

Special Report from Driving School Malaysia Blog

Driving A Manual Car For Beginners

By Cikgu Yap

(www.driving-school.com.my)



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“About The Author”

[Cikgu Yap](#) is a seasoned driving instructor from
Malaysia. He has more than 40 years of experience in
the Malaysian driving industry and has taught
thousands of students how to drive a car and
motorcycle.

Cikgu Yap writes about driving tips and answers
driving related question at

www.driving-school.com.my

This report is Free for distribution. Feel free to forward it to any of your
friends who want to know how to drive a manual car.

Understanding The Components Of A Manual Car

Before attempting to teach or instruct a student how to drive, firstly we have to introduce him or her a few important parts of the car. Therefore, explain to the students the followings:

1) **Steering.** It controls the wheels. The best manner is to place your hands in what is termed as “**Ten and Two**” position. At no time must your hands be placed below the lower half of the steering. Also do not criss-cross your hands.



Hands at “Ten & Two” Position

2) **The Horn.** In most cars, the horn is normally situated in the middle of the steering. In some cases, there are two “horn” knobs placed at the side of the steering itself. Some Continental cars will also have the horn button on the steering leavers.

3) **The Indicators of Signals.** The indicators or signals are either on the left side or right side of the steering stalk. Pushing it, upwards indicates turning left and pushing it downwards indicates turning right.

4) **The Rear View Mirror, The Left and Right Side Mirror.** The rear view mirror is placed in front of the driver’s forehead. The left and right side view mirrors are placed on the left and right side of the car. The driver has to adjust all three mirrors to enable him to see the back of the car clearly.

5) **The Gears.** Gears are placed in the **centre** of the car. Usually a driver uses his left hand (right hand for left hand drive car) to control the gear knob. Modern cars, where are usually **“floor gears types”** are 5 gears models. Positions of gears, especially 1 – 4 has to be made known to the new driver about to be instructed. **“Reverse”** gear and 5th gears could be shown to the candidate at a later stage. These 2 gears are recommended to be introduced only at a later stage.



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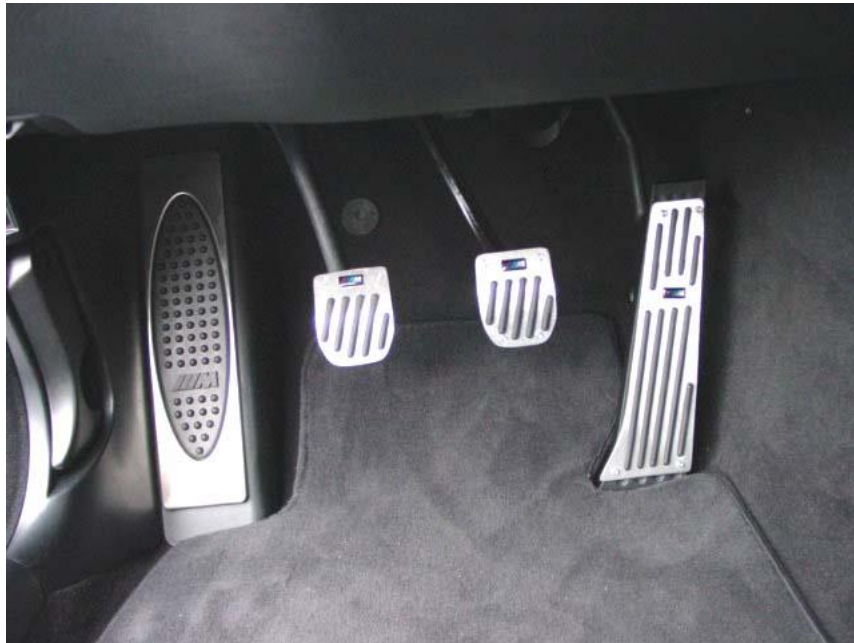
A typical manual gear stick

6) **Adjusting the Seat.** It is extremely important a new learner be shown how to adjust the seat. Normally, there is a **“lever”** situated below the left hand side of the seat. Using one’s left hand, pull the lever upwards, sliding the seat forward or backwards until the seating position is most comfortable. The **“incline”** seating position should also be shown to the new driver.

7) **The Controls of the Car – Clutch, Brakes and Accelerator pedals.** Positioned below the steering are:

- i) the clutch
- ii) the brake
- iii) the accelerator

The clutch is controlled using the left leg. To apply the brakes, we use the right leg. Accelerator is solely controlled by the right leg. Once again, remember, the accelerator is to be controlled by the right leg **only**. Some cars would have a foot rest next to the clutch pedal.



From left to right: Foot rest, clutch, brake & accelerator pedal

8) **The Hand Brake.** To install the hand brake, pull the brake upwards. To release the hand-brake, first pull it approximately 1 inch upwards, press the knob in front of the brake, and then release it downwards.

