


# 101 Projects for Your Porsche Boxster (Motorbooks Workshop)

*By Wayne R. Dempsey*

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Since its introduction in 1997, the Porsche Boxster has earned a reputation as one of the world's greatest sports cars, as well as a huge, loyal following of devoted drivers. This book is aimed at those owners of Boxsters who want to improve their machines while avoiding thousands of dollars in mechanic's costs. Clearly and simply written, with straightforward illustrations, this manual offers 101 projects to help you modify, maintain, and enhance your Porsche. Focusing on the 986 and 987 Boxster models, *101 Projects for Your Porsche Boxster* presents all the necessary information, associated costs, and pitfalls to avoid when performing a wide array of projects. In a word, it makes owning a Porsche Boxster an unqualified thrill.

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**101 Projects for Your Porsche Boxster (Motorbooks Workshop) By Wayne R. Dempsey Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #94144 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Motorbooks
- Published on: 2011-01-08
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 10.63" h x .75" w x 8.25" l, 2.64 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 312 pages

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## Editorial Review

From the Author
Please note the following correction to **Project 17, Page 81, "Replacing Belt Tensioners",** the torque values listed for tightening the pulleys require additional clarity. Tighten the pulleys to the following values:

**Upper Pulley:**
- 34 ft-lb (46 Nm) for the upper bolt if it's an M10x145 (8.8) bolt
- 48 ft-lb (65 Nm) for the upper bolt if it's an M10x145 (10.9) bolt

**Lower Pulley:**
- The lower pulley bolt is tightened to 17 ft-lb (23 Nm) **only**

Since its introduction in 1997, the Porsche Boxster has earned itself a reputation as one of the world's best sports cars. Building upon Porsche's nearly 40 years of experience building production and race cars, the Boxster has been designed and improved over the years to a state of near perfection. It has also garnered a huge, loyal following of people who love to drive them. Boxster owners tend to adore their cars and also **enjoy restoring, modifying, and maintaining them** to perfection. If you're one of these people, this book was written especially for you.

Information is the key to success in any project or endeavor. Without the proper knowledge, you can make costly mistakes and waste your time as you trudge through the learning process. The projects in this book aim to **eliminate any guesswork** that you may have while working on your Boxster. My slogan has always been, "Let me make the mistakes and warn you about them, so you won't do the same." Believe me, I've made many mistakes and learned the hard way the best and worst way to **repair, restore, and modify** these cars. My lessons, as well as the lessons learned by the expert mechanics I've consulted with, are compiled here for you.

Who am I? I am the owner of one of the largest European online parts retailers, PelicanParts.com. I designed and built Pelican Parts especially for the Do-It-Yourself (DIY) mechanics who love to work on their own cars - people just like me. Our website has **hundreds of Porsche technical articles** that are the foundation for most of the projects in this book. If you like what you see in this book, then you will definitely enjoy more of the same at our website, PelicanParts.com.

The projects in this book are written in a format and style that should empower anyone to work on his or her car. One of the principal drawbacks to owning a Porsche is the high cost of maintaining it. You can literally **save thousands of dollars in mechanic's costs** simply by performing the work yourself. It is the goal of this book to get more people out working on their Boxsters - it's too much fun not to! Plus, when you personally complete a job on your Boxster, you get the added **satisfaction of having done it yourself**. Working on your own car can give you that emotional attachment to your Boxster that is common with Porsche owners.

This book is divided into 11 sections, each focusing on a particular system of the Porsche Boxster. The "backyard" mechanic can perform almost all of the projects contained within these pages over a weekend or two. In an attempt to appeal to everyone, some of the projects are basic, and some are more advanced. Some of the projects are simply **overviews of systems found on the Boxster**. For example, Project 18,

which covers superchargers and turbochargers, is simply meant to give you an inside look into what happens when you take your engine's performance to the next level.

Most projects follow a distinct how-to format. **Step-by-step instructions** tell you how to perform the job, what tools to use, and what costly mistakes to avoid. The photos that accompany the projects tell a story of their own. I've **spread hints and tips throughout each project**, so make sure that you read all the text and captions in the photos before you start.

In addition to this book, I've also created a **bonus website that contains additional information** and photos that I didn't have room to publish here in print. This bonus content is available for free at the main website for this book, 101projects.com. In addition, I've setup the site with a **discussion forum so that you can ask questions** and get feedback regarding any of the projects in the book. You can often find myself and many other Boxster experts there, ready to share knowledge and exchange ideas.

