1990-1996 Chevrolet Lumina APV - Serpentine Belt

1990-1996 Chevrolet Lumina APV | Moderate | 45-60 minutes | $26 DIY

TOOLS

Wrench or breaker bar (for tensioner)
Socket set Camera/phone (for routing photo) Gloves

PARTS

Serpentine belt (correct length for 3.8L) $26.00
Tensioner pulley (if replacing) $20.00

STEPS

1. **Cool the engine and note the belt routing - Let the 3.8L V6 cool completely. Before** touching anything, photograph or sketch the serpentine belt's routing around the crank, alternator, power steering, A/C, and tensioner pulleys. The underhood diagram may be faded on a 1990s van,.
2. **Relieve tension and remove the old belt - Fit a wrench or breaker bar onto the** tensioner's square drive or bolt head and rotate it to slacken the belt. Remove the old belt from the remaining pulleys and compare its length to the new one.
3. **Inspect the tensioner and pulleys - With the belt off, spin each pulley by hand - the** tensioner, idler, alternator, and A/C clutch should turn smoothly without grinding or wobble. If the tensioner feels weak or the pulley bearing is noisy, replace them now; a new belt on a...
4. **Route the new belt - Following your photo and the ribbed-vs-smooth pulley logic (ribs go** against ribbed pulleys, flat back against smooth idlers), thread the new belt around all pulleys except the alternator.
5. **Tension and seat the belt - Rotate the tensioner again, slip the belt over the alternator** pulley, and release the tensioner slowly so it takes up the slack. Verify the belt sits centered in every pulley groove - no ribs hanging off the edge.
6. **Start and verify quiet operation - Start the engine and watch the belt run for a minute.** Turn on the A/C and headlights to load the belt and confirm it stays quiet. Shut off and recheck that the belt is still seated in all grooves after the first run.

ezcarfix.com