

SLK Service Schedule

If you haven't heard already, **the 'A' to 'H' service indication system in the MFD has been replaced by alternating services 'A' (minor basic) and 'B' (major basic). These letters have nothing to do with the old 'A' to 'H' system, the primary purpose of which was to provide an indication of the amount of time the service would take, with 'A' being the shortest and 'H' the longest.** In practical terms, any service from 'C' onwards in the old system would most likely represent a 'B' service in the new system along with various extra items.

Service 'A' includes an oil and filter change as well as various instrument and fluid checks and is supposed to take around an hour.

Service 'B' includes all items from service 'A' plus various other inspections including brakes, wheels/tyres, headlights, body and steering components and should take roughly two hours.

Now the disclaimer: the information provided is based on my Australian issue ASSYST PLUS service booklet dated 2004 as it applies to my pre-facelift R171 SLK350, so your mileage may vary depending on country, model year and engine type.

The most sensible way to present the information is on a service year by year basis. I chose this as MB typically specify a minimum of annual servicing for the SLK in most markets. Some services/items are distance as well as time based - I have not noted the distinctions here in an attempt to keep things simple, but a rough rule of thumb for time/distance interchange is:

1 year = 12,500-13,000 miles = 20,000-25,000 kilometres

So here we go:

Year 1: Minor Basic service ('A')

Year 2: Major Basic service ('B')
+ brake fluid flush
+ combination filter

Year 3: Minor Basic service ('A')

Year 4: Major Basic service ('B')
+ brake fluid flush
+ combination filter
+ engine air filter
+ spark plugs

Year 5: Minor Basic service ('A')

Year 6: Major Basic service ('B')
+ brake fluid flush
+ combination filter

Year 7: Minor Basic service ('A')

Year 8: Major Basic service ('B')
+ brake fluid flush
+ combination filter
+ engine air filter

+ spark plugs

Year 9: Minor Basic service ('A')

Year 10: Major Basic service ('B')

+ brake fluid flush
+ combination filter

Year 11: Minor Basic service ('A')

Year 12: Major Basic service ('B')

+ brake fluid flush
+ combination filter
+ engine air filter
+ spark plugs

Year 13: Minor Basic service ('A')

Year 14: Major Basic service ('B')

+ brake fluid flush
+ combination filter

Year 15: Minor Basic service ('A')

+ Engine coolant flush
+ Fuel filter

Year 16: Major Basic service ('B')

+ brake fluid flush
+ combination filter
+ engine air filter
+ spark plugs

For those of us with the automatic transmission, there is also the requirement of a transmission fluid flush at 40,000 miles or 60,000 kilometres. The interesting thing is this is a **once only** service according to my booklet.

So there you have it. In summary, the key things to take away are services alternate between minor and major every year, with a bigger service every fourth year.