

Alfa Romeo 147

Engine oil change guide



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This guide will help you to change the oil on Alfa Romeo 147. Photos used in this guide are from TS version, but JTD should be similar as well as other Alfas (156, GT,....)

I was hesitating if I should make a guide for such a simple and routine task but as I have seen a lot of my friends to put the car for this job to a service and others were asking me to change the oil for them. That's why I thought a guide like this may be useful for someone willing to start to do some basic maintenance tasks by himself.

Quick guide (for advanced alfisti):

1. Get new engine oil, oil filter and preferably oil sump plug washer.
2. Go for a drive to heat up the oil (10km or more).
3. Lift the bonnet and unscrew the oil filler cap.
4. Lift the car.
5. Unscrew the drain plug (M18 screw, 8mm hex key) and drain the oil to a container (5 liters minimum capacity).
6. Lower the car to stand flat (if you jacked up only one side) so that all oil can be drained.
7. Clean the drain plug and screw it back in (tightening torque 22Nm, preferably use a new washer).
8. Put a container under the oil filter and unscrew it. Let the oil drain.
9. Screw in new filter and tighten it by hand.
10. Lower the car, fill in the new oil (4,4 liters), close the cap.
11. Start the engine; let it idle for a minute. Turn it off. Wait a minute. Check the oil level and fill up if necessary.
12. Go for a drive, check for leaks to be sure.

Step by step guide:

Engine oil to use:

Alfa Romeo recommends using Selenia oils. You can use this brand or any other well known brand provided the oil is the right viscosity and more importantly the same or above recommended API/SAE rating.

1. Go for a drive to warm up the oil. Oil is properly warmed up few minutes after your engine reached its operating temperature. It takes usually 8 -10 km.

2.

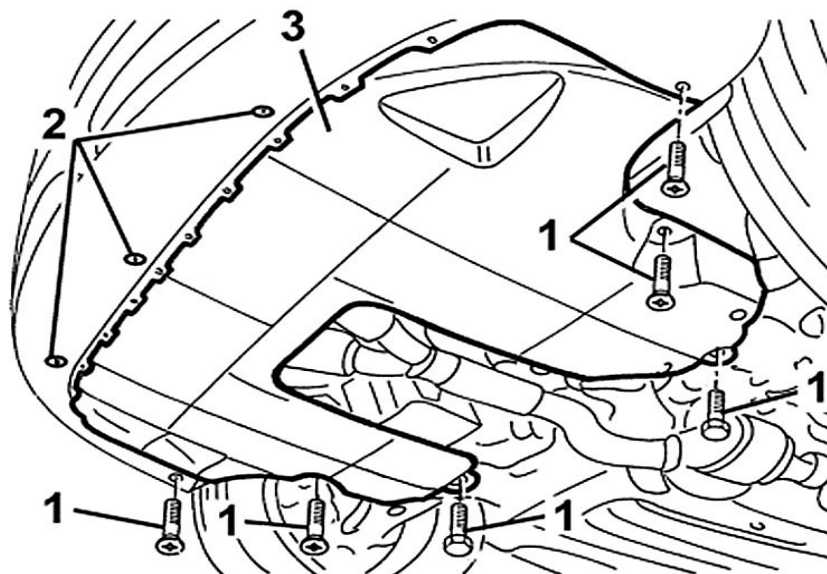
Open the bonnet and unscrew the oil filler cap so that air can enter more easily when the oil flows out.



3.

Raise the vehicle.

- If you can't raise the vehicle completely, secure the car against movement (pull handbrake, cog the rear wheels) and lift the front right wheel with a jack. (preferably lift both sides if you have 2 hydraulic jacks). Put the car on axle stands if you can as it is not safe to work under the vehicle lifted on jack(s) only. If you don't have them, push a spare wheel, brick or a wooden log under the car so that it doesn't fell on you in case the hydraulic jack lets go...
- Remove the bolts fixing under engine protection if (you have one) and remove the protection. This is not a must as you could get to the oil filter without doing this but it makes the job easier and cleaner.



4.

Locate the engine oil drain plug. It is well accessible, located on the bottom of the oil sump, close to the exhaust. It is M18 plug and you need 8mm hex key to unscrew it. Preferably use a long lever as it can be stuck.



