Volkswagen designers wanted to develop the latest Beetle around the profile of the earliest cars rather than the 1998 New Beetle.

By Steve Schaefer

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Some cars are just plain fun. Their very presence in your driveway makes you happy. The Yellow Rush 2013 Volkswagen Beetle I recently had was one of those cars.

The original Beetle was Adolf Hitler's people's car. Despite those awful origins, the Bug sold in the tens of millions worldwide, finally ending sales in the U.S. back in 1979 (but continuing elsewhere until surprisingly recently).

In 1998, the New Beetle showed up, evolved from a popular concept car. Based on the Golf, it had a water-cooled, front-mounted engine, unlike the original Beetle's air-cooled rear unit.

The 2012 Beetle was all new, still based on the Golf. In some ways, it's more like the original car. Beetle maniacs will note the more upright windshield, flatter roof, and completely different taillamps.

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