

Manual 1987 Ford Lariat Xlt F250

A Timeless Classic: The 1987 Ford Lariat XLT F250 Manual

Looking for a durable, powerful, and iconic pickup truck? The 1987 Ford Lariat XLT F250 manual is a classic that still turns heads today.

Discover its features, benefits, and what makes it a popular choice among enthusiasts. The 1987 Ford Lariat XLT F250, a beast of a truck known for its durability and ruggedness, is a true icon of the American automotive landscape. This generation, with its boxy design and powerful engine options, captured the hearts of truck lovers and continues to be a sought-after classic.

The 1987 Ford Lariat XLT F250: A Closer Look

The 1987 Ford Lariat XLT F250 wasn't just another truck; it was a statement. Its rugged exterior, adorned with the iconic Ford grille and the Lariat XLT badging, exuded confidence and capability. The interior offered a blend of comfort and practicality, perfect for long drives and hauling heavy loads. *Under the hood, the 1987 F250 offered a range of powerful engine options:* • 5.8L (351 cu in) Windsor V8: This engine, standard on most F250 models, was

known for its reliability and good power output. • **6.9L (420 cu in) IDI Diesel V8:** This engine was a workhorse, known for its tremendous torque and fuel efficiency, making it ideal for heavy-duty applications. • **7.5L (460 cu in) V8:** This powerful engine was an optional upgrade that delivered impressive performance and towing capability. *The manual transmission:* The manual transmission was a key feature of the 1987 F250. It provided drivers with greater control and feedback, making it ideal for towing and off-road driving. It also offered a more engaging driving experience, something that many enthusiasts appreciate.

Why Choose a Manual 1987 Ford Lariat XLT F250?

There are many compelling reasons to consider the 1987 Ford Lariat XLT F250 manual:

- **Durable and Reliable:** This generation of F250 was known for its solid construction and robust components, making it exceptionally durable and reliable. These trucks are known to last for hundreds of thousands of miles with proper maintenance.

- **Powerful Engine Options:** As mentioned earlier, the F250 offered a range of powerful engine options, including the iconic IDI diesel engine. This meant you could choose the engine that best suited your needs, whether it was towing heavy loads or tackling challenging off-road terrain.
- **Classic Design:** The boxy design of the 1980s F250 has become a classic, and its timeless appeal continues to capture the imagination of truck enthusiasts today.
- **Simple and Easy to Maintain:** Unlike newer trucks with complex electronics, the 1987 F250 was relatively simple in design. This

made it easier to maintain and repair, even for amateur mechanics. • *Lower Costs:* Compared to newer trucks, the 1987 F250 is often available at a more affordable price. This makes it an attractive option for those looking for a powerful truck without breaking the bank.

Finding the Right 1987 Ford Lariat XLT F250 Manual

Finding a good 1987 Ford Lariat XLT F250 manual will require some research and careful inspection:

- **Research:** Start by researching online forums and resources dedicated to classic Ford trucks. These forums can provide insights into common issues and what to look for when inspecting a truck.
- **Inspection:** When you find a potential candidate, be sure to conduct a thorough inspection. Look for signs of rust, damage, and worn components.
- **Test Drive:** A test drive is essential to assess the truck's overall condition and ensure it runs smoothly. Pay attention to how the engine performs, how the transmission shifts, and the overall feel of the truck.
- **Mechanic Inspection:** It's always a good idea to have a trusted mechanic inspect the truck before purchasing it. They can identify any potential problems that may not be apparent to the untrained eye.

The Popularity of the 1987 Ford Lariat XLT F250 Manual

The 1987 Ford Lariat XLT F250 manual continues to enjoy a loyal

following today. This truck is more than just a vehicle; it represents a certain lifestyle and a commitment to ruggedness and dependability. Its timeless design, powerful engine options, and relatively low maintenance make it an attractive choice for both enthusiasts and practical users.

