



'Ask Hanip'

UPKEEP MY VIOS

I was wondering besides the usual servicing and maintenance issues, what other ways are there to upkeep my manual transmission 2007 Toyota Vios running at peak performance? I'm sure a lot of other readers are also dying to find out. Thanks! BENJAMIN YAP

Well Ben, here are some general guidelines which I would definitely love to share with the all motorists, especially those with manual transmissions. Manual drivers generally like to shift to neutral and let the car roll to a halt when the traffic lights ahead are red. This is highly dangerous as not only is engine braking lost but it would actually lead up to higher fuel consumption. Modern fuel-injected cars feature a fuel-disengage system that operates only when a gear is engaged. If the car is coasting along in neutral,

fuel will still be pumped into the engine to keep it idling, so more fuel is actually being used instead.

A good area to look into would be your car's power steering pump. You can



prolong its life span by simply parking with the car's front wheels parallel to the car body. By doing this you are actually reducing the load on the pump when the engine is started up. Also, while on the roads, should the need to perform low-speed manoeuvres (e.g. U-turns), do not turn the steering wheel full-lock to either side and hold it there for more than a second or so. If you have already full-locked the steering wheel immediately turns it back slightly in the opposite



direction to ensure that the strain on the pump is minimized.

Yet another pump to take care of is the car's fuel pump. I would advise not to let the fuel level fall too low before refilling, as this may cause sudden surges if the fuel splashes around while you are cornering. Also, the fuel pump might overheat and have its lifespan reduced if this happens too frequently. To be on the safe-side, immediately refuel once the needle falls below the one-quarter mark.