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Nissan Sentra

1996 Nissan Sentra Owner's Manual

Your Essential Guide to Operation and Maintenance

Introduction

This document serves as a comprehensive guide for owners of the 1996 Nissan Sentra. It provides essential information regarding the safe operation, routine maintenance, and general care of your vehicle. Familiarizing yourself with the contents of this manual will help ensure optimal performance, longevity, and safety.



Image: Front cover of the 1996 Nissan Sentra Owner's Manual. The cover features a two-tone design, light blue on the left and dark gray on the right. Text on the dark gray section indicates '96 BB14-D', 'Printing July 1988 (04)', 'Publication No. OM96-BB14U0', and 'Printed in U.S.A.'.

Safety Information

Always prioritize safety when operating your Nissan Sentra. Adhere to all traffic laws and regulations. This section outlines critical safety precautions and features designed to protect occupants and pedestrians.

- **Seat Belts:** Always wear your seat belt and ensure all passengers are properly restrained.
- **Airbags:** Understand the location and function of the airbag system. Do not place objects over airbag deployment areas.
- **Child Safety:** Use appropriate child restraint systems for children as required by law and vehicle recommendations.
- **Driving Conditions:** Adjust driving style to suit road, weather, and traffic conditions.
- **Vehicle Maintenance:** Regular maintenance is crucial for safe operation. Do not operate a vehicle with known safety defects.

Setup and Pre-Drive Checks

Before starting your journey, perform these essential checks and adjustments for comfort and safety.

Interior Adjustments

- **Seat Position:** Adjust the driver's seat for comfortable pedal reach and clear visibility of the road and instruments.
- **Steering Wheel:** Adjust the steering wheel tilt (if equipped) for optimal driving posture.
- **Mirrors:** Adjust the rearview mirror and side mirrors to provide a clear view of the areas behind and to the sides of the vehicle.

Exterior Checks

- **Tires:** Visually inspect tires for proper inflation and any obvious damage.
- **Lights:** Check that all exterior lights (headlights, taillights, turn signals, brake lights) are functioning.
- **Wipers:** Ensure windshield wipers are in good condition and the washer fluid reservoir is adequately filled.

Operating the Vehicle

This section details the basic procedures for starting, driving, and stopping your 1996 Nissan Sentra, along with an overview of key controls.

Starting the Engine

1. Ensure the parking brake is engaged.
2. For automatic transmission, place the shift lever in 'P' (Park) or 'N' (Neutral). For manual transmission, place the shift lever in 'Neutral' and depress the clutch pedal.
3. Insert the key into the ignition switch.
4. Turn the key to the 'START' position. Release the key once the engine starts.

Driving Controls

- **Steering Wheel:** Controls vehicle direction.
- **Accelerator Pedal:** Increases engine speed and vehicle velocity.
- **Brake Pedal:** Slows or stops the vehicle.
- **Clutch Pedal (Manual Transmission):** Disengages the engine from the transmission for gear changes.

- **Turn Signal Lever:** Activates turn signals and headlights.
- **Wiper/Washer Lever:** Controls windshield wipers and washer fluid.

Maintenance

Regular maintenance is vital for the performance, safety, and longevity of your Nissan Sentra. Follow the recommended service schedule outlined in your full owner's manual.

Routine Checks

- **Engine Oil:** Check oil level regularly and change according to the service schedule.
- **Coolant:** Monitor coolant level in the reservoir.
- **Brake Fluid:** Ensure brake fluid is at the proper level.
- **Power Steering Fluid:** Check fluid level (if applicable).
- **Tire Pressure:** Maintain correct tire pressure as specified on the vehicle's placard (usually inside the driver's door jamb).
- **Lights and Wipers:** Periodically check all lights and wiper blade condition.

Scheduled Service

Adhere to the manufacturer's recommended service intervals for oil changes, filter replacements, fluid flushes, and inspections. Consult a qualified Nissan service technician for detailed maintenance.

Troubleshooting

This section addresses common issues you might encounter with your 1996 Nissan Sentra and provides basic troubleshooting steps.

Engine Will Not Start

- **Battery:** Check battery terminals for corrosion and ensure connections are tight. A weak or dead battery may require a jump start or replacement.
- **Fuel:** Ensure there is sufficient fuel in the tank.
- **Ignition:** Confirm the key is fully inserted and turned correctly.

Warning Lights On

- **Oil Pressure Light:** Stop the vehicle immediately and check engine oil level. Do not drive if the light remains on after correcting the oil level.
- **Brake Warning Light:** Check brake fluid level. If the light persists, have the brake system inspected by a professional.
- **Check Engine Light:** This indicates an issue with the engine or emissions system. While often not critical for immediate stopping, it should be diagnosed by a qualified technician.

For more complex issues, consult the full owner's manual or a certified Nissan service center.

Specifications

General specifications for the 1996 Nissan Sentra. Specific figures may vary based on trim level and market.

Feature	Specification (Typical)
Engine Type	1.6L 4-cylinder (GA16DE)
Horsepower	Approx. 115 hp
Transmission	5-speed Manual or 4-speed Automatic
Fuel Tank Capacity	Approx. 13.2 US gallons (50 liters)
Overall Length	Approx. 170.1 inches (4320 mm)
Overall Width	Approx. 66.1 inches (1679 mm)
Overall Height	Approx. 54.3 inches (1379 mm)

Note: These specifications are general and may vary. Refer to your vehicle's specific documentation for exact figures.

Warranty Information

For detailed information regarding the original warranty coverage for your 1996 Nissan Sentra, please refer to the warranty booklet provided with your vehicle at the time of purchase. Warranty terms typically cover specific components for a defined period or mileage, whichever comes first. As this vehicle is from 1996, original manufacturer warranties have likely expired. For any current extended warranty options or service contracts, please consult with a Nissan dealership or a reputable third-party provider.

Support and Resources

Should you require further assistance or professional service for your 1996 Nissan Sentra, the following resources are recommended:

- **Authorized Nissan Dealerships:** For genuine Nissan parts, certified service, and expert advice.
- **Certified Automotive Technicians:** Independent repair shops with ASE-certified technicians can also provide reliable service.
- **Official Nissan Website:** May offer historical information or links to service manuals (availability may vary for older models).
- **Full Owner's Manual:** This document is a summary. The complete owner's manual contains more detailed instructions, diagrams, and specific maintenance schedules.

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