The 1987 Ford Lariat XLT F250: A Legacy of Durability

The 1987 Ford Lariat XLT F250 manual is a true classic that has earned its place in automotive history. It's a testament to the engineering excellence of Ford trucks and a reminder that sometimes, the simpler things in life are the best. If you're looking for a durable, powerful, and iconic pickup truck, the 1987 F250 might be the perfect choice for you.

Related Topics

Understanding the Different Engine Options: • The 5.8L

Windsor V8: This engine was known for its reliability and good power output, making it a popular choice for everyday driving. • **The**

6.9L IDI Diesel V8: This engine was a workhorse, known for its tremendous torque and fuel efficiency, making it ideal for heavy-duty applications like towing or hauling. • **The 7.5L V8:** This powerful engine was an optional upgrade that delivered impressive performance and towing capability, but it also consumed more fuel than the smaller engines. [Chart comparing engine performance:](#) |

Engine Type | Horsepower | Torque | Fuel Economy | |||| | 5.8L Windsor V8 | 175 hp | 265 lb-ft | 12-15 mpg | | 6.9L IDI Diesel V8 | 170 hp | 360 lb-ft | 18-22 mpg | | 7.5L V8 | 210 hp | 330 lb-ft | 10-13 mpg | Understanding the Manual Transmission: The manual

transmission, often a 4-speed, offered drivers greater control and feedback, making it ideal for towing and off-road driving. It also offered a more engaging driving experience, something that many enthusiasts appreciate. However, it required a certain level of skill and experience to operate effectively. **The Importance of Proper**

Maintenance: As with any classic vehicle, proper maintenance is crucial for the 1987 F250 to last. Regular oil changes, fluid checks, and inspections can help ensure that the truck runs smoothly and reliably for years to come. **Finding Parts and Resources:**

Fortunately, many parts for the 1987 F250 are still readily available, both new and used. Online resources like eBay and specialized truck parts stores offer a wide selection of components. **Popular**

Modifications: Many enthusiasts enjoy customizing their 1987

F250s. Popular modifications include: • **Lift kits:** These kits increase the truck's ground clearance, making it better suited for off-road driving. • **Larger tires:** Upgraded tires provide better traction and grip in various conditions. • Performance upgrades:

Performance upgrades, such as exhaust systems, intake manifolds, and engine tuning, can boost the engine's power and performance.

Advanced FAQs

1. What are the common problems with the 1987 Ford Lariat XLT

F250 manual? Common issues include rust, worn suspension components, engine problems (especially with the IDI diesel), and electrical problems. **2. How much does a 1987 Ford Lariat XLT F250 manual cost?** The price of a 1987 F250 manual varies depending on its condition, mileage, and modifications. A well-maintained truck can sell for anywhere from \$5,000 to \$15,000 or more. **3. Is the 1987 Ford Lariat XLT F250 manual a good first car?** The 1987 F250 is not recommended for first-time car owners. It is a powerful and heavy vehicle, requiring experience and skill to operate safely. **4. *How do I find a reputable mechanic for a 1987 Ford Lariat XLT F250 manual?*** Look for a mechanic specializing in classic Ford trucks or who has experience with older vehicles. Online reviews and recommendations from fellow truck owners can be helpful. **5. What are the best resources for learning more about the 1987 Ford Lariat XLT F250 manual?** Online forums, truck enthusiast websites, and classic car magazines are excellent resources for learning about the 1987 F250. There are also many books and repair manuals available that can provide detailed information on maintenance and repair.

The Enduring Appeal of the Manual 1987 Ford Lariat XLT F-250

There's a certain magic that happens when you combine robust American engineering with the tactile connection of a manual transmission. For truck enthusiasts and those who appreciate a bygone era of automotive simplicity and strength, the 1987 Ford

Lariat XLT F-250 with a manual gearbox stands as a testament to a golden age. This isn't just a truck; it's a workhorse, a legend, and for many, a cherished member of the family. Let's dive deep into what makes this particular iteration of the F-250 so special, exploring its features, its driving experience, and why it continues to capture hearts decades later. The late 1980s was a pivotal time for Ford trucks. The F-Series had undergone a significant redesign for 1987, moving to the more aerodynamic, squared-off look that would define the generation. The F-250, the heavy-duty champion of the lineup, received these updates while retaining its core identity as a no-nonsense, capable machine. And when you couple that with the top-tier Lariat XLT trim and the highly sought-after manual transmission, you've got a recipe for an automotive icon.

