

Oil for Manual and Automatic Gearboxes

Depending on whether there is a manual gearbox or an automatic gearbox the vehicle needs different gearbox oil. The standards vary and so also the gearbox oils are different from each other.

The main purpose of oil in manual gearboxes is to lubricate. Because power is transmitted by axles, there is not much more to do for the oil.

In automatic gearboxes the oil has to do a lot more. Power is transmitted not by axles but by the oil itself, so it needs a precisely defined friction coefficient. If it deviates from this coefficient the automatic gearbox doesn't shift gears correctly or even doesn't shift gears at all. That's why you should closely regard the manufacturer's specifications.

So pouring manual gearbox oil in automatic gearboxes will always go wrong. Conversely, most automatic gearbox oils will do their job in manual gearboxes – but not all. So you better should not confuse the two oil grades. You are on the safe side if you closely follow the instructions in your driver manual.

