



Automatic Cars

The facts at your fingertips...

Deciding between a manual and an automatic car is about personal choice and your own driving comfort. Modern car gearboxes can vary extensively from fully automatic to continuously variable transmissions. This fact sheet aims to introduce the more common gearbox features and advise you on which would be the best one for you.

Did you know?

Most speed and steering adaptations can only be used with an automatic car. Automatics allow for greater control and remove the need to make continuous gear changes.



Let us help you to make the right choice...

If you think an automatic would be the best choice for you, it can help to understand the different classifications available and what each one offers. For example, a fully automatic will give you the most control but a CVT gearbox can provide better fuel economy.

The general classifications are:

- *Fully automatic*
- *Semi-automatic*
- *Continuously Variable Transmission or 'CVT'*

Manual Gearbox

- Gears need to be changed manually by the driver to enable acceleration.
- Can be less expensive and more economical on fuel.
- Can be difficult to control when starting on a steep hill and also in heavy traffic due to constant changing of gears.
- **Not always suitable for adaptations.**

Automatic Gearbox

- Gears change automatically according to the vehicle's acceleration and road speed.
- Technology has improved the performance and economy of automatics making some just as efficient as the equivalent manual.
- The driving experience is smoother and more hassle free.
- **Suitable for use with many adaptations.**

gearbox classifications...

Fully automatic gearboxes

- Uses a device called a torque converter to give smooth starts and gear-changes.
- Technology has improved the performance and economy of automatics but they still use more fuel and consequently have higher CO₂ emissions than the manual equivalent.
- **They are suitable for adaptations, which help control the car.**

Semi-automatic gearboxes

- Uses a manual gearbox with an electronically controlled clutch to do the work for you.
- It gives the performance and economy of a manual gearbox with the ease of use of an automatic.
- Comes with either a standard (H-pattern) gear lever or a sequential gear lever which changes gears one at a time.
- **Semi-automatics are not always suitable for use with driving control adaptations as some cars may roll back when starting on hills.**

Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT) gearboxes

- The engine speed is continuously matched to the road speed, allowing for better fuel economy and lower exhaust emissions than a conventional automatic.
- CVT's tend to be very smooth but some drivers find it difficult to adjust to an engine which does not speed up as they go faster.
- **They are often found on smaller cars and are normally suitable for use with adaptations.**



Did you know?

These are just some of the brand names for automatic and semi-automatic gearboxes used by individual manufacturers! Your dealer will be able to explain which type your car will have.

- ✓ 2-tronic
- ✓ Tiptronic
- ✓ T-tronic
- ✓ Durashift EST
- ✓ Easytronic
- ✓ DSG (Direct Shift Gearbox)
- ✓ QS5 & QS6
(Quickshift 5/6 speed gearbox)
- ✓ Autotronic
- ✓ CVT-7 Transmission
- ✓ Electronically Controlled Variable
(E-CVT)

for your comfort and safety...

- **Test drive the cars you are considering** in as many different driving conditions as possible including heavy traffic and on hills.
- **If you need adaptations** now or think you might need them in the future, check to make sure they can be used with the car. It is important to make sure you can safely operate any adaptations you need.
- **Ask your dealer** about which type of gearbox the car has. They will be able to help you make your choice.

Remember to check out the latest prices in the online searchable price guide at: www.motability.co.uk or call us on: 0845 456 4566 with any Motability queries.

Happy Motoring!

