

## Ford Focus Mk1 RS & ST170

# Ford Focus Mk1 RS & ST170 Essential Buyer's Guide

First Generation 2002 to 2005

## INTRODUCTION

This Essential Buyer's Guide provides comprehensive information for individuals interested in purchasing a Ford Focus Mk1 RS or ST170 from the first generation (2002 to 2005). The Ford Focus Mk1 was a significant family hatchback, recognized for its ride, handling, and driver engagement. The ST170 model was acclaimed as a versatile performer, while the RS variant redefined front-wheel-drive hot hatchbacks with its capabilities on both road and track.

Today, both the ST170 and Mk1 RS are highly regarded by enthusiasts and are gaining status among classic car collectors, leading to increasing value. This guide is designed to assist prospective buyers in navigating the purchasing process, ensuring they select a well-maintained vehicle at a fair price, and avoid common issues.

# The **Essential** Buyer's Guide



## FORD **FOCUS MK1 RS & ST170**

First generation 2002 to 2005



Your marque expert: Dan Williamson



*Image: Front cover of the Essential Buyer's Guide for Ford Focus Mk1 RS & ST170.*

### **PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

This guide serves as a critical resource for anyone considering the acquisition of a Ford Focus Mk1 RS or ST170. It addresses the inherent risks associated with buying these vehicles, such as potential for rust, neglect, abuse, and accident damage. The content is structured to provide a clear pathway through the

inspection and evaluation process.

Key areas covered include:

- Detailed inspection guidance for critical components.
- Understanding model-specific specifications.
- Real-world cost considerations for ownership.
- Identification of modifications to avoid.

## GUIDE UTILIZATION

To maximize the benefit of this guide, it is recommended to use it as a portable reference during the vehicle inspection process. The guide is designed to be a pocket-sized companion, allowing for quick cross-referencing of information while examining a potential purchase.

1. **Pre-Inspection Review:** Familiarize yourself with the common issues and specific inspection points highlighted in the guide before viewing any vehicle.
2. **On-Site Reference:** Use the at-a-glance tips and illustrated guidance during the physical inspection to ensure all critical areas are checked.
3. **Value Assessment:** Consult the real-world cost considerations to determine a fair purchase price based on the vehicle's condition.
4. **Modification Evaluation:** Refer to the section on modifications to avoid, ensuring any aftermarket additions do not detract from the vehicle's value or reliability.

## KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

The guide emphasizes critical aspects of these vehicles that often require close attention due to age and typical usage patterns. These include:

- **Rust:** Common areas prone to corrosion on the Mk1 Focus chassis and bodywork.
- **Mechanical Wear:** Specific components in the engine, transmission, and suspension that may show signs of neglect or heavy use.
- **Accident Damage:** Methods for identifying previous repairs or structural damage that could affect safety and long-term value.
- **Modifications:** Guidance on distinguishing beneficial upgrades from detrimental alterations.

## SPECIFICATIONS

This section details the publication specifications of the Essential Buyer's Guide itself.

Attribute	Detail
Publisher	Veloce
Publication Date	April 13, 2019
Language	English
Print Length	96 pages

Attribute	Detail
ISBN-10	178711435X
ISBN-13	978-1787114357
Item Weight	4.8 ounces
Dimensions	5.47 x 0.26 x 7.68 inches

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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Dan Williamson, the author, has a long-standing passion for Ford vehicles, beginning with an Escort Mk1 at age 15. His career as a motoring journalist started in 1997, covering new cars, classics, and performance machines for various magazines, including Fast Ford and Classic Ford. He has authored several books on sporty Fords and maintains a collection of Fords spanning multiple decades, including an ST170 and a Focus ST250.

## AVOIDING COMMON PITFALLS

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This guide is specifically designed to help buyers avoid common pitfalls associated with purchasing used performance vehicles. By following the detailed inspection advice and understanding the specific vulnerabilities of the Ford Focus Mk1 RS and ST170, buyers can significantly reduce the risk of acquiring a problematic vehicle. The aim is to empower buyers with the knowledge to make an informed decision and prevent costly mistakes.

## SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

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For further inquiries regarding the content of this publication or for information on other titles, please refer to the publisher's official website, Veloce Publishing, or contact them directly through their listed channels. Additional resources for Ford Focus enthusiasts can often be found through dedicated owner forums and clubs.

## WARRANTY INFORMATION

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As a published book, this Essential Buyer's Guide does not come with a product warranty in the traditional sense. The information provided is for guidance purposes only. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, the publisher and author are not liable for any decisions made based on the content of this guide. Standard consumer rights regarding the quality of the physical book apply.

## OFFICIAL PRODUCT VIDEOS

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There are no official product videos available for this Essential Buyer's Guide.



### [2018 Ford Focus Owner's Manual](#)

This manual provides comprehensive information on operating and maintaining your 2018 Ford Focus, covering features, safety, and troubleshooting.



### [Ford Focus Owner's Manual: Comprehensive Vehicle Guide](#)

Detailed owner's manual for the Ford Focus, covering operation, safety, maintenance, features, and troubleshooting to enhance your driving experience.



### [1999-2007 Ford Super Duty Seat Replacement Guide](#)

Step-by-step guide for replacing seats in 1999-2007 Ford Super Duty trucks with newer model seats (2011-2014), detailing tools, parts, and procedures for a comfortable upgrade.



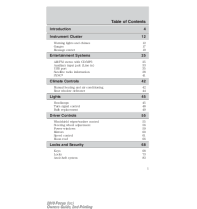
### [2002 Ford Focus Features and Controls Guide](#)

An overview of the 2002 Ford Focus features and controls, including audio, climate, seating, steering, power accessories, and safety features. Learn how to operate your vehicle's key functions.



### [2017 Ford Focus Owner's Manual](#)

Comprehensive owner's manual for the 2017 Ford Focus, covering vehicle features, operation, maintenance, safety, and technology. Includes detailed guides and specifications.



### [2010 Ford Focus Owner's Guide](#)

Comprehensive owner's manual for the 2010 Ford Focus (USA market), detailing vehicle operation, safety features, maintenance, and troubleshooting. Essential guide for Ford Focus owners.