

Roberts Rules Of Alfa Maintenance

Fluids

Brake and transmission fluid neglect are two things that cause many expensive nightmares including transmission damage and stuck brake calipers – flush systems once a year and use dot 4 fluid only! If your clutch or brake pedals start feeling mushy, replace the cylinders with original equipment cylinders – don't waste your time rebuilding or replacing with cheap-o's.

Use specific transmission fluid. There are 3 or 4 good ones. Synchronizers are picky – too slippery and they won't slow the gear down fast enough and grinding occurs. We recommend Redline 85-90 NS. Some early Alfa's use a different fluid.

Change oil and filter at least once a year or every 3,000 miles. This will significantly increase the motor life. Also due to the lack of Zink in modern oil using a Zink additive or high Zink oil will save the cams. I have seen as many as 50 failed cams from Alfa motors.

Flush coolant yearly and use good name brand antifreeze to prevent corrosion.

Battery

When replacing your battery – get one with a high cold cranking amp. – 850 or so. If the voltage falls below about 10.5 volts while cranking your Bosch car won't start even though it is turning over well. Always using a trickle charger will at least double your battery life and remember a battery self discharges just sitting, even if it is not hooked up.

Various & Sundry

Drive Shaft Coupling

Examine yearly for cracking and replace if cracks appear. Be careful replacing it there are lots of inferior ones being sold. We recommend using the BMW one only as the OEM Alfa is no longer available and the Fiat one is not heavy duty enough for the heavier Alfa to be safe.

Cheap-O Parts

Just a few years ago original parts were readily available, but nowadays good quality parts are very hard to find. There is a lot of absolute junk being sold. Be very brand

specific when shopping. No name parts are cheap and will fail. This includes: fuel pumps, water pumps, gaskets, suspension parts, seals, bearings, cables, brake parts, transmission parts..... We have seen many cars "restored" with substandard parts and with in a year most of the parts have failed. Usually the owner blames the car and just figures Alfa's are bad and end up scraping the car.

Fuel

You should always run Premium gas for the additives and this will keep your fuel injectors cleaner. If your car sits use STABIL in the fuel and also keep the tank Full. Run the motor at least every 2 – 3 weeks and be sure to get it up to operating temperature – don't just run it for 60 seconds.

Wheels & Tires

We have seen a lot of poor quality wrong offset rims fitted - severely deteriorating the handling and safety. Stick with real Alfa rims. If your car sits be sure to check your tires for cracking.

A Great Evening Project For Spider Owners

Pull the lower oil pan and clean out. Whole job should only take 30- 40 minutes and you will be surprised how much gum and gunk and sometimes nuts and bolts you will find. Just buy a gasket, oil and filter ahead of time and your motor will thank you for the clean up.

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