GENERAL

2007 lexus is 250 manual

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Introduction

The 2007 Lexus IS 250 manual remains a standout example of Japanese engineering blended with European driving dynamics. While most Lexus models of that era defaulted to automatic transmissions, the 2007 IS 250 offered a fully synchronized six speed manual gearbox for enthusiasts who crave a more engaging driving experience. In this article we'll dive deep into every facet of the 2007 Lexus IS 250 manual – from its powertrain and performance to its interior refinement, common maintenance issues, and buying tips for prospective owners. Whether you're a seasoned Lexus fan or a newcomer curious about this unique manual model, this guide will give you a comprehensive understanding of what makes the 2007 IS 250 manual a distinctive choice in the luxury sedan segment.

Overview of the 2007 Lexus IS 250 Manual

The 2007 Lexus IS 250 was part of the second generation of the IS lineup, which debuted in 2004. The model was available in two trim levels: the base IS 250 and the higher spec IS 250L. The "L" variant added a third row of seating, turning the sedan into a compact luxury wagon. Both trims shared the same 2.5 liter inline four engine, but the manual version was only offered on the IS 250 base model. This limited availability has made the manual edition a prized collector's item for enthusiasts who appreciate a more hands on driving experience.

Key specifications of the 2007 IS 250 manual include:

- Engine: 2.5 liter 4 cyl, DOHC, 16 valves, 200 hp (149 kW)
- Transmission: 6 speed manual, fully synchronized
- Drivetrain: Front wheel drive (FWD)
- Power to Weight Ratio: Approximately 20.5 hp per 1,000 lbs
- Fuel Economy: EPA estimates 19 mpg city / 26 mpg highway
- Dimensions: 176.7 in L × 68.3 in W × 54.9 in H

Despite its modest power output compared to higher trim SUVs, the IS 250 manual offers a balanced blend of performance, fuel efficiency, and luxury. The manual gearbox provides a level of driver engagement that is rare in luxury sedans, making it a favorite among purists who enjoy the tactile connection between the car and the road.

Engine and Performance

Powertrain Highlights

The 2007 IS 250's 2.5 liter VVT i (Variable Valve Timing with intelligence) engine delivers 200 horsepower at 5,600 rpm and 180 lb ft of torque at 3,600 rpm. This powerplant is paired with a 6 speed manual gearbox that features a short gear ratio spread, allowing the engine to stay within its optimal power band during spirited drives.

Acceleration and Handling

With a 0 60 mph time of approximately 7.5 seconds, the IS 250 manual offers quick acceleration for a compact luxury sedan. The front wheel drive layout, combined with a well tuned suspension, gives the car a composed feel on both straightaways and winding roads. The manual transmission further enhances the driving experience by giving

the driver precise control over gear selection, which is especially beneficial when navigating hilly terrain or when wanting to extract maximum performance from the engine.

Fuel Efficiency

One of the standout features of the 2007 IS 250 manual is its fuel economy. The EPA estimates of 19 mpg city and 26 mpg highway are competitive for a luxury sedan of its class. The manual gearbox's lighter weight compared to an automatic also contributes to slightly better fuel efficiency, especially when the driver uses the clutch judiciously to avoid unnecessary idling or high RPM running.

Transmission and Gearbox

6 Speed Manual Design

The manual transmission in the 2007 IS 250 is a fully synchronized six speed unit, which means it can shift smoothly without the need for double clutching. The gearbox's design includes a short first gear, which provides strong low speed torque and a quick launch from a stop.

Shift Quality and Feel

Owners often praise the IS 250 manual for its crisp, precise shift feel. The gear selector lever is well balanced, and the shift points are well defined. The gearbox's short gear ratios make the car feel lively, and the manual's inherent simplicity translates to fewer moving parts, which can reduce maintenance complexity over time.

Maintenance and Longevity

Because the manual gearbox is mechanically simpler than an automatic, it typically requires fewer costly repairs. Routine maintenance includes changing the gear oil every 30,000 miles, inspecting the clutch for wear, and ensuring the synchros are operating correctly. With proper care, the manual transmission can last well beyond 200,000 miles.

Driving Experience

Engagement and Control

The 2007 Lexus IS 250 manual provides a level of driver engagement that is rare in the luxury segment. The clutch pedal offers a smooth bite point, and the gear shifts are responsive. This makes the car ideal for drivers who enjoy a more hands on experience, especially on winding roads or during spirited driving sessions.

