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Nissan Sentra 1988

Nissan Sentra 1988 Owner's Manual

Your comprehensive guide to operating and maintaining your 1988 Nissan Sentra.

1. Introduction

This manual provides detailed information and instructions for the proper operation and maintenance of your 1988 Nissan Sentra. Familiarizing yourself with this manual will help ensure safe driving, optimal performance, and longevity of your vehicle. Please read it thoroughly before operating your vehicle.

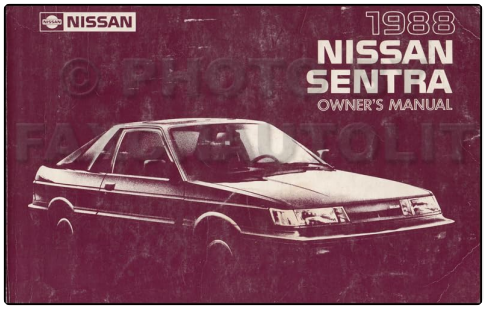


Image 1.1: Official Owner's Manual Cover for the 1988 Nissan Sentra.

2. Initial Setup and Familiarization

Before your first drive, take time to familiarize yourself with the vehicle's controls and features.

2.1. Driver's Seat Adjustments

- **Seat Position:** Locate the lever under the front of the seat to slide it forward or backward.
- **Seatback Angle:** Use the recliner knob or lever on the side of the seat to adjust the seatback.
- **Head Restraint:** Adjust the head restraint so the top is even with the top of your ears.

2.2. Mirror Adjustments

- **Interior Rearview Mirror:** Adjust manually to see clearly through the rear window.
- **Exterior Side Mirrors:** Adjust manually or using the remote control (if equipped) to provide a clear view of the lanes beside and behind your vehicle.

3. Operating Your Vehicle

3.1. Starting the Engine

1. Ensure the parking brake is engaged.
2. For manual transmission, depress the clutch pedal fully. For automatic transmission, ensure the gear selector is in 'P' (Park) or 'N' (Neutral).
3. Insert the key into the ignition switch.
4. Turn the key to the 'START' position. Release the key once the engine starts. Do not hold the key in 'START' for more than 15 seconds.

3.2. Driving Controls

- **Steering Wheel:** Controls vehicle direction.
- **Accelerator Pedal:** Increases engine speed and vehicle speed.
- **Brake Pedal:** Slows or stops the vehicle.
- **Clutch Pedal (Manual Transmission):** Disengages the engine from the transmission for gear changes.
- **Turn Signal Lever:** Located on the left side of the steering column. Push up for right turn, down for left turn.
- **Wiper/Washer Lever:** Located on the right side of the steering column. Controls windshield wipers and washer fluid.

4. Maintenance

Regular maintenance is crucial for the safety, reliability, and longevity of your Nissan Sentra. Refer to the maintenance schedule for detailed intervals.

4.1. Engine Oil Check and Change

1. Park the vehicle on a level surface and ensure the engine is warm but turned off for a few minutes.
2. Locate the dipstick, usually with a yellow or orange handle. Pull it out, wipe it clean, and reinsert it fully.
3. Pull the dipstick out again and check the oil level. It should be between the 'MIN' and 'MAX' marks.
4. If low, add the recommended type of engine oil through the oil filler cap.
5. Change engine oil and filter every 3,000 to 5,000 miles or as recommended in the maintenance schedule.

4.2. Tire Pressure

Check tire pressure monthly when tires are cold. Refer to the tire placard (usually on the driver's door jamb) for recommended pressures. Proper tire pressure improves fuel economy and tire life.

4.3. Fluid Levels

- **Coolant:** Check the coolant level in the reservoir when the engine is cold.
- **Brake Fluid:** Ensure the brake fluid level is between the 'MIN' and 'MAX' lines in the reservoir.
- **Power Steering Fluid:** Check the level in the power steering reservoir.
- **Windshield Washer Fluid:** Keep the reservoir filled for clear visibility.

5. Troubleshooting Common Issues

5.1. Engine Will Not Start

- **No Crank:** Check battery terminals for corrosion or looseness. Ensure battery is charged. Check ignition fuse.
- **Cranking but Not Starting:** Check fuel level. Ensure fuel pump is operating (listen for a hum when ignition is turned to 'ON'). Check spark plugs and ignition system.

5.2. Overheating Engine

- Pull over safely and turn off the engine.
- Do NOT open the radiator cap when the engine is hot.
- Check coolant level in the reservoir once the engine has cooled. Look for leaks.
- Check radiator fan operation.

5.3. Warning Lights On

Consult the dashboard warning light section in your manual for specific meanings and recommended actions. Do not ignore warning lights.

6. Specifications

Below are general specifications for the 1988 Nissan Sentra. Specific details may vary by trim level and region.

Category	Specification
Engine Type	Typically 1.6L 4-cylinder (E16i or CA16DE)
Horsepower	Varies by engine (e.g., 70-110 hp)
Transmission	5-speed Manual or 3/4-speed Automatic
Fuel Tank Capacity	Approx. 13.2 US gallons (50 liters)
Tire Size	Commonly 155/80R13 or 175/70R13
Curb Weight	Approx. 2,000 - 2,300 lbs (900 - 1040 kg)

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For specific details and safety warnings, always refer to your physical 1988 Nissan Sentra Owner's Manual.

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