

# Bmw E87 Manual 120i

## The BMW E87 Manual 120i: A Driver's Joy

The BMW E87 1 Series, specifically the manual gearbox 120i variant, represents a fascinating meeting point of practicality and driving passion. Launched in 2004, this compact sports car offered a compelling proposition: the engaging driving dynamics typically linked with BMW, packaged into a more accessible size. This article will delve into the attributes that make the E87 120i manual a popular choice for driving enthusiasts, exploring its performance, handling, and the overall possession.

The heart of the 120i is its spirited 2.0-liter naturally unsupercharged four-cylinder engine. While not forceful in terms of sheer power figures (around 170 hp), it delivers its output in a linear and consistent manner, making it remarkably agile. This trait is further enhanced by the manual gearbox, allowing the driver to thoroughly engage with the car's dynamics. The gear shifts are sharp, providing a tactile and satisfying driving experience that's increasingly uncommon in today's industry dominated by automatics.

The E87's rear-wheel setup is a essential contributor to its engaging handling. This setup gives the car a nimble feel, allowing for precise management and predictable behaviour in corners. While not as planted as some larger BMW models, the E87's proportional lightness and compact dimensions contribute to its nimble nature, making it a delight to drive on winding roads. This blend of rear-wheel drive and a well-balanced chassis makes the car incredibly fun to drive, especially for experienced drivers.

However, the E87 120i isn't without its shortcomings. The rear seats are relatively cramped, making it less practical for families or those who regularly carry passengers in the back. The luggage compartment space is also limited, reflecting the car's compact size. Furthermore, some early models experienced reliability issues, particularly with the powerplant and wiring systems, though these concerns are largely resolved in later production runs.

The experience of a BMW E87 120i manual is undeniably rewarding for those who prioritize driving satisfaction. The combination of the responsive engine, engaging handling, and the physical connection provided by the manual gearbox creates a unique driving experience that is difficult to match in its price segment. While it may not be the most practical car, for those who value driving involvement above all else, the E87 120i manual remains a compelling and attractive option.

The longevity and price retention of the E87 120i are also notable factors. As a relatively affordable entry point into the world of BMW ownership, it offers a compelling proposition for value-oriented buyers. Finding well-maintained examples can be a fulfilling experience, offering a balance of performance, driving enjoyment, and availability.

In closing, the BMW E87 120i manual offers a potent mix of speed, handling, and driving engagement within a compact package. While practicality may be compromised, the car's rewarding driving dynamics and relatively cheap price make it a desirable choice for those seeking a fun and engaging driving experience. Its blend of power and availability solidifies its place as a beloved model among driving enthusiasts.

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

- **Q: Are parts for the E87 120i expensive?**
- **A:** Parts access is generally good, but some specialist parts may be more costly than for more popular cars.
- **Q: How reliable is the E87 120i?**

- **A:** Reliability varies depending on the age and upkeep history. Later models generally show improved robustness compared to earlier ones.
- **Q: Is the E87 120i a good first car?**
- **A:** While exciting to drive, the E87 120i's rear-wheel drive can be challenging for inexperienced drivers, especially in adverse weather circumstances.
- **Q: What is the fuel mileage like?**
- **A:** Fuel economy varies with driving method but is generally decent for a car of its performance.
- **Q: Is the E87 120i a good investment?**
- **A:** The E87 120i offers a good combination of driving pleasure and cost-effectiveness and can be a strong acquisition if chosen carefully and maintained properly.

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