

J A B

Affordable Automotive Repair Services

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Greetings... Thank you for taking the time to read this document.

If you are reading this, chances are you or someone you know is in need of a more affordable automobile repair service. There is no question that the cost to get a car fixed today is very expensive. Even basic maintenance such as having your brake pads replaced isn't cheap.

Because of this fact and because I am in need of additional income. I am offering my technical knowledge and ability to a select few.

This document was written by me for my family, friends, Facebook friends and their friends to better understand what I am offering and why you can feel comfortable with me doing the work.

If I can be so bold as to be blunt and upfront for a minute...

The Upside is: To save you a lot of money while making myself money, offering my knowledge and ability to fix your car at a price rate that is far cheaper than a repair shop would charge. I can do this because I do not have high overhead costs and other typical business expenses. Additionally, I determine and locate all the needed replacement parts and misc items online at the cheapest cost. I would then send this information (and the link) to the customer, where they would then order the parts. A repair shop would add a markup of 50% (or more) on any replacement parts they supply. I am essentially only charging for my time, knowledge and ability.

The Downside is: The Risk Factor. Because I am Not a certified technician or a LLC corporate business, the customer runs the risk that if something really bad happens, they will not have much recourse in the matter. What that “Something” is could be a variety of things from safety concerns to unexpected part failures, none of which are fun or expected.

My definition of “Risk Factor” is “**not**” necessarily me doing the job incorrectly, it’s what could go wrong from unexpected or “unforeseen” problems. These problems can and do happen.

In layman’s terms, all car repairs have a varying “percentage of error” factor. Replacing pads and rotors for instance has a much lower error factor than say a water pump replacement, or anything major that needs fixing on an older car from the 70’s for example.

I will always evaluate and notify a potential customer up-front about what my concerns (if any) may be. In the end, the customer’s final decision is based on what I tell them. If I feel a task will be more problematic then it’s worth, I will be more than clear about it.

Typical Automotive Repair Procedures

(Autoshop vs Me)

Automotive repair fees at any repair shop typically come down to these three simple line items:

- **Diagnosis** – A fee that is charged by a shop to evaluate what is actually wrong with your car. Typically between \$50 and \$100, this fee is waived or applied to the repair once you agree to let them do the repair.

I do not charge for diagnosis, unless the scenario calls for it.

As a convenience: To access DTC codes from your vehicle, I am willing to travel to your ailing car's location if it is unable to start or drive for whatever reason. I do charge a minimum of \$20.00 to do this.

DTC codes are a huge help to determine what may be the underlying fault.

- **Parts** – Probably purchased through a discount vendor, a shop will then charge the customer double what they pay for it. If a shop actually agrees to using customer supplied replacement parts it typically comes with a firm disclaimer that they will **not be held responsible** for the parts failure and they will charge you again to fix it with their additionally purchased part.

I do not increase the cost of parts.

- **Labor** – The process of taking things apart and putting them all back together fixed. Shops quote jobs based on an hourly rate and how long a job “should” take to perform. A two minute task will still cost you their hourly rate.

My fee is typically only for my knowledge, labor and any special needs.

(all fees will be discussed up front)

John Albert Burnham

Freelance Mechanic (unlicensed)

Personal Disclaimer

Affordable Automotive Repair Services

(Please Read)

*** Please be aware, as I now disclose: I am NOT a state certified/licensed SAE mechanic, and because I am also not an LLC/corporate entity I will (in some cases) require the customer to sign a legal disclosure document acknowledging and agreeing to this fact before I will begin repairing their vehicle. I understand representing myself as a certified licensed SAE mechanic is illegal in the state of Michigan.**

I will always research and confirm with “myself” that I am confident about the repair before I ever agree to do the work.

Having me do the your automotive repairs (my process)

Note: I do Not do any internal engine or transmission repairs.

1. CONTACT ME

I will need you to tell me what's wrong and also supply me with all the pertinent information about your vehicle (model, make, year, engine, the OBD II fault code printout "if obtained"). There is usually a sticker on the edge of the driver door with most of this information. Sometimes there is a sticker in the engine compartment that has engine information on it. Supplying me the vehicle's VIN# can also do this.

2. I EVALUATE

I review the customer's complaint and confirm through my existing knowledge, various resources (including YouTube) on what's involved and determine if I can perform the required repair confidently.

3. MY QUOTE AND DISCLOSURE (if required)

I then send a detailed breakdown of what can be expected from me to do the job along with a disclosure statement (if deemed fit) that the customer would sign and release to me for me to begin work.

The disclosure document is essentially a customer signed acknowledgement that the repair may reveal other issues, and may require additional work and/or parts to complete the job resulting in additional costs beyond what was quoted.

4. PURCHASED REPLACEMENT PARTS

Once the job is confirmed, I then locate the parts and find the best price for them on the web (Amazon, RockAuto, others) and then I email that information to the customer for ordering. The customer can either have the parts shipped directly to me or bring them with them at the time of delivery.