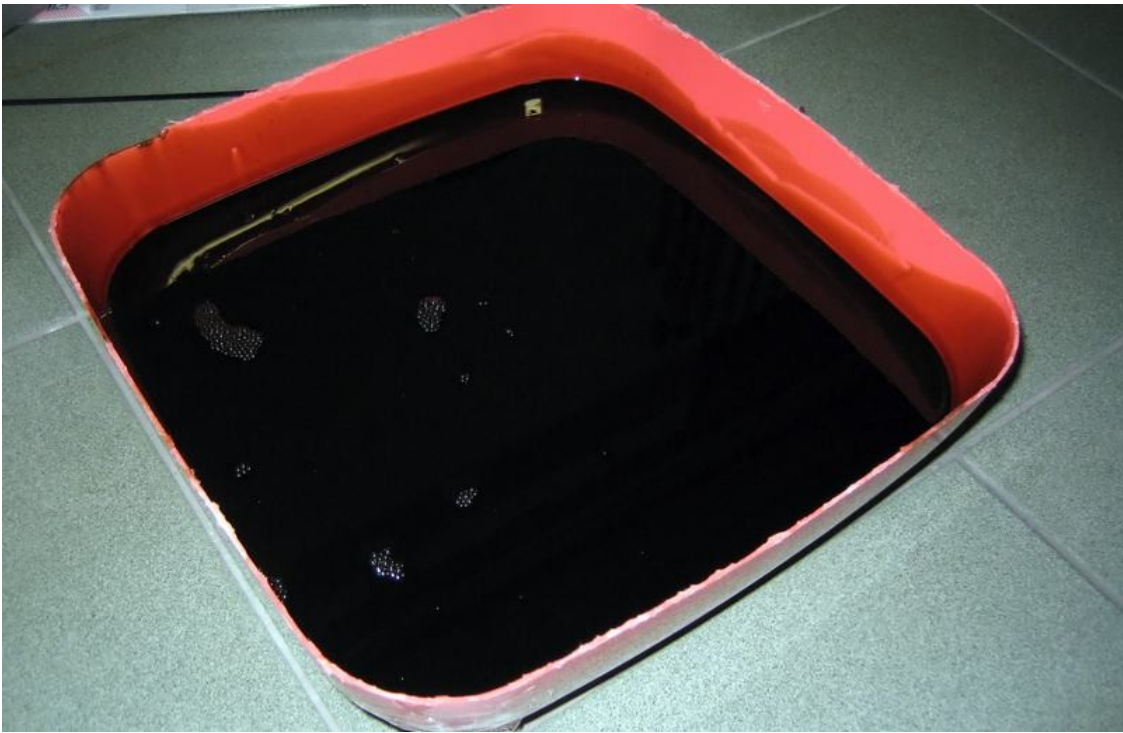
5.

Put a suitable container (min 5 ltr. capacity, flat enough to fit under the car) under the drain plug. Unscrew the plug and let the oil drain out. Wear gloves as the sump and oil are very hot. Lower the car if you lifted only one side so that the car stands flat and all oil can flow out.



Note:

It might be useful to use from time to time some sort of engine flush to clean the engine. This is how my oil looked after an engine flush applied for the first time at 90k kms. Some people report this can even cure a noisy variator on TS engines as well.



6.

Clean the drain plug and put a new washer on it (18mm). It is recommended always to use a new washer as you will avoid over tightening the thread in case of leaks and possible stripping the thread in aluminum sump. There are at least two versions of original Alfa washers, one is copper and second is steel with pressed in rubber insert. Both are fine as well as any other copper washer.



7.

Raise the car again and screw the plug back in. The best way is to use a torque wrench set to recommend 22 Nm. This way you know the plug is tight and you don't strip the thread.



8.

Locate the oil filter. It is just in front of the oil sump, under the A/C compressor.



9.

Unscrew the oil filter. It might be doable by hand but it is much easier with the right tool. There are many sorts of oil filter keys widely available and they are usually very cheap.



Don't forget to put a container under the filter; there is enough oil in it to make a big mess. Lower the car and let it drain with filter removed.

10.

Oil the seal on the new filter, it will help you to screw it in easier and fit properly.



11. Screw in the new filter and tighten it by hand.
12. Lower the car to the ground, lift the bonnet and fill in the new oil. Twin Spark engine capacity is 4,4 liters.



Close the oil filler cap and start the engine. It might happen that you will see a “low oil pressure warning” at startup, but this should go off quickly. Let the engine idle for a minute or two, turn it off and wait for a few minutes. Check the oil level on the dipstick and fill up if necessary.

13. Take the car for a short spin and check for leaks. Job done.

Disclaimer:

This guide describes how I did the job. It may not be complete or something may not be described detailed enough. Follow this guide at your own risk. Please only attempt this if you feel you are competent. I'm not responsible for any damage you might cause. Always use common sense not excessive force. Don't blame me or this guide if you break something. It was your choice to try this.

You can use and reproduce this guide and photos it contains freely in any way you consider useful for any Alfa-owner. You can make it publicly available on any Alfa-Romeo dedicated website, just please let me know about this.

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