Bleeding Brakes

Remember to keep an eye on your fluid level in the master cylinder throughout the bleeding process.

1 We would suggest you work in the following sequence:
   a) Right-hand rear wheel
   b) Left-hand rear wheel
   c) Right-hand front wheel
   d) Left-hand front wheel

2 Remove the wheel and find the bleed nipple at the top of the caliper. Air rises so only ever open the top bleed nipple.

3 Remove the rubber protective cap on the bleed nipple and attach the length of rubber hose which is a tight fit over the bleed nipple.

4 Place the other end of the hose into a catch container and pour in sufficient fluid to cover the end of the tube – if you don't do this you will draw air into the system.

5 Get a friend to sit in the car and pump the brake pedal several times to build up pressure, and then hold it down on the final down stroke. Slowly open the bleed nipple releasing the air bubbles and old fluid into the container. (Communication is critical so that the pedal is never up while the bleed nipple is open, which draws air into the system).

6 Repeat this process until no more air bubbles are viable in the tubing and bottle and fresh fluid starts coming through. Remember to check the master cylinder is topped up. Keep the lids on both the master cylinder and the brake-fluid bottle to minimise the opportunity for air to enter the fluid.

7 Tighten the bleed nipple, remove the hose, and replace the protective cap. Move on to the next wheel and repeat steps 3 – 7.

8 Top up the master cylinder a final time, replace its lid and discard any remaining "new" brake fluid properly along with the old fluid otherwise moisture will accumulate inside the unsealed bottle during storage. Moisture in the fluid will lower the boiling point and may cause the system to overheat.

9 Check the feel of the brake pedal. If it feels at all spongy, air must still be in the system, and further bleeding is required. Failure to bleed satisfactorily after a reasonable repetition of the bleeding procedure may be due to worn master cylinder seals.

Slowly road test the brakes to check they are functioning properly.