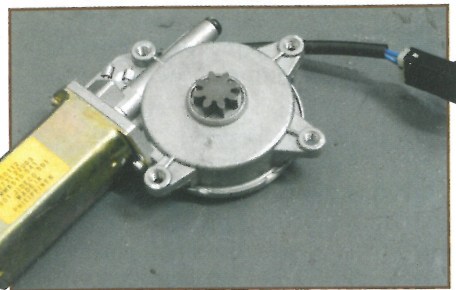


SURVIVAL GUIDE

Nissan Figaro

CONTINUED



stock and may be able to help out.

Possibly the worst scenario will be a faulty passenger side window motor – it's a wallet-busting £336.37 from Nissan. However, don't worry too much if yours goes wrong because we've seen them advertised secondhand by a seller called Figarocity on eBay with a starting price of just £65. Alternatively, GJ Northall have a canny solution – they get a local firm adapt the cheaper driver's side motor and sell these for £160.



The Figaro was one of the first cars to have a CD player, but the vast majority will have given up the ghost years ago – and even if it still works, the radio will only pick up a limited frequency range (76-90MHz).

There are several options. The best and most aesthetically pleasing is to get the innards brought up to date by Clarion, incorporating a digital radio display. AutoSupplyUK offer the service for £464, including fitting. A cheaper option from Figaro Cars is to buy a surround, made in fibreglass in the same colour as the original radio, then fit your own system, which is £50.

The door speakers will invariably need replacing and these are £25 from Figaro Cars.

PARTS CHECK:

Passenger Window Motor:
Main dealer £336.37; GJ Northall £160;
Figarocity from £65 s/h

Window Switches:
Main dealer £67.68 (passenger),
£136.16 (driver)

Distributor Cap with Rotor Arm:
Japarts £16.22;
Figaro Cars £22,
Blue Print £29.10

BRAKES

There are discs at the front and drums at the back on the Figaro, and generally there's nothing to report in terms of specific problems. However, the front calipers have been known to seize – especially on low-mileage or little-used examples – so suspect this to be the problem if the car pulls violently to one side. Incidentally, the calipers aren't the standard K10 items. The ventilated discs are thicker than the standard Micra. Specialist GJ Northall sell reconditioned calipers at 30% Nissan prices, and ventilated discs at half the genuine price.

PARTS CHECK:

Front Brake Discs (pair):
Main dealer £135.55; Figaro Cars £50;
Japarts £56.46, Blue Print £109.32

Front Brake Pads:
Main dealer £25.48; Figaro Cars £10;
Japarts £10.88

INTERIOR/ BODYWORK/HOODS

The Figaro cabin is wonderfully retro and also very clever in the way it marries the old with the new. Air-conditioning is standard, as are leather seats. As we've said, the clam shell switchgear is all available, but trickier are dashtops which crack in the sun – it comes complete with the dash itself and is no longer available from Nissan. Apart from that, it's simply a case of cosmetics, tidying up scuffs and re-connoling the leather. Figaro Cars sell headlining kits for £150, while AutoSupplyUK will supply and fit for £300.

The speedo facias to convert kmh to mph are £23.50.

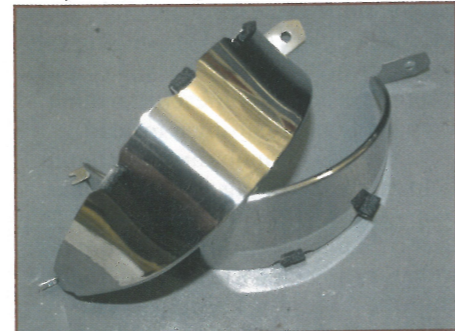
The driver's window glass is now obsolete, but GJ Northall have stock and sell them for £140.

Regarding bodywork, there were four original colour schemes (Topaz Mist, Pale Aqua, Emerald Green and Lapis Grey), but many Figaros have custom paint finishes. Yes, we've seen them in pink too!

The front wings are plastic, so no



worries about rust there – but a relatively intricate roof drainage system can rot out the rear end. That's why it's crucial to check all the drain holes in the roof gutter, and also in the plastic boot tray. The sills can also rust, especially where the car's suffered accident damage. Watch, too, for the chrome rear light and indicator bezels – they rust where water sits at the bottom. New indicators and rear lights, complete, are around £100 and £40 respectively from Nissan. Many of the panels are still available, and there are always cars being broken for spares.



Regarding trim, some of the chrome strips are difficult to get hold of, but again, GJ Northall have a supply, including the large curved section that runs along the top of the rear wing which sells for £140.

Hoods shrink, and when they do they will leak. Fortunately, new covers are readily available – its £892.91 from Nissan, but non-original hoods are much cheaper. You can also buy rear window panel recovering kits, and these are £40 from Figaro Cars.



PARTS CHECK:

Replacement Hoods:
Main dealer £892.91; AutoSupplyUK
£411.25 (supply and fit);
Figaro Cars £125

ACCESSORIES

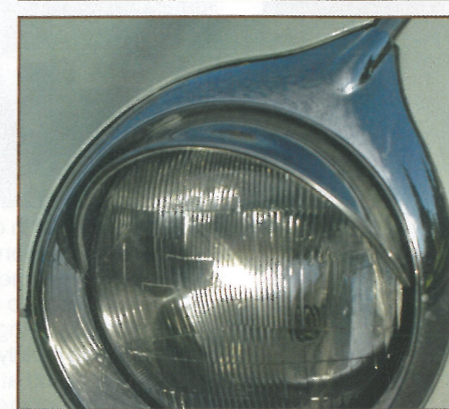
Unsurprisingly, there's scope to personalise a Figaro. From mudflaps to chrome eyelids to chrome boot racks (from Figaro Cars, POA) – there's lots you can do and all the parts are readily available. A particularly useful accessory for people who keep their Figaros for special occasions is a custom car cover, and Figaro Cars sell these for £125.

So despite being over 16 years old, and having a few teething issues, so long as you stay on top of maintenance, owning and running a Figaro will be easy – and a whole lot of fun!

PARTS CHECK:

Chrome Headlamp Eyelids:
Main dealer £65; Figaro Cars £20

Mudflaps:
Main dealer £55



Useful Contacts

ADL Blue Print: 01622 833007,
to find your nearest distributor visit
www.blueprint-adl.com

AutoSupplyUK: 01273 565644;
www.autosupplyuk.com

Figaro Cars: 07836 713404;
www.figarocars.com

GJ Northall: 07733 230207

Japarts: 08450 664422;
www.japarts.co.uk

Turbo Technics: 01604 705050;
www.turbotechnics.com

Thanks to: Brighton-based specialist AutoSupplyUK for help compiling this feature and for letting us photograph one of their many Figaros for sale. The prices quoted for Blue Print are a guide only and actual prices from Blue Print distributors may vary.

RIGHT FIRST TIME! EVEN IN THE MOST EXTREME CONDITIONS

MATCHING QUALITY PARTS FOR:

- Japanese
- Korean
- Light Commercial
- Grey Imports
- Shared Platforms

FIRST IN THE AFTERMARKET
www.blueprint-adl.com