

turbo 350 transmission rebuild manual

Turbo 350 transmission rebuild manual serves as a comprehensive guide for automotive enthusiasts and professionals alike who are looking to rebuild this popular three-speed automatic transmission. The Turbo 350, also known as the TH350, was first introduced by General Motors in the 1960s and has since become a favorite for its durability and simplicity. This article will cover the essential aspects of the Turbo 350 transmission, the rebuilding process, tools required, common issues, and tips to ensure a successful rebuild.

Understanding the Turbo 350 Transmission

The Turbo 350 is a lightweight, compact automatic transmission designed for use in a variety of GM vehicles, including cars, trucks, and SUVs. Its design allows for smooth shifting, reliability, and efficient power transfer, making it a popular choice for both stock and performance applications.

Key Features of the Turbo 350 Transmission

1. **Three-Speed Configuration:** The Turbo 350 operates with three forward gears and one reverse gear, providing a balance of performance and fuel economy.
2. **Hydraulic Control System:** This transmission utilizes a hydraulic system to control shifting, which is simpler than electronic systems found in modern vehicles.
3. **Versatility:** The Turbo 350 can be used in a wide array of applications, from everyday driving to high-performance racing setups.
4. **Durability:** Built to withstand substantial power levels, the Turbo 350 is often chosen for performance builds due to its robust components.

Preparing for the Rebuild

Before diving into the rebuild process, it is crucial to gather the necessary tools and materials. A successful rebuild requires careful planning and attention to detail.

Tools and Materials Required

- Complete Turbo 350 rebuild kit (clutches, gaskets, seals, etc.)
- Torque wrench
- Socket and wrench set
- Screwdrivers (flat and Phillips)

- Pliers
- Transmission jack
- Work gloves and safety glasses
- Shop manual for specific torque specifications
- Clean rags and a parts washer

Step-by-Step Rebuilding Process

Rebuilding a Turbo 350 transmission involves several steps. Below is a detailed guide to help you through the process.

1. Removing the Transmission

Before starting the rebuild, you need to remove the transmission from the vehicle. Follow these steps:

1. Disconnect the battery.
2. Raise the vehicle and secure it on jack stands.
3. Remove the driveshaft and exhaust components as necessary.
4. Disconnect the transmission cooler lines and electrical connectors.
5. Unbolt the transmission from the engine and remove it using a transmission jack.

2. Disassembling the Transmission

Once the transmission is out, disassemble it carefully:

1. Remove the pan and drain the fluid.
2. Take off the valve body, keeping track of all bolts and components.
3. Remove the drums and gears, noting their arrangement.
4. Inspect all parts for wear or damage during disassembly.

3. Cleaning Components

After disassembly, thorough cleaning is vital:

1. Use a parts washer to clean all metal components.
2. Inspect the case for cracks or damage.

3. Replace any worn or damaged components.

4. Installing New Components

With the old parts cleaned and inspected, it's time to install the new components:

1. Begin with the front pump and install new seals and gaskets.
2. Assemble the clutch packs and ensure they are properly oriented.
3. Replace the valve body and ensure all valves are functioning correctly.
4. Reinstall the drums and apply the necessary torque to all bolts as specified in your shop manual.

5. Reassembling the Transmission

Once all components are replaced and installed, reassemble the transmission:

1. Install a new oil pan gasket and reattach the oil pan.
2. Replace any sensors or electrical connectors that were removed.
3. Double-check that all components are securely fastened.
4. Fill the transmission with the appropriate type and amount of transmission fluid.

6. Reinstalling the Transmission

After the rebuild is complete, reinstall the transmission into the vehicle:

1. Lift the transmission into place using a transmission jack.
2. Reattach the transmission to the engine and ensure all bolts are torqued to specifications.
3. Reconnect the driveshaft, exhaust components, and cooler lines.
4. Reconnect the battery.

Common Issues and Troubleshooting

While rebuilding a Turbo 350 transmission can be rewarding, several common issues may arise during the process. Here are some potential problems and solutions:

1. Slipping Gears

If you experience slipping gears after the rebuild, it could be due to improper adjustment of the governor or low fluid levels. Ensure that the governor is functioning correctly and check the fluid level.

2. Overheating

Overheating can be caused by a clogged cooler or insufficient fluid. Make sure that the transmission cooler lines are clear and the fluid is at the correct level.

3. Delayed Engagement

Delayed engagement can be attributed to air in the system or low fluid levels. Check for leaks and ensure the fluid level is adequate before troubleshooting further.

Tips for a Successful Rebuild

To ensure a successful Turbo 350 transmission rebuild, consider the following tips:

1. Always refer to a reliable shop manual for specific torque specifications and assembly instructions.
2. Take your time during disassembly and keep track of where each component comes from to avoid confusion during reassembly.
3. Invest in a quality rebuild kit to ensure that all components meet or exceed OEM specifications.
4. Keep your work area clean to prevent contamination of internal components.
5. Test the transmission thoroughly after installation to ensure it operates correctly before putting the vehicle back into regular use.

Conclusion

Rebuilding a Turbo 350 transmission can be a challenging yet rewarding experience for those who enjoy working on cars. By following this **Turbo 350 transmission rebuild manual**, you can ensure that your rebuild is successful, leading to improved performance and longevity of the transmission. Remember to take your time, pay attention to detail, and consult your shop manual whenever necessary. Whether you are an amateur mechanic or a seasoned professional, a properly rebuilt Turbo 350 can enhance your vehicle's performance and reliability for years to come.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Turbo 350 transmission?

The Turbo 350 transmission, also known as TH350, is a three-speed automatic transmission produced by General Motors, widely used in various GM vehicles from the 1960s to the mid-1980s.

What tools are required for a Turbo 350 transmission rebuild?

Essential tools for rebuilding a Turbo 350 include a torque wrench, socket set, screwdrivers, snap ring pliers, a transmission jack, and a rebuild kit that contains gaskets, seals, and clutches.

What are common symptoms of a failing Turbo 350 transmission?

Common symptoms include slipping gears, delayed engagement, unusual noises, fluid leaks, and overheating, which may indicate that a rebuild is necessary.

How long does it typically take to rebuild a Turbo 350 transmission?

The time required to rebuild a Turbo 350 transmission can vary but generally takes between 8 to 12 hours, depending on the technician's experience and the condition of the transmission.

What is included in a Turbo 350 rebuild manual?

A Turbo 350 rebuild manual typically includes step-by-step instructions, diagrams, specifications, troubleshooting tips, and information on required parts and tools.

Can I rebuild a Turbo 350 transmission without prior experience?

While it is possible to rebuild a Turbo 350 transmission without prior experience, it is recommended to have a basic understanding of automotive mechanics and to follow a detailed manual closely.

What are the benefits of rebuilding a Turbo 350 transmission?

Rebuilding a Turbo 350 transmission can improve performance, extend the lifespan of the transmission, and be more cost-effective compared to buying a new or remanufactured unit.

Where can I find a reliable Turbo 350 rebuild manual?

Reliable Turbo 350 rebuild manuals can be found at auto parts stores, online retailers like Amazon, or through automotive repair resource websites and forums.

What common mistakes should be avoided when rebuilding a Turbo 350 transmission?

Common mistakes include not cleaning all components thoroughly, failing to replace all worn parts, improper torqueing of bolts, and neglecting to adjust valve body and governor settings correctly.

How much does it cost to rebuild a Turbo 350 transmission?

The cost to rebuild a Turbo 350 transmission can range from \$1,000 to \$2,500, depending on the quality of parts used, labor costs, and whether any additional repairs are necessary.

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