



# TClinic

## **BRAKES - GENERAL (Yearly Maintenance)**

The entire brake system should be inspected at least once a year. After removing brake drum, use compressed air to clean shoes and associated parts. Look closely for signs of hydraulic oil leaks from the cylinders. Check lining for wear. If car is used only occasionally, check each hydraulic cylinder for operation—sometimes one side will freeze.

Inspect flexible brake hoses (two in front) for wear or fatigue. Inspect rear hose (one) located above banjo housing. Adjust brakes on all four wheels. Pump hard on brake pedal about five times, then hold. If no pedal travel after about five seconds—master cylinder is okay.

Top up master cylinder and check for leaks. Bleed each wheel cylinder until clear fluid appears. Be sure and keep master cylinder filled. Road test and readjust brakes if necessary. **CAUTION:** Do not spill hydraulic fluid on paint.

First printed by TCMG in 1971 or 1972

### **2002 Update**

One item this does not address is that brake fluid absorbs water. The TC master cylinder is not well sealed and moisture from the air can collect in the brake system. Regular brake fluid really should be flushed every year because of this.

Silicone brake fluid (DOT 5) does not do this however. Many antique car owners have switched to silicone and have nice clean fluid after 20 years or more. It also does not attack paint if you spill any. Because of the composition of the rubber parts used in the brakes on a TC you must do the following to be successful in converting over.

1. Completely drain and flush out ALL the old fluid.
2. Replace all rubber parts with new. For the wheel cylinders you can buy American made cups as they are standard in size.
3. Some report better success if you take off .050" from the master cylinder piston face. This allows the cup to fully clear the compensating port in case there is any swelling.

If you have heard that silicone brake fluid does not work in a TC, it is probably because these points were not followed.