

Getting in Gear

How to Drive a Stick-Shift

By Lenny Le

Manual transmissions aren't exactly the easiest things to drive, especially here in the United States. But for those who would like to get a good concept of what it's like to drive a stick shift, this article is for you.

First, make sure wherever you are practicing, it is clear of other vehicles and pedestrians for your own and others' safety. Wouldn't want you to get sued because of this article or anything of that nature!

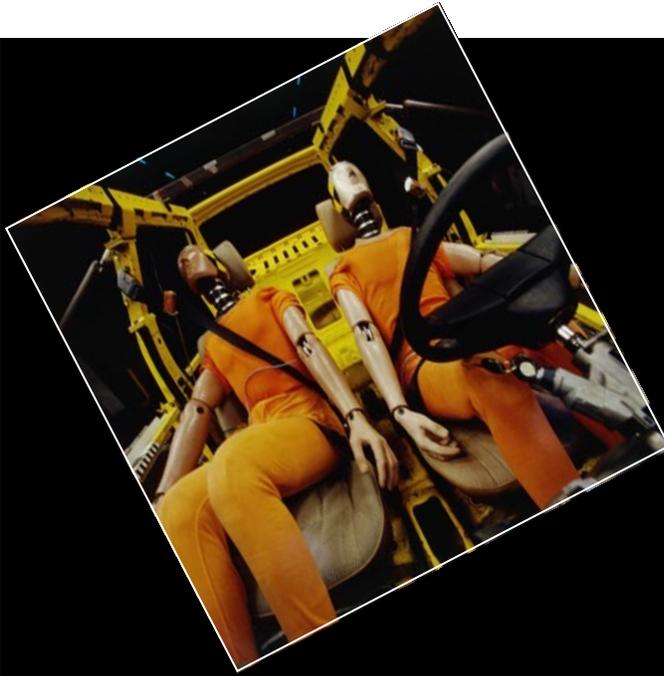
Now, let's begin!

As you may know now, a manual transmission is either a 5-gear or 6-gear, and there are three pedals. The clutch, the brake, and the gas.

The clutch will be most important for you to master so you can get your vehicle moving on the road! Every time you switch gears no matter what you must have your foot pushing down on the clutch! And wait, do not let go of the clutch just yet. If you do your vehicle is going to stall out!

Now, that your car is in first gear let's move on to the next step which actually gets your vehicle moving.





Slowly ease on the gas pedal as you slowly lift your foot off of the clutch. DO NOT completely let go of the clutch until you feel your car picking up decent speed.

Now, when you get your car to move we are already past the hardest step. Once you see your RPM's reach about 3500-4000, it is time to change into your second gear. To switch into each gear, you will let go of the gas, push the clutch down and put it into the next gear, following the same steps as getting your vehicle to move from first gear.

Now, you have a basic concept of driving a manual transmission. Just follow the steps below and you will be cruising along in no time. But make sure you don't drive and read at the same time!

Good luck, and I hope this article has helped you! Oh, two quick things: You'll have to learn to drive in reverse, parallel park and stop on a hill, but that's another story!

Step 1: Step on clutch and put into first gear.

Step 2: Lightly ease on gas pedal while lightly taking your foot off the clutch.

Step 3: Once you've picked up speed, watch your RPM and change gears by repeating steps above.

Tips: Never let go of the clutch when your vehicle is in gear without giving it some gas first! If you do your car will jerk forward which feels horrible and your engine will cut off.

Practice in a safe area until you feel like you are good enough to get on main roads around other vehicles.

When going up hills, give the gas pedal a little more of a push than usual so your vehicle doesn't stall out. A little more gas is better than having your car turn off in the middle of the road!

Always pay attention to your RPM's! Driving with high RPM's on a daily basis will ruin your engine.



Photos courtesy of Microsoft Office Publisher 2007

Pathways After a Bachelor's Degree in Education

Educational Attainment, Common Occupations, and Synthetic Work-Life Earnings Estimates



All holders of education degrees
(aged 25-64 and working full-time, year-round)

\$2,030,000
3.2 million people

Finished college.

Continued on to advanced degree in any field.

Bachelor's Degree

Work-Life Earnings
\$1,798,000



Master's Degree

Work-Life Earnings
\$2,260,000



Professional Degree

Work-Life Earnings
\$2,461,000



Doctorate Degree

Work-Life Earnings
\$2,802,000



How much can you earn?

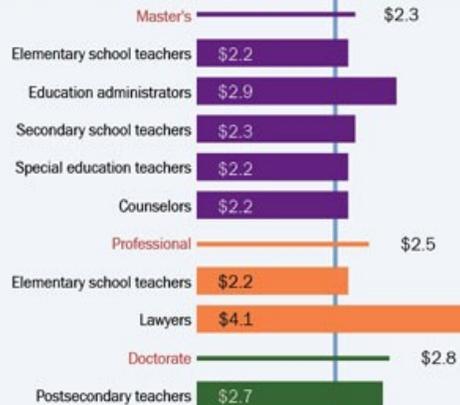
(In millions of dollars)

All holders of education degrees — \$2.0

Finished college.



Continued on to advanced degree in any field.



1 icon = 25,000 people

Note: Synthetic work-life earnings are created by adding annual earnings between age 25 and 64. For more information on these numbers please see www.census.gov/hhes/socdemo/education/data/acs/infographics/faqs.html.

Source: 2010 American Community Survey.