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Dodge Neon

1996 Dodge Neon Owner's Manual

Your comprehensive guide to operating and maintaining your vehicle.

Introduction

This manual provides essential information for the safe and efficient operation of your 1996 Dodge Neon Coupe or Sedan. It contains details on vehicle features, driving procedures, maintenance schedules, and important safety warnings. Please read this manual thoroughly to familiarize yourself with your vehicle's capabilities and to ensure a long and reliable service life.



Image: The front cover of the 1996 Dodge Neon Owner's Manual, displaying the 'neon Coupe/Sedan' logo and '1996 Owner's Manual' text.

Setup and Initial Familiarization

Before driving, it is important to adjust your seating position, mirrors, and understand the basic controls. This section guides you through the initial setup of your vehicle for a comfortable and safe driving experience.

Seat and Mirror Adjustment

- **Driver's Seat:** Adjust the seat forward or backward to comfortably reach the pedals. Adjust the seatback angle for proper posture.
- **Steering Wheel:** Adjust the tilt of the steering wheel for optimal driving position and clear view of the instrument panel.
- **Rearview Mirrors:** Adjust the interior rearview mirror and exterior side mirrors to provide a clear view of the areas behind and to the sides of your vehicle.

Instrument Panel Overview

Familiarize yourself with the gauges, indicator lights, and controls on your instrument panel. Refer to the detailed diagrams in your physical manual for specific locations of each component.

Operating Your Vehicle

This section covers the fundamental procedures for operating your 1996 Dodge Neon, from starting the engine to using various in-cabin features.

Starting and Driving

1. **Starting the Engine:** Ensure the transmission is in Park (P) or Neutral (N). Insert the key and turn it to the 'START' position. Release the key once the engine starts.
2. **Automatic Transmission:** To shift from Park, depress the brake pedal and move the shift lever.
3. **Manual Transmission:** Depress the clutch pedal fully when shifting gears.

Lighting and Wipers

- **Headlights:** Use the headlight switch to activate headlights, parking lights, and high beams.
- **Wipers:** The wiper control stalk operates the front windshield wipers and washer fluid.

Climate Control

Your vehicle is equipped with a heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system. Use the controls on the dashboard to adjust temperature, fan speed, and air distribution.

Maintenance

Regular maintenance is crucial for the longevity and performance of your Dodge Neon. This section outlines key maintenance tasks and schedules.

Fluid Checks

- **Engine Oil:** Check oil level regularly using the dipstick. Add oil if necessary, ensuring it meets the specified viscosity and API service classification.
- **Coolant:** Verify coolant level in the reservoir when the engine is cool.
- **Brake Fluid:** Check the brake fluid level in the master cylinder reservoir.
- **Washer Fluid:** Keep the windshield washer fluid reservoir filled.

Tire Care

Proper tire maintenance is essential for safety and fuel efficiency. This includes regular pressure checks, rotation, and inspection for wear.

