

You should now have a basic knowledge of the parts and workings of:

- The hydraulic brake system
- Drum and disc brakes
- The parking brake

Just as importantly, you should know something about common brake problems, what causes them and what can be done about them.

The purpose of this chapter is to remind you of two important points that you should keep in mind whenever you are dealing with brakes and their problems. The first is that brake components are specific. Most of the time, replacement components should fit the same specifications

as the parts they are replacing. In some cases, grease seals, for instance, one type may be substituted for another, but only according to the rules. With other materials—brake parts, brake fluid, etc.—stick with the specified type.

The second point is that proper brake maintenance calls for doing a thorough brake job. This means not only replacing the brake lining or pads, but making certain that the drum or rotor surface is smooth and free of blemishes, that the hardware is replaced, and that all other parts are cleaned and inspected, and replaced if necessary.

Good brake operation is the proper operation of all the parts of the brake system, right down to the springs. So all the parts of the system should be carefully maintained.

Notes

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