiptronic automatic gearbox, seamlessly integrating manual shift modes.

Coupled with Audi's quattro all wheel drive system, the car delivers balanced traction, especially under variable road conditions. The 0–60 mph acceleration clock stands at approximately 6.6 seconds, while top speed is electronically limited to 155 mph (250 km/h).

Driving Dynamics

With a well tuned suspension, the A4 S provides a comfortable ride without compromising handling agility. The front MacPherson strut and rear multi-link setup, along with adaptive dampers, absorb bumps efficiently. Steering is precise, aided by a power assist rack and pinion that offers a natural feel. The quattro system further enhances cornering stability, making the car confident in both city traffic and winding roads.

Interior and Comfort

Premium Materials and Build Quality

Inside, the A4 S showcases high grade materials: soft-touch plastics, genuine leather upholstery, and real wood trim. The cabin layout emphasizes ergonomics, with a central touchscreen positioned within easy reach of the driver. The instrument cluster blends analog dials with a digital readout, providing clear information while maintaining a classic feel.

Seat Comfort and Support

Front seats feature adjustable lumbar support, heating, and, in higher trims, cooling vents. The rear seats offer generous legroom for adults, and the seat upholstery is designed to resist wear and stains. For long journeys, the A4 S provides ample headroom, contributing to a relaxed driving experience.

Technology and Infotainment

- Display: 7 inch MMI touchscreen (optional 8 inch in later trims)
- Audio: 12 speaker Bose or 10 speaker standard system
- Connectivity: Bluetooth, USB, and auxiliary inputs
- Navigation: Optional GPS with real time traffic updates
- Driver Assistance: Adaptive cruise control, lane departure warning, and parking sensors

These features position the A4 S as a technologically forward vehicle for its era, offering both convenience and entertainment.

Safety Features

Safety is paramount in the 2009 Audi A4 S. The car comes equipped with a suite of airbags—including front, side, curtain, and knee airbags—alongside stability control, traction control, and ABS. The optional optional "Audi Drive Assist" package adds adaptive cruise control, lane keeping assist, and collision warning systems. These systems collectively enhance occupant protection and reduce the risk of accidents.

Common Issues and Reliability

Engine and Turbocharger Concerns

Some owners report premature failure of the turbocharger due to oil starvation or improper maintenance. Regular oil changes with high quality synthetic oil can mitigate this risk. Additionally, keeping the intercooler clean and ensuring proper airflow helps maintain optimal engine performance.

Electrical and Infotainment Glitches

Occasionally, the MMI infotainment system may freeze or reboot unexpectedly. A firmware update from an Audi dealership often resolves such glitches. Keeping the software current is advisable for a smooth user experience.

Suspension Wear

The front struts and rear shocks may show signs of wear after 80,000 miles, especially under aggressive driving conditions. Replacing these components early prevents handling issues and preserves ride quality.

Quattro System Maintenance

The all wheel drive components require periodic inspection of the differential fluid. A change every 60,000 miles (or as specified by the service manual) ensures reliable traction and prevents premature wear.

Maintenance and Ownership Costs

Owning a 2009 Audi A4 S involves routine upkeep similar to other luxury vehicles. Here's a quick checklist:

1. Oil and filter change: Every 7,500 miles or 12 months, whichever comes first.
2. Brake fluid replacement: Every 30,000 miles.
3. Transmission fluid change: Every 60,000 miles.
4. Tire rotation: Every 10,000 miles.
5. Timing belt (if applicable): Check the service manual for specific intervals.

While the initial purchase price is competitive, owners should budget for premium fuel (often recommended for turbocharged engines) and potentially higher insurance rates due to the vehicle's performance capabilities.

Buying Tips for Used 2009 Audi A4 S

- Vehicle History: Obtain a comprehensive report to check for accidents, title issues, and service records.
- Pre Purchase Inspection: Have a trusted mechanic inspect the engine, transmission, and suspension.
- Check for Recalls: Verify that all manufacturer recalls have been addressed.
- Test Drive: Pay attention to steering feel, braking response, and any unusual noises.
- Trim and Options: Decide which optional features are essential—S line, navigation, or premium audio can significantly impact value.

These steps help ensure you acquire a well maintained, reliable vehicle that meets your expectations.

Comparison with Contemporary Competitors

When positioned against the 2009 BMW 3 Series and Mercedes C Class, the Audi A4 S offers:

- Quattro AWD: Superior traction in adverse weather compared to BMW's rear wheel drive.
- Interior Quality: Comparable to Mercedes but often praised for its ergonomic layout.
- Technology: Earlier adoption of MMI touchscreen and optional navigation.
- Price: Slightly lower MSRP, making it a cost effective luxury choice.

Overall, the A4 S balances performance, comfort, and technology, making it a strong contender in the compact luxury segment.

Pros and Cons

Pros

- All wheel drive system enhances stability.

- Turbocharged engine delivers strong acceleration.
- High quality interior materials.
- Advanced infotainment and safety features.
- Competitive pricing for a luxury sedan.

Cons

- Potential turbocharger reliability issues.
- Higher maintenance costs over time.
- Limited rear headroom in some trims.
- Infotainment system may feel dated compared to newer models.

Conclusion

The 2009 Audi A4 S remains a compelling option for buyers seeking a blend of performance, luxury, and practicality. Its turbocharged powertrain, quattro all wheel drive, and well crafted interior set it apart from many competitors in the compact luxury segment. While certain maintenance concerns—particularly with the turbocharger and infotainment system—require attention, diligent upkeep can preserve the vehicle's performance and reliability for many years.

Whether you're a seasoned Audi enthusiast or a first time luxury sedan buyer, the 2009 Audi A4 S offers a balanced package of driving dynamics, comfort, and technology that continues to resonate with drivers today.

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