

transmission chrysler a604 41te a606 42le transmission Complete Guide

transmission chrysler a604 41te a606 42le transmission is a term frequently encountered by automotive enthusiasts, mechanics, and vehicle owners who seek reliable performance and durability from their Chrysler vehicles. These transmissions are renowned for their robustness, smooth shifting, and adaptability across various Chrysler models. Understanding the specifics of these transmission systems, their differences, common issues, maintenance requirements, and upgrade options is essential for optimal vehicle performance and longevity.

In this comprehensive guide, we will delve into the details of the Chrysler A604, 41TE, A606, and 42LE transmissions, exploring their design, features, common problems, repair tips, and upgrade possibilities. Whether you own a classic Chrysler or are considering a rebuild or upgrade, this article aims to provide valuable insights to help you make informed decisions.

Overview of Chrysler Transmissions: A604, 41TE, A606, and 42LE

Chrysler has a long history of manufacturing reliable automatic transmissions used across a variety of models. The transmissions in focus?A604, 41TE, A606, and 42LE?are part of Chrysler?s transverse and longitudinal powertrain lineup, each designed for specific vehicle applications.

Chrysler A604 / 41TE

- Introduction: The Chrysler A604, also known as the 41TE, is a 4-speed automatic transmission introduced in the late 1980s.
- Design: It features a transverse layout, primarily used in front-wheel-drive vehicles.
- Applications: Commonly found in models like the Chrysler minivans, Dodge Caravan, Plymouth Voyager, and some Chrysler sedans.
- Key Features:
 - Electronic control system
 - Overdrive gear
 - Aluminum case for weight reduction

Chrysler A606 / 42LE

- Introduction: The A606, also termed 42LE, is an evolution of the A604, introduced in the

mid-1990s.

- **Design:** Similar in layout but with enhancements for improved durability.
- **Applications:** Used in various Chrysler, Dodge, and Jeep models, including Jeep Grand Cherokee and Dodge Stratus.
- **Key Features:**
 - Enhanced torque capacity
 - Improved electronic control modules
 - Better cooling and lubrication systems

Differences Between A604 (41TE) and A606 (42LE)

While both transmissions share similarities, several key differences set them apart:

- **Strength and Durability:** The A606/42LE is designed to handle higher torque loads than the A604/41TE, making it suitable for more powerful engines and heavier vehicles.
- **Internal Components:** The A606 features upgraded clutches, bands, and planetary gear sets for increased longevity.
- **Electronic Control:** The A606 has more advanced electronic controls, offering better shift quality and adaptability.
- **Applications:** The A604 is more common in smaller, less powerful vehicles, whereas the A606 is used in larger or more demanding applications.

Common Issues and Troubleshooting

Despite their reputation for reliability, these transmissions can develop issues over time. Recognizing symptoms early can prevent costly repairs and ensure smooth vehicle operation.

Typical Problems

- **Harsh or Slipping Shifts:** Often caused by worn clutch packs, low fluid levels, or electronic control issues.
- **Overheating:** Due to insufficient cooling, especially in heavy-duty use or towing scenarios.
- **Delayed Engagement:** When the transmission takes longer to engage after shifting into drive or reverse; may indicate low fluid or worn components.
- **Fluid Leaks:** Caused by deteriorated seals or cracked cases.
- **Noisy Operation:** Whining or grinding noises can point to worn bearings or planetary gears.

Diagnostic Tips

- Use an OBD-II scanner to check for transmission-related fault codes.
- Inspect transmission fluid for color, smell, and level.
- Perform a visual inspection for leaks or damaged components.
- Consider professional pressure testing and electronic diagnostics for complex issues.

Maintenance and Repair Tips

Proper maintenance extends the lifespan of Chrysler transmissions, ensuring dependable performance.

Regular Maintenance Practices

- **Fluid Changes:** Replace transmission fluid and filter every 30,000 to 50,000 miles or as recommended by the manufacturer.
- **Cooling System Checks:** Ensure the transmission cooler is functioning correctly to prevent overheating.
- **Seal Inspections:** Regularly check for leaks and replace seals as needed.
- **Software Updates:** For electronically controlled transmissions, ensure the ECU firmware is up to date.

