

SOME USEFUL THINGS YOU MIGHT LIKE TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR FIGARO!

THE ENGINE

Remember to let the Fig idle after a run

Up to 50 MPH.....30 sec

Up to 60 MPH.....1 Minute

Over 70 MPH.....2 Minute

This is very important to prevent failure of the turbocharger (£800!) If you sometimes forget – don't worry about it but don't persistently disregard the requirement!

It's important to use premium grade petrol (97RON or above) to prevent long term engine damage and maximise performance. Most top brand petrols have a premium grade (eg BP V power or Tesco 99RON) in addition to the normal 95RON grade.

Always keep an eye on the temperature gauge. If there's a sudden rise **stop and get help before the engine is damaged.** This is a rule which must never be ignored. Similarly, if the car seems to behave differently or sound differently - **stop and get help**

Have the Fig serviced every 6 months – even if you cover a very low mileage

Figaros are 18 years old, many wear prone parts are now coming to the end of their design lifespan, so it's wise to have a general program of planned maintenance which your garage will advise on.

Coolant hoses are now failing with regularity. All should be closely inspected periodically- especially at services. 18 years is a fair old age for a coolant hose and you may want the peace of mind of replacing the 9 coolant hoses!

The Lambda oxygen sensor is of indefinite age and is way beyond it's effective life on the majority of Figaros. A new sensor will optimise fuel consumption and control exhaust emissions.

If you need to push the car a short distance without the engine running, you can move the gear from "P" into "N" by pushing down the small red button at the base of the gear lever.

To open the roof - pull the black switch on the drivers side of the radio console towards you. Then release the roof catches by pushing the small silver square forwards & at the same time pulling down the lever. Then open the top boot by pulling upwards on the top right hand corner (breaking your nails at the same time!). Then raise the roof at the front & lift it backwards into the open boot. Close the catches and secure it down with the strap.

Only raise and lower the hood by using the handle.

Every 6 months put a small bottle of Redex or STP petrol fuel injector cleaner in half a tank of petrol to ensure good idling & pick-up

If your Fig starts but immediately stalls in cold weather then it's likely that the idle compensation valve needs replacing.

If at any time the top boot won't release due to a flat battery or a release mechanism problem there are 2 thin wires at each side of the bottom boot which if pulled towards you usually release the top boot.

If your Figaro fails to start in Park on occasions – the problem is usually easy to fix by changing a small plastic bush.

THE BODY

When closing the bonnet or rear boot let them drop from about a foot holding the bonnet in the centre to stop it from warping. Push down firmly on both sides of the rear boot - you may hear a click as it catches.

Check that all the drain tubes are clear, or the water will find its way into the chassis & cause rust where you won't see it until there's a hole. There are 2 holes in the gutter that runs round the back of the top boot. Pour water carefully down these and if it splashes your feet behind the rear wheels they're OK! There are 2 other holes in the top boot floor. Do the same with these. If the water doesn't drain through remove the drain tubes from all 4 holes, pull them up into the bottom boot from the drain holes in the rear wings, & clean them with a straightened coat-hanger.

It's a messy job but vital. Be careful when refitting the tubes onto the holes in the top boot as they can be pushed out of their seats and never fit properly again.

Keep an eye out when it's been raining – is it draining out of the boot channels properly?

To prevent the dashboard top from splitting, park your Figaro out of direct sunlight, or use a sunscreen (available from most pound shops). Replacing a cracked dash is both expensive and difficult.

STRANGE NOISES

The long beep when you start the Fig is the seat belt warning. If you put your belt on before you start the engine you won't hear this noise.

There is a continuous beeping if you leave the key in the ignition after you stop the engine.

A “buzz, buzz, buzz” after you move off means the top boot isn't secure. Press it down until it clicks.

A continuous buzz means that the roof catches aren't secure.

EVERYDAY RUNNING

The petrol filler release is on the floor at the right hand side of the drivers' seat. When filling, turn the nozzle 180 deg / upside down so it's like a hook and then it won't keep clicking off.

If you need to leave any valuable papers in the car there is a “secret” compartment in the back of the passenger seat. The back zips open!

The air-con only works with the fan on, and should be used for 10 mins once a week to keep the system from seizing.

The “face” setting only blows cool air.

If you need to accelerate quickly you can “kick down “ the pedal & the Fig will suddenly change down a gear & accelerate rapidly.

CLEANING

Wax polish the Fig every 3 months or so. Polish is fine for the chrome bumpers – don't use chrome cleaner – some cleaners are abrasive.

After washing your Fig it's a good idea to take the roof back & soak up the water that gathers in the roof gutter at the front of the car as it's got nowhere to go,
and on many Figs there's rust starting to get a hold especially on the passenger side. Try to park the Fig on level ground, or facing uphill so the water in the roof drains runs backwards into the boot drains & out. Get a touch in pen so that stone chips etc can be attended to before rust starts

Use Auto-Glym leather feed on the seats. (motor accessory shop) or see www.liquidleather.com. They also make a good leather cleaner
Note that the back seats are not leather, but vinyl.

The dashboard and interior panels are painted and on many Figaros, the paint has degraded leaving a sticky surface. The stickyness can be removed to some extent, but will return. If using a cleaning product – test it first in a hidden area – some products will remove the paint!

Clean the 2 white rubber blocks in the boot as the roof fabric rests on these.

If your Fig has not been cavity wax injected - then investigate getting it done. It prevents rusting of the inner chassis and box sections. Unlike modern cars – the Figaro has no cavity protection as standard!