Please don't be afraid to get this book dirty - take it with you underneath the car. Get it greasy. Compare the pictures in the book to your own car. Follow along step by step as you tear into each project. If this book gets dirty, then I will sleep well at night knowing that it's being put to good use.
While this book is a great guide for determining what upgrades and maintenance you need to perform on your Boxster, it's not meant to be the only book for your car. Limited by a fixed page count, I can't provide the detailed diagrams, torque settings, and factory procedures that are documented in the original factory workshop manuals. If you are planning to work on your own car, I recommend that you **invest as much as you can in books and information** that will help you along the way. Make sure that you review the Information Resources section in the next section of this book for my recommendations of the best places to find additional technical information for the Boxster.

This book is not meant to be read from cover to cover, but is designed to be flipped through so that you can get an idea of what projects interest you for your Boxster. I've structured the projects so that you can simply open up the book and start working on your car. I do recommend, however, that you read the "**Tools of the Trade**" section in the first part of the book, and also Project 1, "**Jacking Up Your Car**," before you start working on any of the projects.

One of the features in this book that I have taken special care with is the index. I find it especially frustrating when a good book has a lousy index, where you can't find anything useful. For that reason, I've personally indexed the book according unique words found within each project, and also listed each index item under multiple names. This way, if there are different names for a part or procedure, it will still be **easy to locate it within the body of the text**. For example, brake discs are listed as both brake discs and brake rotors, as they are sometimes called. Please feel free to use the index as one of your primary guides to the book.

Finally, remember that **safety should be your Number One concern**. It's very easy to get so intimately involved with working on your Boxster that you forget how fragile and vulnerable the human body can be. Have patience, and think about every action you make. Think ahead as to what might happen if you slip, or if something breaks. Using your head a little will go a long way toward protecting yourself.

I hope you enjoy the book, as I have spent a long time compiling this information and filtering it so that it's easy to understand and follow. If you have any **feedback or questions** for me, you can contact me at this book's dedicated website, **101projects.com**. Enjoy!

From the Back Cover

When the first Boxsters were introduced in 1996, Porsche enthusiasts everywhere began doing what they've always done—perform their own maintenance and look for ways to further sharpen the handling and improve the performance of this unique machine. The aftermarket has responded in kind, providing tools, engine and suspension parts, diagnostic software, and cosmetic applications specifically for the Boxster.

Porsche expert Wayne R. Dempsey guides you through 101 projects that will help you maintain, modify, and enhance your Porsche Boxster. Focusing on both the 986- and 987-chassis models and "S" models, *101 Projects for Your Porsche Boxster* presents all the necessary information, tips, and costs associated with each project. Each project is presented with clear and concise step-by-step instructions so that you have a thorough understanding of what to expect.

Whether you're changing the brake pads or doing a complete engine swap, *101 Projects for Your Porsche Boxster* will guide you through the process, with tips and insight gained from years of working on these incredible roadsters. With more than 600 color photos and diagrams, *101 Projects for Your Porsche Boxster* is an invaluable resource for any Boxster owner.

About the Author
Wayne R. Dempsey is the author of several highly successful books, including "**101 Projects for Your Porsche 911**" and "**How to Rebuild and Modify Porsche 911 Engines**." He has been working and playing with mechanical machines all his life. In college, Wayne earned both a BS and MS degree in Mechanical Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, specializing in flexible manufacturing technology. His introduction to automobiles began when he raced with the **MIT Solar Electric Vehicle Racing Team**. After a few years building communications satellites for Hughes Space and Communications, Wayne left to pursue an entrepreneurial calling. Literally starting in his garage, Wayne **co-founded Pelican Parts**, an Internet-based European automotive parts company. Today, Pelican Parts is thriving with the growth in Internet technology. Wayne currently maintains the site and has written most of the technical articles that are featured on the Pelican Parts website, pelicanparts.com. Wayne currently owns the 2000 3.4 Boxster conversion profiled in this book, a 2001 Aerokit 996 Carrera, a 1999 Boxster Tip, a 1999 996 Carrera convertible, a 1974 914-6 conversion, a 1972 RS clone, a 1973 RSR clone, a 1987 959, and a 1987 Kremer Racing 962C.

**101 Projects Website** - Please visit the official website for this book: 101projects.com. This website contains book updates, exclusive photos not published in the book, a **Porsche Boxster forum & BBS**, links to sites for more information, and locations where you can purchase the parts and tools mentioned in this book.

**101 Projects for Your Porsche Carrera (1999-08)** - Keep a lookout for Wayne's next book which is due to be published in 2011. Visit the 101projects.com website for updates and more details.

## Users Review

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**Velda Thornley:**

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**Maria Ives:**

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**Richard Chambers:**

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