Repair Strategies

- Rebuild kits are available for most Chrysler transmissions, allowing for cost-effective repairs.
- Consider replacing worn clutch packs, bands, solenoids, or planetary gears.
- When severe damage occurs, a complete transmission overhaul or replacement may be necessary.
- Always use OEM or high-quality aftermarket parts to ensure compatibility and durability.

Upgrading and Performance Enhancements

For enthusiasts seeking better performance or increased durability, several upgrade options exist.

Performance Upgrades

- **High-Performance Clutch Packs:** Improve shift firmness and longevity under high torque conditions.
- **Reinforced Internal Components:** Upgrade planetary gears and shafts for increased strength.
- **Electronic Tuning:** Reprogram ECU to optimize shift points and firmness.

- **Cooling Systems:** Install higher-capacity coolers to prevent overheating during aggressive driving or towing.

Conversion Options

- Some owners opt to swap older transmissions with newer or more robust units for improved reliability or performance.
- Such conversions may require custom adapters, ECU remapping, or modifications to the drivetrain.

Choosing the Right Transmission for Your Chrysler

When selecting or replacing a transmission, consider:

- The vehicle's engine power and torque capacity.
- Intended use, such as daily driving, towing, or performance racing.
- Compatibility with existing drivetrain components.
- Budget constraints and availability of parts.

Consulting with a professional mechanic or transmission specialist can help determine the best course of action tailored to your vehicle and driving needs.

Conclusion

The Chrysler A604 (41TE) and A606 (42LE) transmissions are vital components that contribute significantly to the smooth operation, efficiency, and longevity of Chrysler vehicles. Understanding their design, common issues, maintenance requirements, and upgrade options can help owners maximize their vehicle's performance and lifespan.

Regular maintenance, prompt troubleshooting, and strategic upgrades can ensure these transmissions continue to serve reliably for years to come. Whether you're restoring a classic or enhancing a daily driver, knowledge of these transmission systems empowers you to make informed decisions and keep your Chrysler running at its best.

Keywords for SEO Optimization:

- Chrysler transmission repair
- A604 transmission rebuild

- 41TE transmission issues
- A606 42LE upgrade
- Chrysler automatic transmission maintenance
- Best transmission for Chrysler models
- Transmission fluid change Chrysler
- Transmission troubleshooting tips
- Performance upgrades Chrysler transmission
- Reliable Chrysler transmission options

Transmission Chrysler A604 41TE A606 42LE Transmission: An In-Depth Look at Chrysler's Notable Transmissions

Introduction

Transmission Chrysler A604 41TE A606 42LE transmission ? these designations refer to some of Chrysler's most well-known automatic transmissions, integral to the performance and durability of various Chrysler, Dodge, and Jeep vehicles over the past few decades. Understanding these transmissions is essential for automotive enthusiasts, mechanics, and owners alike, as they represent a significant chapter in Chrysler's engineering history. This article delves into the technical specifications, design features, common issues, and maintenance considerations of these transmissions, providing a comprehensive overview for those interested in their operation and legacy.

Overview of Chrysler's Automatic Transmissions

Chrysler's automatic transmission lineup has evolved over the years, with models like the A604, 41TE, A606, and 42LE representing key milestones. These transmissions are known for their robustness, relative simplicity, and adaptability across a range of vehicles, from minivans to trucks.

Key Transmission Models Covered:

- A604 (41TE): A versatile four-speed automatic transmission used primarily in front-wheel-drive applications.
- A606 (42LE): An evolution of the A604, offering improved performance and durability.
- 41TE: The specific designation for the A604 in some applications, especially in minivans.
- 42LE: The designation for the A606 in certain models.

Technical Specifications and Design Features

Chrysler A604 / 41TE Transmission

The Chrysler A604, also known as the 41TE (41 indicating four gears, TE denoting its electronic control), was introduced in the early 1990s and became a staple in Chrysler's front-wheel-drive vehicles.

