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The top of the Volkswagen Convertible is way out of the car for a very simple reason: We had no other practical place to put it.

Of course, we had other alternatives.

We could have put the top in the back seat. (It wouldn't have been out of the car, but 2 or 3 people would have been.)

Or we could have made room for the top by making the bug a little longer. (But it would no longer have been the little bug.)

The way it worked out, our Convertible has all the practical benefits of our Sedan: Seating for 4 adults, parking ease, and

economy leverage 32 mpg; 40,000 miles on tires).

But many people don't need practical benefits. They simply like our top.

They like it because it has a real glass window in back. And because it's padded, stitched, and fitted by hand, so it's weatherproof and it actually cushions sound.

They like our top when it's up for its smooth custom-mode look. And they like it when it's down for its unusual way-out look.

To many people our top is so way-out, it's in.