PURCHASED REPLACEMENT PARTS (continued)

**It has been my experience that online purchases can have a savings of up to 50% on many auto parts. There are some items that have little (or no) difference in price if purchased at your local auto parts store. I will let you know what I need and where I would purchase them. How parts are obtained is entirely up to the customer.*

***OEM replacement parts will be more expensive even if purchased online, but will still be cheaper than if purchased from an auto parts store.*

5. SET UP REPAIR DATE/TIME

Once the parts are ordered, a date is set to bring the car to my location. The work will be done at a residential home in a detached garage located in beautiful Plymouth Michigan in the area of 5 mile and Haggerty.

** The exact location will be disclosed to the customer*

6. THE REPAIR

Most services can be done in a day or less (sometimes a few hours).

I will always give the customer a realistic time span in which they can expect me to be finished to decide either to wait or drop the vehicle off for a next day pickup.

7. REVIEW, PAYMENT AND RELEASE

Once the repair(s) are complete, the customer is notified and is given a work review. Upon payment of the service fee, I then release the keys to the vehicle to the customer.

Automotive Services I Offer

(every item listed below I have successfully completed at least once)

I do not fix the broken item, I replace it with a new service part.

As noted previously, I can use new OEM parts (if they exist) but they are usually more expensive.

Engine Services

- Coil packs
- Spark plug (and wires if required)
- Valve cover gaskets
- Oil pan gasket *
- IAC valve
- MAF sensor
- MAP sensor
- Cam Phasers
- Alternator
- Starter motor
- Water pump
- Thermostat
- Coolant hoses
- Serpentine belt
- Belt tensioners

** Whenever an oil pan gasket is replaced, the engine must be drained of all oil. Because of this, a complete oil change (with filter) must be performed as well.*

Exhaust Services (from the catalytic converters back to the exhaust pipe only)

- Mufflers
- Resonators
- Piping
- Flanges
- Hanger rubbers

Note: I do not do welding work, if required I would acknowledge this in advance to the customer and then find a reliable resource and get the best price for this procedure.

Brake Services

- Pads and rotors front and/or rear
- Calipers *
- Brake lines **
- Master Cylinder **
- Emergency brake adjustment (for some models)
- Full bleeding procedure (when required) **

** Calipers are usually only replaced if they are leaking or frozen-up. When they leak, it is typically the rubber boot (around the cylinder piston) that acts as a dust shield that rips or wears away. Replacing them is quite easy and cheap, but if it is locked up frozen, getting a new caliper is typically the best bet. Depending on the age of the vehicle, replacing both sides may be a smart choice also.*

*** Replacing master cylinders, rusty lines and/or calipers also means the hydraulic brake lines are exposed to air. Because of this, after the new parts are installed, the brakes will then need to be bled for solid dependable braking. Not difficult, but will be part of the service fee.*

HVAC

- Refrigerant (install)
- Blower motor
- A/C Compressor
- AC leak detection *
- Cabin filter **

** Detection involves injecting a UV dye into the cooling system while the engine is running and the AC on. Wherever the leak may be, the dye will be forced out of it exposing the leak to any UV light shined on it.*

*** Any filter that may need replacing will be brought to the customers attention as determined.*

Oil changes

I cannot offer oil changes as a single service and make it cost worthy for me or the customer. If I am already working on your vehicle, I would change your oil for \$25.00 + cost of oil and filter, including recycling of old oil.

Suspension Services *

- Tie Rods (inner and outer)
- Shocks / Struts (front and/or rear)
- Springs (usually comes with shocks)
- Links and bushings
- Sway bar bushings
- Watts Link

* Any significant suspension work will usually require the vehicle to get a **front end alignment**. Especially when the tie rods are replaced. I will do my best to get tie rods positioned properly, but even a little sway in degree can create an off-center steering wheel and increased tire wear. It is highly suggested the customer get this done ASAP at his own convenience.

Electrical Services

- Battery ***
- Headlight bulbs
- Tail light bulbs
- Blinker bulbs
- Running light bulbs
- Fog light bulbs
- Car stereo / Amp Speakers installation *
- Diagnose electrical issues **

** I am not an authorized car stereo installer, but I have installed radios, amps and speakers. High power amps require a special power wire and fuse that is additional to the vehicle's existing harnesses. If you need the work done and don't want to use Mickey Shore (or whoever) I can quote what I would charge to do it.*

*** Electrical issues are typically very difficult to solve. I can attempt to solve an electrical issue at no cost, but any serious issue will probably need to be done at a shop where there are significant devices available to help them to do it right. The unfortunate drawback is the expense.*

**** FYI - I will charge \$25.00 to install your new battery, but if you purchase your new battery at any popular auto parts store they will usually install it for you free of charge. Call them first.*

Is there a service you need that I haven't listed?

In the event I have not listed the repair service you may need for your vehicle, feel free to contact me and I'll evaluate the situation and see if I can be of any help to resolve your issue.

