

THE TEST DRIVE

IGNITION ON, BUT DON'T START ENGINE:

OK Not-OK

- ___ ___ Temp light should come on! Connected?
- ___ ___ Oil warning light should come on! Connected?
- ___ ___ Charge warning light should come on!

START THE ENGINE YOURSELF:

OK Not-OK

- ___ ___ Temp warning light goes out?
- ___ ___ Oil warning light goes out?
- ___ ___ Charge warning light goes out?
- ___ ___ Do all idiot lights go on/out right?
- ___ ___ Are all the instruments working?
- ___ ___ Does it start easily when cold?
- ___ ___ Does it run smoothly when cold?
- ___ ___ Depress clutch several times. Noises?
- ___ ___ Oil Pressure: idle_____ 4000 RPM_____
- ___ ___ Volts/Amps: idle_____ 4000 RPM_____
- ___ ___ Any odd engine noises when cold?
- ___ ___ Exhaust condition/noises? Pressure even?
- ___ ___ Cap pipe with clipboard. Any exhaust leaks?
- ___ ___ Any deposits on clipboard? Does it smoke?
- ___ ___ Turn car off. Does it restart? Restart again.
- ___ ___ Now pull forward. Check for leaks on the ground.
- ___ ___ Do you have any gas? Does gauge really work?

A general guide to reading exhaust smoke:

Black smoke = unburned fuel- Valves bad or out of adjustment?
Carb out of adjustment?

Blue smoke = burning oil-Accelerating: Piston rings bad? Decelerating:
Valve seats/guides bad?

White smoke = burning coolant!- Bad head gasket? Warped or cracked Head
or Block?\$\$

TEST DRIVE (Allow 30-40 minutes)

OK Not-OK

- ___ ___ Test the foot and hand brakes first!
- ___ ___ Relax, drive a bit to get used to it.
- ___ ___ How does car ride? Soft or hard?
- ___ ___ Revs smoothly to red line? flatspots?
- ___ ___ Any unusual engine noises/vibrations?
- ___ ___ Any drive train noises or vibrations?
- ___ ___ Any noticeable slop in drive train?

_____ Reverse works? Rev. lights go on/off?
 _____ Trans shifts smoothly to all gears?
 _____ Overdrive engages/disengages properly
 _____ Turbo engages/disengages properly?
 _____ Any clunks, whines, rumbles, rattles?
 _____ Clutch smooth? Slippage on hill test?
 _____ Hand brake works? Test against the engine
 _____ Is the low engine speed operation OK?
 _____ Brakes strongly to stop from 50mph?
 _____ Do brakes still work? Stops straight?
 _____ Make 2 tight 360' turns each way. Any noises?
 _____ Accelerates smoothly from dead stop?
 _____ Are there any hesitations/flat spots?
 _____ Does the power seem right? Hill test.
 _____ Is it running too hot or cold? Why?
 _____ Drive beside a long wall. Any unusual sounds?
 _____ Is it too noisy in general at highway speeds?
 _____ Any noises or vibrations when accelerating?
 _____ Any noises or vibrations when coasting?
 _____ Any noises or vibrations when decelerating?
 _____ Any noises or vibrations when braking?
 _____ Steering action loose or tight? Parallel park.
 _____ Handles OK on bumps, curves and sharp corners?
 _____ Slams OK? Bad understeer, oversteer, lean?
 _____ Tracks straight with hands off steering wheel?
 _____ Brakes straight with hands off steering wheel?
 _____ Brakes still work? Pulls? Pulse? Drag? Noises?
 _____ Having fun yet? Comfortable? Does it fit?
 _____ Do the heater, defroster and AC work right?
 _____ Are all the instruments & lights still working?
 _____ Now let it idle a while. Is temp stable/OK?
 _____ Any exhaust, gas or coolant odors? Pull forward.
 _____ Turn it off. Go back to check the ground for leaks.

Have a friend get out and watch the car driving:

OK Not-OK

_____ Tracks straight? (Frame bent?)
 _____ Wheels wobble? Any noises?
 _____ Leans? General impression?
 _____ Open hood. See or hear anything unusual?
 _____ Does engine seem too hot?
 _____ Check oil cap and dipstick for signs of water.
 _____ (Oil off-color, brown/grey/white or bubbly)
 _____ Compression test: (disconnect coil, remove ALL plugs)
 _____ Does it restart when warm? Why not?