Design Highlights:

- Type: Four-speed automatic transaxle
- Construction: Aluminum alloy case for light weight
- Gear Ratios:
 - 1st gear: approximately 2.84:1
 - 2nd gear: 1.55:1
 - 3rd gear: 1.00:1
 - 4th gear (overdrive): 0.69:1
- Control System: Electronically controlled with a valve body that manages gear shifts via an electronic module.
- Torque Capacity: Generally rated for up to 250 lb-ft, suitable for a range of minivans and compact cars.

Key Features:

- Electronic Control Unit (ECU): Facilitates smoother shifting and adaptive behaviors based on driving conditions.
- Lock-up Torque Converter: Improves fuel efficiency by locking the torque converter at cruising speeds.
- Durability: Known for reliable operation if properly maintained.

Chrysler A606 / 42LE Transmission

The A606, also referenced as the 42LE, is an upgraded version of the A604, introduced in the late 1990s to improve performance and reliability.

Design Highlights:

- Type: Four-speed automatic transaxle with enhanced features
- Construction: Similar aluminum case, but with strengthened internal components
- Gear Ratios: Same as A604, but with refinements for better efficiency
- Control System: Advanced electronic controls with adaptive shift logic
- Torque Capacity: Slightly higher, accommodating more powerful engines

Enhancements Over A604:

- Upgraded clutches and bands for increased durability
- Improved solenoids and sensors for precise shifting
- Better cooling features to handle higher torque loads

Common Applications and Vehicle Compatibility

These transmissions have been widely used across various Chrysler vehicles, including:

| Model | Year Range | Engine Options | Notes |

|-----|-----|-----|-----|

| Chrysler Voyager / Town & Country | Early 1990s ? 2000s | 3.0L, 3.3L, 3.8L V6 | A604 / 41TE in minivans |

| Dodge Caravan / Grand Caravan | Early 1990s ? 2000s | 2.4L I4, 3.3L, 3.8L V6 | A604 / 41TE, A606 / 42LE |

| Chrysler Sebring / Stratus | Late 1990s ? early 2000s | 2.5L V6, 2.7L V6 | A606 / 42LE |

| Jeep Cherokee (XJ) | 1990s | 4.0L I6, 2.5L I4 | Used in some applications with manual or automatic transmissions |

Operating Principles and Shift Logic

Understanding how these transmissions operate requires an appreciation of their electronic control systems.

Basic Operation:

- The transmission uses sensors (speed, throttle position, engine load) to determine optimal shift points.
- The ECU manages solenoids that control hydraulic fluid flow within the valve body.
- Shifts are smooth and adaptive, improving fuel economy and driving comfort.

Shift Stages:

- Park/Neutral: Lock the transmission to prevent movement.
- Drive: The transmission shifts through gears based on speed and throttle input.
- Overdrive: The fourth gear (overdrive) reduces engine RPMs at highway speeds.
- Kick-down: A manual downshift feature for increased acceleration.

Common Issues and Troubleshooting

Like all mechanical systems, these transmissions have their share of typical problems.

Frequent Problems

- Slipping Gears: Often caused by worn clutch packs or low fluid levels.
- Delayed or Harsh Shifts: May indicate faulty solenoids or a failing ECU.
- Overheating: Due to clogged or failing cooling systems leading to fluid breakdown.
- Fluid Leaks: Common around seals and gaskets, leading to reduced lubrication.
- Torque Converter Failures: Symptoms include shuddering or slipping at certain speeds.

Diagnostic Tips

- Check Transmission Fluid: Ensure it is at the proper level and appears clean.
- Scan for Codes: Use an OBD-II scanner to identify electronic faults.
- Test Drive: Pay attention to shifting behavior, noises, and performance.
- Inspect for Leaks: Regular visual inspections can reveal early issues.

Maintenance and Longevity

Proper maintenance can significantly extend the life of these transmissions.

Recommended Maintenance Tasks:

- Regular Fluid Changes: Every 30,000 to 60,000 miles, using manufacturer-recommended fluid.
- Filter Replacement: Ensures clean fluid circulation.
- Cooling System Checks: Radiator and transmission cooler maintenance prevent overheating.
- Software Updates: Some issues can be mitigated through ECU recalibration or updates from dealerships.
- Avoid Overloading: Excessive towing or carrying beyond rated capacity strains the transmission.