Remember, "Everything" I've listed here as a service I've done **at least once**.

I know that I can help some of you and I will gladly do that.

If you're in a financial bind with a broken car...

Contact me anytime!

John Burnham

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JABMediaServices.com is my personal computer graphics website. I'm using the host service to store this document. And although I am not IT certified, I am very computer savvy also. If you are having computer issues at any level, feel free to reach out. If I can't help you, I'll direct you to someone who can.

Additional Gratuitous Information

About me... (John Burnham)

Since I was about 16 years old I have been working on cars, and in January of this year (2025) I turned the ripe old age of 60. Since my teen years I have fixed (replaced or rebuilt) countless parts on many different cars and SUVs.

I've always been good with understanding cars and how they work. So repairing them came easy (So to Speak!) and I've saved myself an enormous amount of money over the years.

I'm currently looking to have a little side income, so it made sense for me to offer my knowledge and abilities to those out there who are stunned by outrageous auto repair costs. The basic service of just replacing brake pads and rotors on just the "front" of your vehicle (depending on the make, year and your geo location) can set you back \$500.00+!

Although I am publically offering these basic repair services to you, it would be illegal for me to represent myself as a "professional" mechanic, being that I am not SAE certified. I do have a lot of experience, and I can save you money, but it is your decision if you feel comfortable enough to have me perform the work required for your vehicle. You can feel confident that any work done by me will be done correctly with care and confidence.

I assure you I will never agree to do work on anyone's car, truck, SUV or van that I do not feel 100% confident that I can successfully do. And because I have minimal overhead expenses, in most all cases my fee will be significantly less than your shop quote.

* I have bottomline prices on every service I offer. If you want to skip an auto repair shop's quote and fee, I can quote you what I would charge right from the start. Just reach out to me!

Remember!

To contact me for any auto repair work, quote or just to discuss the issue, always email me first at: john.b@jabmediaservices.co

Diagnosing an automotive problem

The cost of auto repairs is skyrocketing! I have saved myself thousands of dollars over the years doing my own auto repair work and I am now offering that savings to you. I work out of a garage (in Plymouth, Michigan) that is available to me along with all my tools.

The services I offer and the quotes I give are typically based on the customer “supplying me” with a written quote from an auto repair shop (or mechanic) for me to compare/compete cost with. It is rare a repair shop will diagnose your car without a small fee that they will deduct from the final cost if you decide you have “them” fix your car at their shop. Depending on the issue, there are a few technical ways to help determine a diagnosis.

For instance...

If your engine is suddenly running badly and/or has terrible performance, the on-board computer of your car (PCM/BCM/TCM) will all set what are called (OBD II) diagnostic trouble codes (DTC's) that can be accessed (by a scan tool) and can usually quickly reveal what is failing and what maybe causing the problem. You will always know that codes have been set if your “**Check Engine**” light is on.

Air in-take sensors like the MAF, MAP and the throttle IAC valve always are plainly listed in trouble codes (if they are failing), but sometimes they are failing because of something else not performing properly such as a bad oxygen sensor (they all work in concert with each other). So even though it may be an oxygen sensor causing the problem, every other sensor showing fault because of it will be listed also.

It is then the job of the repair person to determine which of the listed sensors is actually failing. Good times! The OBD II feature (available in most all vehicles since about 1995) exponentially improves the ability to diagnose an ailing engine's performance.

Any good autopart's store (O'reilly's, Autozone)) will offer access to these OBD II diagnostic codes at no cost to you. Just ask them and they will come out to your car and attach their scanner to the OBD II port located (typically) under the dashboard. It only takes a few minutes and it is invaluable information. You should also always ask for a print-out of these codes.

Remember: You do NOT need to pay a shop a diagnostic fee to find out this information!

What about the unexpected?

As with any auto repair procedure (especially with early model vehicles) unexpected problems can sometimes arise causing the work involved to become much more complicated and involved than originally quoted. These hidden issues could “and do” happen. Anyone who works on cars as a profession will agree. These unexpected issues usually always require additional time, effort and money to resolve.

** When a customer requests a quote from me regarding any repair needed on their vehicle. I will always try to make the owner aware of anything that I may encounter while repairing their vehicle.*

For example...

Last year I was to replace the water pump on a 1999 Ford F150. While removing all the accessories that surrounded the pump, a proprietary metal multi-path coolant tube literally disintegrated as I attempted to remove it. The OEM replacement part did not exist anymore, but a third party company did offer the part. The only problem was the purchase price was an additional \$200.00 plus shipping costs to get it, not to mention a shipping time delay. Very frustrating. This unexpected problem cost added time, money and aggravation, but the job could not be completed properly without the integral part. **Bottomline:** No matter who would have performed the work on this truck, that pipe matrix was going to break once any pressure was applied to it.

** I will always make sure I address any possible issues foreseen in advance to the customer to help avoid such an unpleasant outcome.*