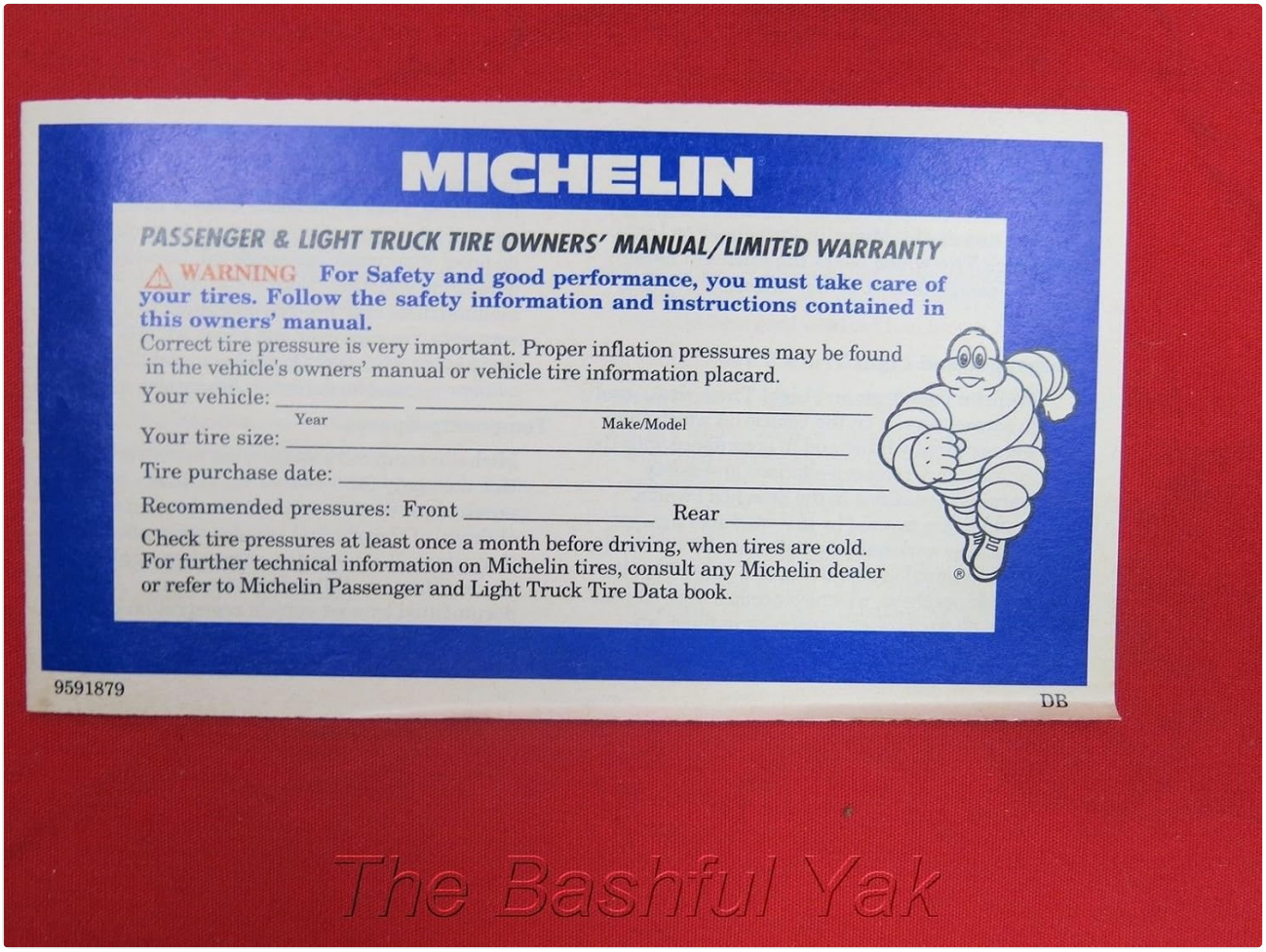


Image: A section from the Michelin Passenger & Light Truck Tire Owner's Manual, detailing tire pressure warnings and recommendations.

- **Tire Pressure:** Check tire pressure at least once a month when tires are cold. Refer to the vehicle's placard for recommended pressures.
- **Tire Rotation:** Rotate tires according to the recommended schedule to ensure even wear.
- **Tire Inspection:** Regularly inspect tires for cuts, bulges, and excessive tread wear.

Scheduled Service

Adhere to the recommended service intervals outlined in your manual for oil changes, filter replacements, and other routine inspections by a qualified technician.

Troubleshooting

This section provides guidance on addressing common issues you might encounter with your Dodge Neon.

Warning Lights

If a warning light illuminates on your instrument panel, consult your manual immediately to understand its meaning and the recommended action. Do not ignore warning lights.

Engine Not Starting

- Check battery terminals for corrosion and tightness.
- Ensure the fuel tank has sufficient fuel.
- Verify the transmission is in Park or Neutral.

Flat Tire

Refer to the manual for instructions on safely changing a flat tire, including the location of the spare tire and jack.

Specifications

Key technical specifications for the 1996 Dodge Neon.

Category	Detail
Model Years	1996
Body Styles	Coupe, Sedan
Engine Type (Typical)	2.0L SOHC I4, 2.0L DOHC I4
Fuel Type	Unleaded Gasoline
Tire Sizes	Refer to vehicle door jamb placard or tire manual for specific sizes and pressures.

Warranty Information

Understanding your vehicle's warranty coverage is important. This section provides an overview of the limited warranty and related owner rights.



Image: The cover of the '1996 Warranty Information' booklet for the Dodge Neon Coupe/Sedan.

Limited Warranty

Your 1996 Dodge Neon is covered by a limited warranty. Details regarding coverage period, what is covered, and exclusions are provided in the separate Warranty Information booklet.

Owner's Rights and Lemon Laws

Information regarding owner's rights under state lemon laws and procedures for customer arbitration are included to protect consumers.



Image: Two booklets, one titled 'OWNER'S RIGHTS UNDER STATE LEMON LAWS' and the other 'Customer Arbitration Board'.

Support and Assistance

For immediate assistance or further inquiries, various support resources are available.

24-Hour Roadside Assistance

Your vehicle may be eligible for 24-hour roadside assistance. Refer to the Roadside Assistance Information Guide for contact details and covered services.



Image: A booklet titled '24 HOUR ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE INFORMATION GUIDE' alongside a 'LIMITED WARRANTY Highway Auto & Light Truck Tire Adjustment Policy' document.

Customer Service

For general inquiries or concerns not covered in this manual, please contact Dodge customer service or your authorized dealership.

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Question

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Details

Model number, symptoms, what you tried, or the section of the manual you are using.

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