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Toyota Tercel

1996 Toyota Tercel Owner's Manual

Your comprehensive guide to operating and maintaining your vehicle.

Introduction

This manual provides detailed information regarding the operation, maintenance, and safety features of your 1996 Toyota Tercel. Familiarizing yourself with this content will ensure safe and efficient use of your vehicle and help prolong its service life. Please read this manual thoroughly before operating the vehicle.

Initial Setup and Familiarization

Before Driving

- **Seat Adjustment:** Adjust the driver's seat for optimal comfort and control. Ensure you can comfortably reach the pedals and steering wheel.
- **Mirror Adjustment:** Adjust the rearview and side mirrors to provide a clear view of the areas behind and to the sides of your vehicle.
- **Seatbelt Usage:** Always fasten your seatbelt and ensure all passengers are properly restrained.
- **Dashboard Indicators:** Familiarize yourself with the warning lights and indicators on the instrument panel. Consult the manual for specific meanings.

Key Features Overview

Your Tercel is equipped with various features designed for convenience and safety. These include:

- Ignition switch and steering lock.
- Headlight and turn signal controls.
- Wiper and washer controls.
- Climate control system.
- Audio system.

Operating Your Vehicle

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 'N' (Neutral) and depress the clutch pedal.
3. Insert the key into the ignition switch and turn it to the 'START' position. Release the key once the engine starts.

Driving Procedures

- **Automatic Transmission:** Select 'D' (Drive) for normal driving. Use 'R' (Reverse) for backing up.
- **Manual Transmission:** Use the clutch and accelerator pedals in coordination to shift gears smoothly.
- **Braking:** Apply steady pressure to the brake pedal to slow down or stop. Avoid sudden braking unless necessary.
- **Parking:** Engage the parking brake firmly after stopping the vehicle. For manual transmission, leave the vehicle in first or reverse gear.

Safety Features

Your Tercel includes various safety features:

- Airbag system (if equipped).
- Anti-lock Braking System (ABS) (if equipped).
- Child restraint system anchors.

Maintenance

Regular maintenance is crucial for the longevity and performance of your Toyota Tercel. Adhere to the recommended service schedule.

Scheduled Maintenance

Refer to the maintenance schedule section in this manual for detailed intervals for inspections and replacements. Key items include:

- Oil and filter changes.
- Tire rotation and inspection.
- Brake system inspection.
- Fluid level checks (coolant, brake fluid, power steering fluid, transmission fluid).
- Spark plug replacement.

Owner Checks

Perform these checks regularly:

- **Engine Oil:** Check oil level using the dipstick when the engine is warm and turned off.
- **Coolant:** Verify coolant level in the reservoir.
- **Brake Fluid:** Ensure fluid level is between MIN and MAX marks.
- **Tire Pressure:** Check tire pressure weekly, including the spare, and adjust to specifications.
- **Lights:** Confirm all exterior and interior lights are functioning.

Troubleshooting

This section addresses common issues you might encounter with your vehicle.

Common Problems and Solutions

- **Engine Will Not Start:**
  - Check battery terminals for corrosion or looseness.
  - Ensure fuel tank has sufficient fuel.
  - Verify the shift lever is in 'P' or 'N' (automatic) or clutch is depressed (manual).
- **Warning Light Illuminated:**
  - Refer to the instrument panel section of this manual for specific light meanings and recommended actions.
  - Do not ignore warning lights; address them promptly.
- **Flat Tire:**
  - Safely pull over to a level area.
  - Consult the manual for instructions on using the jack and changing the spare tire.

For issues not covered here, or if problems persist, contact an authorized Toyota service center.

Specifications

This section provides key technical specifications for the 1996 Toyota Tercel.

Category	Specification
Engine Type	4-cylinder, DOHC (specific engine code may vary)
Fuel Type	Unleaded Gasoline
Fuel Tank Capacity	Approximately 11.9 gallons (45 liters)
Transmission	Manual 5-speed or Automatic 4-speed
Tire Size	Refer to tire placard on driver's side door jamb
Overall Length	Approximately 162.2 inches (4120 mm)
Overall Width	Approximately 65.4 inches (1660 mm)
Overall Height	Approximately 53.5 inches (1360 mm)

Note: Specific specifications may vary based on trim level and regional variations. Always refer to the vehicle's specific labels and documentation.

Warranty and Support

Vehicle Warranty

Your 1996 Toyota Tercel was originally sold with a limited warranty covering specific components and periods. Details regarding the original warranty coverage, including terms, conditions, and exclusions, can be found in the separate Warranty and Service Guide that accompanied your vehicle at the time of purchase. Please note that warranty coverage may have expired due to age or mileage.

Customer Support

For further assistance, service inquiries, or to locate an authorized Toyota service center, please refer to the contact information provided in your original vehicle documentation or visit the official Toyota website for your region. You may also contact a local Toyota dealership for expert support.

Toyota Official Website: www.toyota.com

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