

SERVICING THE NISSAN FIGARO

We would have to say that standards of servicing can often be poor. Changing oil, plugs and a couple of filters is half an hour's work - but a service constitutes a lot more. We constantly see cars which have allegedly been regularly serviced but it's pretty obvious the brake fluid has never been changed, wheels haven't been off in an eternity, door hinges and catches have never seen a drop of oil or grease, settings are wrong.....etc. On the other hand there's lots of cars, which receive TLC servicing - so choose your garage wisely. If your garage doesn't provide one - ask them at the outset for a copy of the completed service checklist form.

We will in the future be publishing a detailed service check list for the Figaro. It should, however come as no surprise since servicing is fairly generic. However there are important things that need to be done at specific times and these are discussed below.

The Figaro needs to be serviced at 6000miles or 6 months, whichever comes first. Most Figaros cover less than average annual mileage and in general are serviced on a time rather than mileage basis. Many owners service their cars once / year on the basis that the car does very little mileage - this is false economy - in some respects, low mileage with lots of stops and starts, short trips etc is more arduous than cruising at 70mph on the motorway day-in day-out.

Assuming that the car is fully serviced, cam belt changed etc when you acquire it, then future servicing should look something like:

6000miles / 6 months Minor service including oil and filter change

12000miles / 12 months Full service including oil and filter + replace spark plugs

18000 miles / 18 months Minor service including oil and filter change + replace fuel and air filters

24000miles / 24 months Full service including oil and filter change + change brake fluid + change coolant (if using normal coolant - every 5 years if using long life coolant) + adjust valve clearances

30000miles / 30 months As 6000miles/ 6 months

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50000miles / 5 years Replace cambelt, tensioner and water pump

From the above you'll see that the optimum service kit is:

3 oil filters
3 sump plug washers
1 fuel filter
1 air filter
set spark plugs

If you purchase the above (preferably from us!) then you'll have enough service parts for the next 24000 miles or 2 years. Replacing everything every year, particularly if you miss out the 6 months services, is false economy and will cost you more in service parts overall!

So what's the difference between a minor and full service? A minor service is a comprehensive check of key systems but without dismantling. At a major service - the same items are checked but to a greater degree e.g. all wheels and rear brake drums are removed in order to make a more comprehensive examination of the braking system. Also at a major service, linkages are lubricated, engine tuned etc.

Don't buy cheap service parts! Don't go for "bargains" on Ebay - items described as "Japanese Quality" are often made in India or Thailand - buy parts made in the EC or Japan only!

Lastly - try to phase the MOT with the annual service so you don't have the inconvenience of sorting out a fail at another time! Indeed a regularly serviced car should hold no surprises at the MOT!