

Break-In Procedure for Enhanced Stock, Stage 1, and Stage 2 Transmissions

The Walter Motorsports break-in procedures for our Enhanced Stock, Stage 1, and Stage 2 transmissions follow. Stage 3 transmissions require a somewhat different process, which we cover separately. Properly breaking in your transmission is essential to ensuring its performance and longevity.

1. Street Driving for 1,000 Miles

- Aim for 1,000 miles of gentle street driving.
- Drive as if you're in no rush—avoid:
 - High loads.
 - High RPMs.
 - Aggressive gear shifts or slamming gears.
- Treat the transmission as gently as possible.

Why? Bearings need at least **5 hours of operation** to bed in. Proper bearing function is critical to the gearbox's lifespan. Premature bearing wear can lead to misalignments, increased gear stack tolerances, and, ultimately, catastrophic failure.

2. Fluid Inspection After Break-In

- After completing the break-in, change the transmission fluid.
- For Stage 2 gearboxes with heat-treated gear sets:
 - Expect the fluid to look dark and burnt. This is normal.
 - Heat-treated gears are soaked in oil during manufacturing, and the residual oil undergoes a carburizing process, further strengthening the gears. Despite thorough cleaning, some of this residue may remain.

Note: The drain plug may have more sludge than usual. This is also normal, as the gears are meshing in new areas.

3. Avoid High Loads or RPM During Break-In

- High loads or RPMs during the break-in period can cause severe gear wear.
 - This wear is easily identifiable during teardown and will void any warranty or replacement assistance.
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4. Take It Easy on Shifts

- The engagement teeth are recut, so shifts should be:
 - Slow and deliberate.
 - Smooth, allowing the synchros to do their job.
 - Pay attention to the feel of engagement—it's subtle but noticeable.
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5. Post Break-In: Drive Responsibly

- Completing the break-in doesn't mean you can now abuse the transmission.
 - Avoid flat shifting, slamming gears, launching, drifting, or other aggressive driving styles.
- Aggressive driving reduces gearbox life.

Important: Signs of aggressive use are evident during gearbox inspection. If you choose to drive hard, understand and accept the potential consequences on gearbox longevity. Practicing **mechanical sympathy** is key to extending the life of your transmission.

Walter Motorsports

Shop location –

7501 Calmont Ave., Suite F
Fort Worth, TX 76116

Billing/Administration –

Walter Motorsports
2525 Ridgmar Blvd., Suite 400
Fort Worth, TX 76116

833-392-4414

info@waltermotorsports.com

info@waltermotorsports.com