2004-2006 Nissan Sentra - Front Brake Pad

2004-2006 Nissan Sentra | Moderate | 60-90 minutes | $39 DIY

TOOLS

Floor jack Jack stands Lug wrench Socket and ratchet set C-clamp or brake caliper tool Wire brush Brake grease Bungee cord or wire Torque wrench

PARTS

Front ceramic brake pad set for 2004-2006 Sentra $33.00
Brake hardware clip kit (if not included with pads) $23.00
DOT 3 brake fluid (for top-up) $6.00

STEPS

1. **Loosen the lug nuts and lift the front - With the Sentra on the ground and in park, break** the front lug nuts loose with a lug wrench but do not remove them yet. Raise the front with a floor jack and support it on jack stands at the front subframe or pinch welds. Remove the lug nu...
2. **Unbolt the brake caliper - Locate the two caliper guide-pin bolts on the back of the** front caliper and remove the lower one, then loosen the upper one so the caliper swings upward. Support the caliper with a bungee cord or wire from the strut spring so its weight ne...
3. **Remove the old pads and hardware - Slide the worn brake pads out of the caliper bracket** along with their shims and anti-rattle clips. Inspect the rotor face for deep grooves, scoring, or a pronounced lip at the edge, which means the rotor should be replaced or resurfaced to...
4. **Compress the caliper piston - Place one of the old pads against the caliper piston and** use a C-clamp or brake caliper tool to press the piston straight back into its bore. Open the brake fluid reservoir cap under the hood first so displaced fluid has somewhere to go, a...
5. **Install the new pads and hardware - Fit the new stainless hardware clips into the cleaned** caliper bracket until they snap fully into place. Apply a light coat of brake grease to the pad ears and the back of the pads where they contact the caliper and shims, keeping grease co...
6. **Reinstall the caliper - Swing the caliper back down over the new pads and reinstall the** guide-pin bolts, tightening them to a firm snug. Give the caliper a gentle wiggle to confirm everything is seated.
7. **Repeat on the other side and refit the wheels - Repeat the pad replacement on the second** front wheel so both sides have matched friction material. Pump the brake pedal several times with the engine off until it feels firm, which seats the pads against the rotors.
8. **Bed in the pads and check fluid - Check the brake fluid reservoir level and top it up to** the max line with fresh DOT 3 fluid if needed, then cap it. Take the car for a gentle test drive and perform several moderate stops from 30 to 40 mph to bed the new pads in, avoiding h...

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