Unpacking the 1987 Ford F-250 Lariat XLT: A Trim Level Defined by Comfort and Capability

The Lariat XLT trim level in 1987 was synonymous with luxury and refinement, especially for a truck. Ford understood that while their trucks were built for work, many owners desired a comfortable and well-appointed cabin for daily driving and longer hauls. The Lariat XLT wasn't just about flashy badges; it meant a significant upgrade in interior amenities. Think plush cloth or vinyl seating, often with lumbar support and a comfortable bench or bucket seat configuration. Power windows and door locks, which were still becoming standard on many passenger cars at the time, were often part of the Lariat XLT package. A tilt steering wheel made for a more customizable driving position, and upgraded sound systems,

sometimes with cassette players, provided entertainment. Even the dashboard received a more premium treatment, with a focus on driver ergonomics and ease of use. But the Lariat XLT wasn't just about creature comforts. It still underpinned the F-250's inherent capability. This trim level typically came equipped with Ford's robust Dana axles and heavy-duty suspension components designed to handle significant loads. Whether you were towing a sizable trailer, hauling lumber for a construction project, or simply needing a reliable vehicle for weekend adventures, the 1987 F-250 Lariat XLT had the grit to get the job done.

The Heart of the Beast: Engine Options for the 1987 F-250

Under the hood, the 1987 F-250 offered a selection of powerful engines, but for those seeking that raw, mechanical connection, the manual transmission was often paired with the more potent options. The most common and celebrated engine for these trucks was the 7.5-liter (460 cubic inch) V8. This big-block behemoth was a torque monster, delivering the kind of pulling power that trucks of this era were famous for. While this engine was also available with an automatic transmission, many enthusiasts actively sought out the manual variant. This allowed drivers to truly harness the engine's immense low-end grunt, downshifting to keep it in its sweet spot during demanding tasks or on challenging terrain. The satisfying thud and rumble of the 460, combined with the deliberate action of shifting gears, provided a driving experience that is increasingly rare today. Other engine options, like the 5.8-liter (351 cubic inch) V8

and even a 4.9-liter (300 cubic inch) inline-six, were also available. The inline-six, in particular, was known for its legendary durability and fuel efficiency (relative to the V8s, of course), and pairing it with a manual transmission created a truly workhorse setup. Regardless of the engine choice, the F-250 was built to last, with robust construction and components designed for longevity.

The Art of the Shift: Driving the Manual 1987 Ford F-250 Lariat XLT

Driving a manual 1987 Ford F-250 Lariat XLT is an experience that demands your attention – in the best possible way. It's a far cry from the effortless ease of modern automatics. This is where the driver becomes an integral part of the machine. The clutch pedal, often quite firm, requires a deliberate engagement. The gear shifter, typically a column-mounted affair in this era or a floor-mounted option, has a satisfying mechanical feel. Engaging the clutch and slotting into first gear is a ritual. Once underway, you feel every nuance of the road, every shift of weight as you accelerate and decelerate. The steering, while power-assisted, has a bit more heft and feedback than what you'd find in a modern vehicle. You feel the road surface through the steering wheel, giving you a genuine connection to the vehicle and its environment. Braking is also a more hands-on affair, requiring foresight and a firm foot. This isn't a truck that coddles you; it's a truck that invites you to engage. For those who enjoy the mechanical ballet of driving, who appreciate the direct control over the powertrain, the manual F-250 is an absolute joy. It's a constant reminder that you are in command, making every journey

a more active and rewarding experience. Many owners report a heightened sense of satisfaction after completing a task or covering a distance in their manual truck, knowing they've truly worked with the machine.