Signs for Service:

- Delayed engagement when shifting from park or neutral.
- Unusual noises during shifts.
- Reduced acceleration or slipping.
- Transmission overheating warning lights.

Upgrades and Rebuild Options

For owners facing persistent issues, several options are available:

- Rebuilding: A complete overhaul of internal components by specialized shops.
- Remanufactured Units: Cost-effective and reliable alternative to new transmissions.
- Performance Upgrades: High-performance clutches, stronger bands, or upgraded solenoids for increased durability.
- Aftermarket Parts: Better cooling systems, shift kits, or electronic modules to optimize operation.

Legacy and Impact

The Chrysler A604 and its successor, the A606, have earned a reputation for durability, ease of maintenance, and adaptability. Their widespread usage across diverse vehicle types underscores their importance in Chrysler's engineering history. Despite some common issues, with proper care, these transmissions can provide many years of reliable service.

Their electronic control systems, which were advanced for their time, laid the groundwork for more sophisticated transmissions in later years. Moreover, enthusiasts and mechanics continue to value these transmissions for their straightforward design, making repairs and rebuilding feasible even decades after their initial release.

Conclusion

Transmission Chrysler A604 41TE A606 42LE transmission exemplifies Chrysler's commitment to reliable, adaptable automatic transmissions. From their technical design to their application across a broad range of vehicles, these transmissions have demonstrated durability and performance when properly maintained. Understanding their operation, common issues, and maintenance needs enables owners and technicians to keep these systems running smoothly, extending vehicle lifespan and ensuring optimal driving experience. Whether restoring an older model or optimizing a daily driver, knowledge of these transmissions remains a valuable asset in the automotive toolkit.

Question What are the key differences between the Chrysler A604 (41TE) and A606 (42LE) transmissions? The Chrysler A604 (41TE) is a 4-speed automatic transmission primarily used in front-wheel-drive vehicles, featuring a lightweight design. The A606 (42LE) is an upgraded

4-speed automatic with enhanced durability and performance, often used in later models. The main differences include internal components, electronic control systems, and compatibility with different engine types. What common issues are associated with the Chrysler A604 (41TE) transmission? Common issues include harsh shifting, slipping gears, delayed engagement, and fluid leaks. These problems are often caused by worn internal components, low or degraded transmission fluid, or electronic control module faults. How can I tell if my Chrysler A606 (42LE) transmission needs servicing or replacement? Signs include delayed shifting, slipping gears, abnormal noises, transmission fluid leaks, or a burning smell. It's recommended to have a professional diagnosis and fluid analysis to determine if repair or replacement is necessary. Are the A604 (41TE) and A606 (42LE) transmissions interchangeable? While they are similar in design, they are not directly interchangeable due to differences in internal components, electronic controls, and mounting configurations. Always consult manufacturer specifications before attempting swaps. What maintenance is recommended for Chrysler A604 and A606 transmissions? Regular transmission fluid changes every 30,000 to 60,000 miles, checking for leaks, and ensuring the electronic control system is functioning properly are key maintenance steps to prolong transmission life. Can I upgrade my Chrysler A604 to a more robust transmission? Upgrading options depend on your vehicle model and compatibility. Some enthusiasts opt for rebuilds with upgraded parts or swapping to more durable transmissions, but professional consultation is recommended to ensure proper fit and function. What tools are needed to diagnose issues with the Chrysler A604 or A606 transmissions? A professional-grade scan tool capable of reading transmission codes, a multimeter, and basic mechanical tools are essential. Advanced diagnostics may also require transmission-specific testing equipment. Are there aftermarket rebuild kits available for the A604 and A606 transmissions? Yes, several aftermarket suppliers offer rebuild kits that include clutches, bands, seals, and other internal components. Using quality parts can improve the durability and performance of a rebuilt transmission. What is the typical lifespan of a Chrysler A604 or A606 transmission? With proper maintenance, these transmissions can last between 150,000 to 200,000 miles. However, lifespan varies depending on driving habits, maintenance, and operating conditions.

Related keywords: Chrysler transmission, A604 transmission, 41TE transmission, A606 transmission, 42LE transmission, Chrysler automatic transmission, transmission rebuild, transmission repair, OEM transmission parts, Chrysler A/T transmission