



New body on the Volvo 144.

A new Volvo

SAFETY and comfort are strongly emphasized in a new Volvo announced last week.

It is the long-awaited 144 with a completely new body shell—longer, lower and wider—clothing some well proven Volvo mechanicals. The body is an immensely stiff structure “made up of sturdy steel profiles and anti-roll bars” and protected by the engine and boot compartments which are designed to crumple under impact. Unusually, each side of the body is pressed as a single unit so that jig work is minimized and weight reduced. Screen frames for the laminated-glass front screen and back window are similarly one-piece pressings. Volvo have always been particularly safety conscious and there are numerous other detail precautions

like the padded steering wheel mounted on a column designed to shear off under the bonnet in a frontal collision. Servo-assisted disc brakes are fitted to all four wheels and there is a dual braking system “which ensures 80 per cent efficiency if one system should fail”. Front seat belts are naturally standard fittings.

Under the new attractive skin, the 144 has many similarities with the successful 120/122S range. There is a choice of two 1,778 c.c. engines—one of 85 b.h.p., the other of 115 b.h.p. The new cars will not be seen in Britain until the Earls Court Motor Show and no price has yet been announced but it will certainly be more than the 122—probably around the £1,500 mark.

The Volvo 144, minus central door pillar to give unobstructed view of interior, shows comfortable reclining front seats with good support for the small of the back.