9) **The Wipers.** Wipers are situated either to the left or right side of the steering. Normally, the wiper has 3 speeds – slow, intermittent and fast.

10) **The Lights.** Consist of **Low Beam** and **High Beam**. The lights illuminate the road in front of the car when it is dark.

11) **The Ignition Key.** The ignition key is situated on the right side of the stalk. Ignition key has to be cranked or turned **3 movements** to the right. Only on the 3rd turn will the car be cranked into starting. The starting procedure is important. When the engine stalls (dies off), the instructor, sitting on the left, is **unable** to assist the new driver much. Therefore, it is the new driver himself who has to start the car himself.

When an instructor has completed explaining all the major components of the car to the new driver, his next step is now to begin the process of imparting the knowledge of driving the vehicle itself.



Car ignition: The Lock, On and Start position

How To Drive A Manual Gear Car?

For a beginner, getting into a manual gear car for the first time can be a daunting experience. There are so many things that you have to remember before you can move the car forward. There is a step by step procedure that you have to follow in order to have a smooth movement.

Firstly, make sure the car is in “**neutral gear**” or “**free**”. Turning the ignition key, three times to the right, will start the car. If this is your first time doing so, turn off the ignition and start the car again. This is to give you some practical practice on “**how to turn the ignition key**” correctly.

Next, accelerate slightly by stepping on the accelerator pedal. You can now hear the engine rev up rather clearly. Keep your right foot on the accelerator. If the accelerator is being stepped on too heavily or otherwise, either step or release the accelerator accordingly. The constant pressure on the accelerator pedal indicates that the car is now ready to “**move off**”.

The next step is to leave or take off your left foot on the clutch pedal slowly. In doing so, do make sure that the “heel” is firmly on the ground. Leave the clutch foot slowly to a point of 50%. At 50%, the car engine rev will drop slightly because torque is being transferred into the drive wheel. The vehicle will now start to move forward gently. As the car moves forward slowly, control the clutch and the car should be moving ahead gently and smoothly.

When the car has gained momentum (having gone 10 – 20 meters), it is now time to execute the **2nd gear**. Repeating the familiar phrase, “**Left foot down, right foot up (accelerator up)**”, you will have to follow your instructor's instruction until you can coordinate in engaging the gears.

Initially, you have to engage up to 2nd gear only. When you are at the early stage of learning how to drive a manual car, move the car 10 – 20 meter, you should stop, free the gear and pull up the handbrake. This is followed by switching off the engine. This will be your practice.

The whole procedure is repeated all over. When you have mastered the technique of changing gears 1 and 2 well, you can now proceed to changing into gear 3. In the first few driving lessons, your driving instructor should teach you to engage up to 3rd gear only. Leave gear 4 and 5 until a later date when you are better in driving.

It will take you a few practice lessons to get used to a manual gear car. Take it one step at a time. Do not rush yourself. At this stage, you shouldn't be driving on the highway yet. Sharpen your skill first before you do so.

The 3 Stages Of Driving Competency

All the initial procedures to drive a manual car can be remembered quite easily. You will be surprised how fast your mind will get used to handling multiple tasks simultaneously. There are 3 stages driving student will go through when learning to drive a manual car:

- 1) **Consciously Incompetent** - At this stage, the driver is consciously noticing all the components of a car. He or she will be mentally trying to recall all the steps taught by the instructor. This is a stressful time because the driver is being overwhelmed by information overload.

- 2) **Consciously Competent** - At this stage, the driver is more relaxed and getting used to being in the driver's seat. He or she knows how to step on the clutch pedal and change gear. At this stage, some of the steps will have to be constantly reminded by the driving instructor i.e looking at the rear view mirror, signaling, stepping on the brake to slow down etc.

- 3) **Unconsciously Competent** – This is the ultimate stage for a driving student to be in. At this stage, driving a manual car becomes fun and easy. Your subconscious mind will take over and you will be executing all the steps without even thinking about it. All your leg and hand muscles have been finely tuned and you will now be able to drive a “stick shift” vehicle without any problem.

How To Drive A Manual Car Videos

Click on the picture to start the videos (make sure you are connected to the internet)



Understanding the stick shift



The "H" Gear



Where to position your feet



Red lining – Engine blowout!

Want To Get Your Driving License?



Are you planning to get your Malaysian car driving license? If you are, check out the Jom Belajar Memandu e-book written by Cikgu Yap. With more than 40 years experience in the Malaysian driving school industry, Cikgu has included all his proven tips and tricks to help you to secure your driving license in the shortest time possible.

If you are worried about the driving examination such as the Undang-undang computer test and JPJ practical tests, *Jom Belajar Memandu* will show you how to pass your tests in the first attempt. The e-book is written exclusively in Bahasa Malaysia (BM) to suit the Malaysian public. Click on the link below right now for more info.

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