Automotive Brake Warehouse Inc.

The Brake & Chassis Parts Experts

April Tech Tip

A Good "Minimum" Brake Job

In order to provide your customer with a good "minimum" brake job, refer to these simple guidelines:
1. Question your customer about problems with the vehicle and typical usage (driving condition).
2. Road test the car (unless unable to be driven) and note problems.
3. Perform complete brake inspection noting parts necessary; check rotors and drums for thickness and/or replacement.

Disc Brake Service

1. Refinish rotor on or off the car:
* Fast cut as necessary
* Slow cut.
* Polish to 50 micro inch or better using a NON-DIRECTIONAL finish.
2. Clean the rotor with brake clean, and then wash with soap and hot water, making sure to dry with paper towels only.
3. Inspect/Replace and lubricate caliper mounting hardware with OE recommended lubricants.
4. Inspect, clean, polish and lubricate all caliper and pad sliding surfaces. Use high temperature synthetic brake grease only.
5. Loosen seized bleeder screws and clean them of dirt and debris.
6. Always open bleeder screws and place a hose on it to direct used fluid into a container while caliper piston is retracted. Never retract caliper piston with bleeder screw closed, this forces dirty fluid back into the ABS unit and master cylinder.
7. Repack wheel bearing with correct grease and install new seals. On front wheel drive vehicles; inspect hub for run out (run out should be .002 or less). Clean hub rotor mounting surface, pay careful attention to the area around wheel studs.
8. Inspect and clean/replace as needed-all shims, caliper hardware, clips, springs etc.
9. Install pads in the caliper (if applicable) and install anti-squeal shims or disc brake noise insulator liquid if shims are not called for. Always follow the OE procedure for installing pads. Install caliper assembly on car and use a torque wrench to tighten anchor bolts. Install the wheel and torque the wheel lugs in a star pattern to OE specs.

Drum Brake Service

1. Remove drum and clean assembly using OSHA approved method. Do not raise or inhale dust from brakes.
2. After removing old shoes and hardware, clean backing plate and all areas where shoes web contacts the backing plate.
3. Inspect wheel cylinders for leaks, replace if necessary. If not replacing , you must open bleeder screw when installing new shoes and springs to prevent dirty brake fluid from contaminating the RABS valve on vehicles with rear wheel only ABS(RWAL) system.
4. Install new shoes and hardware. Lubricate the backing plate shoe contact points, parking brake arm pivot point, self-adjuster screw, and upper or lower anchor pin.
5. Refinish brake drum. Clean drum with brake cleaner and then wash with soap and hot water, dry only with paper towels.
6. Pre-adjust shoes and re-install drums. Perform final adjustment
7. Install wheels and torque lug nuts in a star pattern to OE specs.

General Brake Service

1. Fill master cylinder with fresh clean brake fluid as specified by the vehicle manufacture.
2. Bleed hydraulic system usin the manufacturers bleeding sequence.
3. Re-check system for leakes
4. Re-adjust rear brakes and check and adjust parking brake.
5. Re-check master cylinder level, and fill to OE mark.
6. Gently road test the car. If all is "okay", break-in pads and shoes using the correct burnish procedure.

From the Desk Bendix® Brakes Answerman