



Carver One – Glitches & Gotchas

1. Sticking Fuel gauge

Don't believe what the fuel gauge says on a long run – it tends to stick anywhere between 1/2 and 3/4 full. Set the trip odometer to '000' at the start of the journey and stop after 200 miles or so. Switching off the engine and re-starting will reset the gauge, which will then give a correct reading.

2. The 3 hour rule

The DVC software has a problem after 3 hours of continuous use without a 'reset' – basically it stops working and the Carver will drive like a wobbly jelly. The software is reset every time the ignition is switched on, so fuel stops usually ensure the condition is never seen. But on a long journey, especially with some traffic hold-ups, the 3 hour problem can kick in. Just remember to switch off and restart the engine if the car has been running for more than 2 hours.

3. Poor brakes in the rain

Braking performance is not good in the rain, because the front disk is very exposed and gets a thorough soaking with water. As the majority of the braking force is routed to the front disk, braking in the rain can be severely reduced. An initial pedal depression will clear the water, after which braking is vastly improved – but nothing like the dry performance. Be aware and take care.

4. Battery life

Always connect a good quality maintenance battery charger at all times when the Carver is not in use. This is because the alarm immobiliser is permanently on and as the battery is only rated at 30A, the immobiliser will kill the battery power in no time at all. It is always best to wire the charger connector plug directly to the battery terminals, rather than use the cigar lighter socket.

5. Jammed heater temperature control

A common occurrence, which is due to the heater ball valve seizing and its operating cable becoming bent. To minimise the risk of this, regularly exercise the heater temperature control with a few turns (say once a month) and certainly every time the Carver is driven.

6. Water on the inside rear parcel shelf after washing the car

There is an air gap between the roof and the rear exterior luggage shelf (under the spoiler) which allows airflow out from the cabin. But this air gap will also allow water in when washing the car with a hose or jet wash. Before washing, roll up a small towel and push it under the back edge of the roof, to avoid a puddle of water on the interior rear parcel shelf.

7. Starting when hot – or not

Some Carvers suffer from temperamental starter solenoid wiring which prevents the car from starting when the engine is hot. This often happens just after filling up in a petrol station. Allow time for the engine to cool a little, then try again. Some owners say that rocking the car in gear can also help.

8. Screen wash bottle

About as user friendly to re-fill as it is to open a new toothbrush packet, the screen wash bottle is located behind the front service panel. Avoid temptation to fill it more than 1/2 full – as any more ends up on the floor.

9. Reverse logic headlights

Accelerate and the headlights dim, de-accelerate and they brighten up. Another Carver mystery and the only known cure is to replace the halogen bulbs with HID or LED headlamp bulbs.

10. Optimistic speedometer

It's safe to assume a 10% over reading from the speedometer – so owners who boast about driving their Carvers at 100mph take note – it's only 90mph, sorry guys.

11. Petrol fumes in the cabin

When re-fuelling the Carver at a petrol station, do not add further fuel after the petrol pump cuts off for the first time. Overfilling the tank can often cause petrol fumes to enter the cabin when the vehicle tilts over.

12. Where's the Sun Visor?

It's on your head sir! The Carver's sun visor is uniquely apparel based – in the form of a baseball cap with a generous peak. A pair of sunglasses always comes in handy too. Don't leave home without them.

13. Orange DVC light - stop and count the flashes

The orange DVC warning light illuminates whenever there is a DVC system fault. The light always flashes in a sequence to indicate a 2-digit fault code. When this happens, pull over and stop – but do not switch off the engine until the flashing sequence code has been noted. If the engine is switched off, the DVC system resets and the fault code will be lost.

14. Before using the Maintenance handle – the golden rules

Level ground with clearance to both sides, both windows down (open), gear lever in neutral, handbrake off, key in the ignition, steering lock off.

Disobey and you will need to pray – for a couple of strong blokes to help lift the Carver upright once more.