

## Hatchbacks provide motorists with flexibility, economy

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**Hollywood, MD** - For nearly 50 years, hatchbacks have caught the eye of car buyers. The style dates back to around 1970. The differences between the station wagon and the hatchback includes length (station wagons are longer) and, as New York Times auto-journalist Dan Neil once wrote, “the verticality of the rear cargo door.”

Fast forward to 2017 and the hatchback continues to provide drivers with flexibility, as the interior can be easily reconfigured to prioritize passenger vs. cargo volume. According to [U.S. News and World Report](#) (USNWR), these are the top 10 hatchbacks in the showroom and on the roadways for the current 2017 model year.

There’s a two-way tie for ninth place between the Volkswagen Golf and Hyundai Elantra. Car experts praise the Elantra for its “good fuel economy and sound safety ratings.” The Golf, says USNWR, “strikes a great balance between fun and function.”

In eighth place is the Chevrolet Volt, which USNWR states has “spry road maneuvers that challenge the norm.”

The list has a three-way tie for fifth place—Volkswagen GTI, Toyota Prius and Mazda’s Mazda 3. The GTI, stated USNWR, is “able to blur the line between small sports car and useful hatchback.” The Prius is praised for its “phenomenal fuel economy.” The Mazda 3 rates because of its “precise steering and strong brakes.”

There is another tie—a three-way tie for second place among the Honda Fit, the Honda Civic and the Chevy Bolt. The Bolt is cited as the standard and definitive electric vehicle—“it rewrites the electric car playbook.” The Civic is called “comfortable and well-equipped.” The Fit is lauded by USNWR for its “versatile cargo space.”

At the top of the list is the Kia Soul, which USNWR stated, its “distinctive look stands out.” On the point scale used by U.S. News and World Report, the difference in the rating scale between the Soul and the three vehicles in the two-way tie for ninth is a mere 0.4.

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