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## Nissan D21

# 1986.5 Nissan Hardbody Truck (D21 Model) Owner's Manual

Essential Information for Operation and Maintenance

## Introduction

This owner's manual provides comprehensive instructions and important information for the safe and efficient operation, maintenance, and care of your 1986.5 Nissan Hardbody Truck, D21 Model. Please read this manual thoroughly to familiarize yourself with your vehicle's features and ensure a long and reliable service life. Keep this manual in your vehicle for future reference.




Image: Front cover of the official 1986.5 Nissan Hardbody Truck D21 Model Owner's Manual. This manual contains detailed instructions and diagrams for vehicle operation and maintenance.

# Initial Vehicle Familiarization

Before operating your Nissan Hardbody Truck, it is crucial to understand its basic controls and features. This section covers initial checks and familiarization steps.

## Dashboard Layout and Indicators

Familiarize yourself with the instrument panel, including the speedometer, tachometer, fuel gauge, temperature gauge, and various warning lights. Understand what each indicator signifies.

## Controls and Switches

- **Ignition Switch:** Learn the positions (LOCK, ACC, ON, START).
- **Lighting Controls:** Headlights, turn signals, hazard lights.
- **Wiper/Washer Controls:** Front windshield wipers and washer.
- **Heating and Ventilation:** Controls for cabin temperature, fan speed, and air distribution.
- **Seat Adjustments:** How to adjust the driver's and passenger's seats for comfort and safety.

## Pre-Operation Checks

Always perform a quick visual inspection before driving:

1. Check tire pressure and condition.
2. Verify all lights are functioning (headlights, tail lights, brake lights, turn signals).
3. Ensure fluid levels (engine oil, coolant, brake fluid, washer fluid) are adequate.
4. Check mirrors for proper adjustment and cleanliness.

# Operating Your Vehicle

This section details the proper procedures for starting, driving, and parking your Nissan Hardbody Truck.

## Starting the Engine

Insert the key into the ignition. For manual transmission, ensure the clutch pedal is fully depressed. For automatic transmission, ensure the gear selector is in 'P' (Park) or 'N' (Neutral). Turn the key to 'START' and release once the engine fires.

## Driving Procedures

- **Gear Selection:** Understand the appropriate gear for different driving conditions (e.g., low gears for hills, overdrive for highway).
- **Braking:** Apply brakes smoothly and progressively. Be aware of stopping distances.
- **Steering:** Maintain a firm grip on the steering wheel.
- **Towing:** Refer to the specific towing capacity and guidelines outlined in the full manual if you plan to tow.

## Parking

When parking, engage the parking brake firmly. For manual transmission, leave the vehicle in first or reverse gear. For automatic transmission, shift to 'P' (Park).

# Maintenance Schedule and Procedures

Regular maintenance is vital for the longevity and performance of your Nissan Hardbody Truck. Adhere to the recommended service intervals.

### Routine Checks (Owner Performed)

- **Engine Oil:** Check level weekly and change every 3,000-5,000 miles or as recommended.
- **Coolant:** Check level regularly, especially before long trips.
- **Brake Fluid:** Check level monthly.
- **Tire Pressure:** Check weekly, including the spare tire.
- **Wiper Blades:** Inspect for wear and replace as needed.

### Scheduled Service (Professional)

Refer to the complete owner's manual for detailed service intervals, which typically include:

- Oil and filter changes.
- Tire rotation and balancing.
- Brake inspection and service.
- Fluid flushes (transmission, differential, power steering).
- Spark plug replacement.
- Belt and hose inspection.

Always use genuine Nissan parts or equivalent quality parts for all maintenance and repairs.

## Troubleshooting Common Issues

This section addresses common problems you might encounter and provides basic troubleshooting steps.

### Engine Will Not Start

- **Check Battery:** Ensure terminals are clean and tight. Battery may be discharged.
- **Fuel Level:** Verify there is sufficient fuel in the tank.
- **Ignition System:** Check for spark (if applicable).
- **Immobilizer:** Ensure the correct key is being used.

### Overheating Engine

- **Pull Over Safely:** Turn off the engine immediately.
- **Check Coolant Level:** After the engine has cooled, check the coolant reservoir.
- **Inspect for Leaks:** Look for visible leaks from hoses or radiator.
- **Fan Operation:** Verify the cooling fan is operating.

### Warning Lights Illuminated

Consult the full owner's manual for specific details on each warning light. Do not ignore illuminated warning lights, as they indicate a potential issue that requires attention.

## Specifications

Key specifications for the 1986.5 Nissan Hardbody Truck (D21 Model).

| Feature | Detail |
|---|---|
| Model Year | 1986.5 |
| Model Designation | D21 |
| Dimensions (Approx.) | 5.25 x 8.25 x 0.25 inches (Manual dimensions) |
| Item Weight (Manual) | 6.9 ounces |
| Language | English |
| Publisher | Nissan |
| ASIN | B00L8DDW62 |

Note: Vehicle specifications such as engine type, horsepower, and payload capacity are detailed within the full owner's manual. The dimensions and weight listed above pertain to the physical manual itself.

## Warranty and Support

This document is an original owner's manual for the 1986.5 Nissan Hardbody Truck. For information regarding the original vehicle warranty, please refer to the specific warranty booklet that accompanied your vehicle at the time of purchase, or contact an authorized Nissan dealership.

For further assistance or to purchase genuine Nissan parts, please visit your local authorized Nissan service center or their official website. You can often find additional support resources, service schedules, and recall information on the official Nissan USA website.

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