



Alfa 156 Clutch Bleeding

Not a big job, but can be slow as the air intake and battery are in the way.

You will need:

- Super Dot 4 Brake Fluid (alternatively 5.1)
- Bleeding kit or rubber pipes and bottle to catch excess fluid.
- A willing helper. **

** I'll explain why later.

The clutch on the 156 is hydraulic and the feed for the fluid is the brake master cylinder.

Access is pretty limited unless you remove the battery and battery tray, and possibly the air-intake pipework.

Notice the feedpipe that goes into the top of the gearbox. This is held in place by a spring clip. There should be a small rubber dust cap covering the bleed nipple just to the left of it (looking from the front). There might be a plate covering the bleed nipple .. remove it if you have one, but don't lose it.

The bleed nipple is not the same as the one you find on the brakes ... this one does not turn. So don't try! To release the fluid you have to pull the feed pipe out slightly (but not yet!).

Take off the rubber cap and put your brake bleed pipe on this. Drop the other end in a bottle or jar with clean brake fluid.



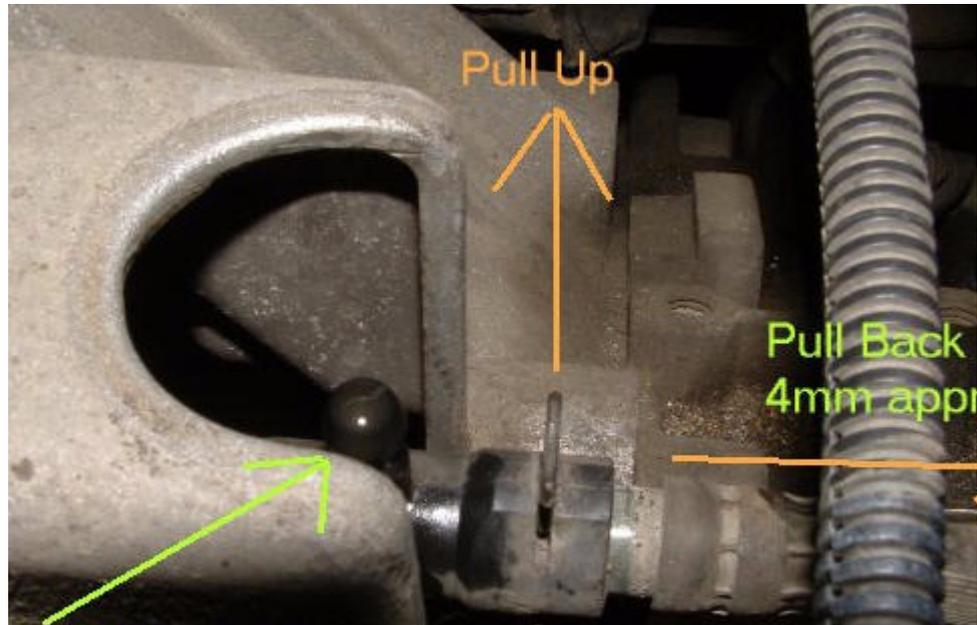
Now pull up the spring clip that holds the feedpipe in place¹. Gently pull the feed pipe out by about 4mm. If this hasn't been done for a while try gently twisting the pipe as you pull to release it (holding the metal end, not the rubber pipe!). If you have a clear bleed pipe you will probably see the fluid start to flow.

This is where you need your "willing helper". Get them to push the clutch pedal down. The old dirty fluid will flow out, possibly with bubbles.

1. My thanks to 'BlackBeauty' on the AlfaOwner forum for working out how this is done and taking the photographs.



Now unlike many cars, the pedal may not return on its own when pushed to the floor. Your “willing helper” will need to help the pedal return. But before your helper lifts the pedal, push the feed pipe back in. If you don’t the suction in the clutch system will pull the dirty fluid (and bubbles) back into the system. Repeat the process until the fluid is clean and/or you don’t see any more bubbles. Remember to watch the level in the brake master reservoir and top up as necessary with clean brake fluid.



When finished, push the feed pipe back in fully, and push down the spring clip. Remove the bleed tube and replace the dust cap on the bleed nipple. Replace the small cover plate (if fitted) and the air intake and battery if you removed these. Test the clutch.