

# MiTo Service Schedule

Understanding the servicing schedule for your MiTo should be a simple task, but over time Alfa Romeo have made it a little confusing. As each year of production produced different versions of owners' manuals, differences in print versions showing kilometres versus miles, and several on-line servicing guides on the websites of some Alfa Specialists trying to clarify the situation, and it becomes even more confusing.

Early owners' manuals recommended servicing for petrol MiTos every 30 thousand kilometres and every 35 thousand kilometres for diesels. Later versions of the manual started showing a service regime every 15 thousand kilometres for petrol and every 20 thousand kilometres for diesel. Then the final versions overlaid the 15/20 thousand kilometre intervals with years from year 1 of ownership to year 10, finally acknowledging that some service items should be checked or addressed annually regardless of mileage.

So this servicing schedule combines the best of that data and the recommendations of a number of Alfa Romeo specialists, combined with my own personal additions which aim to increase the life of your MiTo. This does mean that you may spot some differences between this guide and your owners' manual, and there may be



some of you who think that this service guide seems excessive, but it aims to be a single-source of guidance for MiTo maintenance over twenty years or up to 200,000 miles.

For all versions of the MiTo, the top fifteen or so items are checks, and it is very easy to ignore those and skip down to simply changing the oil. But these are often the most important aspects of a service, and these tasks are what enable the preventative maintenance of any car: checking rubber gaiters means checking them, spotting any problems then fixing/replacing the part. Checking your pads and discs means checking, recognising that they are nearing end of life and chang-

ing them if necessary. Skipping these steps is how we end up with huge bills all at once in future. And this is one reason why having a "full service history" is important with a MiTo (or any Alfa Romeo) – an Alfa Romeo dealer or specialist should have performed those checks and either replaced any faulty item or, at least, written the advisory note on the service receipt (this is why simply having a stamp in the service book is not good enough when buying a car – ensure all service receipts are present and check them carefully to see that maintenance has been carried out and any advisory points made which have not been addressed).

This guide recommends that the oil and filter is changed annually, although earlier manuals may recommend every other year (or at the alternate mileage readings). Every specialist I have spoken to strongly recommends oil changes every 9 thousand miles (petrol) or 12 thousand miles (diesel), though there is a tendency among MiTo diesels to not change the oil until the light comes on because that's what it states in the manual. This is bad practice: change the oil and filter annually or when the light comes on, whichever is sooner.

Timing belts should also be changed every four years (or at

the appropriate mileage) without fail. We have all seen the 10 year old MiTos for sale stating "cambelt done", but a 2008 MiTo should have had a cambelt change in 2012 and again in 2016 even the mileage is low. The 1.6 diesel timing belt should be changed every 84 thousand miles or every four years, whichever comes sooner. The only exceptions being the 0.9 TwinAir or the 1.3 diesel MiTos which have a timing chain that should, with regular maintenance and oil changes, last the life of the vehicle.

The guide should be relatively easy to understand: simply look at the top or bottom and find the correct year or mileage of your MiTo (note, mileages differ between petrol and diesel) then check all the service aspects in that column. If your MiTo has been a little unloved, check the service items in the previous column or two as well, and consider including those now rather than put them off.

The aim of this guide is to help you protect and maintain your MiTo for the next decade or more, and keeping on top of servicing and maintenance will result in a much safer, more reliable and happier MiTo for you and the next owner, avoiding huge bills in future.



# MiTo Service Schedule



Thousands of miles: Petrol versions	9	18	27	36	45	54	63	72	81	90	99	108	117	126	135	144	153	162	171	180
Thousands of miles: Diesel versions	12	24	36	48	60	72	84	96	108	120	132	144	156	168	180	192	204	216	228	240
Years (regardless of mileage)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20

## All Versions

Check tyre condition/wear and adjust pressure if required	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Check operation of all lights, external and internal and replace any bulbs as needed	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Check condition and wear of front brake discs and pads and replace if worn	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Check condition and wear of rear brake discs and pads and replace if worn	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Check condition of bodywork, underbody protection, pipes and hoses (exhaust, fuel lines, brakes lines), rubber parts (gaiters, sleeves, bushes) and replace any worn or split components	●		●		●		●		●		●		●		●		●		●	
Check front and rear wiper blade position/wear and replace blades if necessary	●		●		●		●		●		●		●		●		●		●	
Check windscreen and rear wiper/washer operation	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Check cleanliness of locks, bonnet and boot, and cleanliness and lubrication of linkages and lubricate if needed		●		●		●		●		●		●		●		●		●		●
Check all suspension components for wear and operation, replacing any components which are worn or leaking		●		●		●		●		●		●		●		●		●		●
Check and top up, if required, fluid levels (engine coolant, brake/hydraulic clutch fluid, windscreen washer fluid)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Check moisture level in brake fluid	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Check the handbrake lever travel and adjust if necessary		●		●		●		●		●		●		●		●		●		●
Check exhaust fumes/emissions		●		●		●		●		●		●		●		●		●		●
Check engine management system operation (via OBD) and address any faults or warnings		●		●		●		●		●		●		●		●		●		●
Replace air filter		●		●		●		●		●		●		●		●		●		●
Replace cabin pollen filter (or every 2 years)		●		●		●		●		●		●		●		●		●		●
Change brake fluid (at least every 2 years)		●		●		●		●		●		●		●		●		●		●

## Petrol Versions

Change engine oil and oil filter	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Change MultiAir Gauze/Filter (MultiAir versions only)	○	●	○	●	○	●	○	●	○	●	○	●	○	●	○	●	○	●	○	●
Change TwinAir Gauze/Filter (TwinAir versions only)				●				●				●				●				●
Replace spark plugs		●		●		●		●		●		●		●		●		●		●
Check condition, tension and adjust auxiliary drive belt		●		●		●		●		●		●		●		●		●		●
Check timing belt condition (excl. 0.9 TwinAir)		●		●		●		●		●		●		●		●		●		●
Replace auxiliary drive belt (every 4 years regardless)				○				●				○				●				○
Replace timing belt (every 4 years regardless)				○				●				○				●				○
Check and if necessary top up TCT oil level (where fitted)		●		●		●		●		●		●		●		●		●		●

## Diesel Versions

Change engine oil and oil filter (or when warning light shows if sooner)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Check condition of auxiliary drive belt		●				●				●				●				●		
Replace auxiliary drive belt (or every 4 years regardless)					●					●				●						●
Replace timing belt (every 4 years regardless) (1.6)				○				●				○			●				○	
Replace fuel filter				●				●				●			●				●	
Replace glow plugs								●						●						●

Years (regardless of mileage)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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Thousands of miles: Petrol versions	9	18	27	36	45	54	63	72	81	90	99	108	117	126	135	144	153	162	171	180