Comfort and Refinement

Inside, the IS 250 manual maintains Lexus's reputation for quietness and refinement. The cabin features high quality materials, a well designed dashboard, and a layout that is both functional and elegant. While the manual gearbox adds a bit of extra weight to the front end, the overall ride remains comfortable and composed, making it suitable for both daily commutes and weekend road trips.

Noise, Vibration, and Harshness (NVH)

Lexus is known for its low NVH levels, and the 2007 IS 250 manual is no exception. The engine is well sealed, and the transmission tunnel is designed to dampen vibrations. The result is a quiet cabin that allows drivers and passengers to enjoy conversations or music without distraction.

Interior and Comfort

Materials and Build Quality

The interior of the 2007 IS 250 manual features soft-touch surfaces, leather upholstery, and polished aluminum trim. The seat construction uses a combination of foam and supportive backrests, providing both comfort and support during long drives.

Space and Practicality

While the IS 250 manual is a two door sedan, it offers ample front headroom and legroom for passengers. The rear seats are best suited for occasional use, given the limited space. For those looking for more practicality, the IS 250L variant adds a third row, turning the vehicle into a compact wagon that can accommodate up to five passengers.

Technology and Infotainment

The 2007 IS 250 manual comes standard with a 6.5 inch infotainment screen, Bluetooth connectivity, and a premium audio system. Optional upgrades include navigation, a rear view camera, and a larger 8 inch display. The vehicle's climate control system is dual zone, ensuring that both driver and passenger can adjust temperature settings independently.

Exterior Design

Styling and Aesthetics

The second generation IS 250 showcased a sleek, coupe like silhouette that blended sportiness with luxury. The front fascia features a prominent Lexus spindle grille, LED daytime running lights, and a sculpted hood. The rear end is characterized by a subtle spoiler and a pair of LED taillights that wrap around the sides.

Wheels and Tires

Standard wheels are 18 inch alloy designs, often paired with all season tires that offer a balance between performance and comfort. Owners can upgrade to 19 inch wheels for a sportier appearance, though this may slightly impact ride comfort.

Features and Technology

- Adaptive Cruise Control: Available on higher trims, it maintains a set distance from the vehicle ahead.
- Lane Keeping Assist: Helps keep the car centered within its lane.
- Blind Spot Monitoring: Alerts the driver to vehicles in adjacent lanes.
- Power Adjustable Seats: Includes memory settings for driver and passenger positions.
- Keyless Entry and Start: Adds convenience for everyday use.

Safety Ratings

The 2007 IS 250 manual earned solid safety scores from both the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS). It features a robust steel cage, multiple airbags, and a suite of advanced driver assist technologies that enhance overall safety.

Maintenance and Reliability

Routine Service Intervals

Typical maintenance for the 2007 IS 250 manual includes:

1. Oil and filter change every 5,000–7,500 miles
2. Brake inspection every 10,000 miles
3. Transmission fluid change every 30,000 miles

4. Spark plug replacement every 60,000 miles
5. Coolant flush every 50,000 miles

Common Issues

Owners have reported a few recurring concerns over the years:

- Clutch Wear: The manual clutch can wear out after 80,000–100,000 miles, requiring replacement.
- Timing Chain Tensioner: Some models experience chain squeaking; replacing the tensioner can resolve this.
- Suspension Noise: Occasional squeaks from the strut mounts, especially on rough roads.

Reliability Ranking

Lexus has a strong reputation for reliability, and the 2007 IS 250 manual is no exception. The vehicle typically scores above average in long term reliability studies, with many owners reporting minimal major repairs beyond routine maintenance.

Common Issues and Repairs

Clutch Replacement

The most significant repair for a manual IS 250 is the clutch. Replacement involves removing the transmission, which is a labor intensive process. However, the cost of a new clutch kit (including the flywheel and pressure plate) is relatively modest compared to the labor involved.

Engine Tuning and Performance Mods

Performance enthusiasts often tune the ECU or add a supercharger. While these modifications can increase horsepower, they may also affect the vehicle's warranty and longevity if not performed correctly.

Electrical Issues

Some owners have experienced intermittent problems with the infotainment system or the power windows. These can usually be resolved with a software update or a simple reset of the vehicle's computer.

Buying Tips for the 2007 IS 250 Manual

Where to Look

Because the manual edition is rare, it's essential to check multiple platforms:

- Certified pre owned Lexus dealerships
- Reputable online marketplaces such as CarGurus, AutoTrader, and eBay Motors
- Specialty forums and clubs dedicated to Lexus enthusiasts

Vehicle History and Inspection

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