The Lariat XLT Interior: A Comfortable Command Center

As mentioned, the Lariat XLT trim brought a welcome dose of comfort to the rugged F-250. Stepping inside the 1987 model, you'd be greeted by a spacious cabin, designed to accommodate three across the bench seat or, in some configurations, individual buckets. The dashboard, with its clear and legible gauges, was functional and well-laid-out. Instrumentation typically included a speedometer, fuel gauge, oil pressure gauge, engine temperature gauge, and voltmeter, all presented in a clear and straightforward manner. HVAC controls were usually simple knobs and sliders, easy to operate even with work gloves on. The cassette player, a premium feature for its time, allowed for personalized soundtracks to accompany your work or travels. The materials used, while durable, aimed for a touch of class. Cloth upholstery offered a warmer feel than vinyl, and the overall impression was one of a well-built, comfortable environment designed for long hours behind the wheel. For a truck of this era, the Lariat XLT represented the pinnacle of interior refinement, making it a comfortable companion for both demanding jobs and leisurely drives.

Why the Manual 1987 F-250 Lariat XLT Remains a Sought-After Classic

So, why does this specific truck continue to hold such a special place in the automotive world? Several factors contribute to its enduring appeal:

- * **Robust Engineering and Durability:** Ford trucks from this era are legendary for their build quality and longevity. They were over-engineered by today's standards, built to withstand the rigors of heavy-duty use and last for hundreds of thousands of miles.
- * **The Manual Transmission Connection:** In an age of increasingly automated driving, the raw, mechanical feel of a manual gearbox is a significant draw. It offers a direct and engaging driving experience that many enthusiasts crave. The combination of a powerful V8 and a manual transmission is particularly desirable.
- * **The Lariat XLT Luxury Factor:** The premium trim level elevates the F-250 from a pure workhorse to a comfortable and well-equipped vehicle, making it suitable for a wider range of uses.
- * **Nostalgia and Simplicity:** For many, these trucks evoke a sense of nostalgia for a simpler time in automotive design and manufacturing. They represent a period before the complexities of modern electronics and a focus on intuitive, mechanical operation.
- * **Investment Potential and Collectibility:** Well-maintained examples of the 1987 F-250 Lariat XLT with a manual transmission are becoming increasingly collectible. Their rarity and desirability among enthusiasts can make them a sound investment.
- * **Capability for Work and Play:** This truck remains incredibly capable for towing, hauling, and off-road adventures. It's a vehicle that can still do the hard work it was designed for, while also offering

a comfortable and engaging ride.

Finding Your Own Piece of F-250 History

If the allure of the manual 1987 Ford Lariat XLT F-250 has captured your imagination, finding one requires patience and a keen eye. These trucks are often found on specialized classic car websites, forums dedicated to Ford trucks, and at auctions. When searching, pay close attention to the vehicle's condition, particularly the frame, drivetrain, and interior. Documentation of maintenance history is a huge plus. A thorough inspection is always recommended, ideally by a mechanic familiar with vintage trucks. Look for signs of rust, especially in common areas like the wheel wells, cab corners, and frame rails. Check the engine and transmission for any leaks or unusual noises. The manual transmission, in particular, should shift smoothly without grinding or excessive play. The 1987 Ford F-250 Lariat XLT with a manual transmission is more than just a vehicle; it's a piece of automotive history. It represents a time when trucks were built with unwavering durability, drivers were intimately involved in the driving process, and a top-tier trim offered genuine comfort without compromising capability. For those who understand and appreciate these qualities, this truck remains an unparalleled choice, a testament to the enduring legacy of American automotive excellence. It's a truck that demands respect and rewards its owner with an unmatched driving experience and a connection to a storied past. Whether you're a seasoned collector or a newcomer to the world of classic trucks, the manual 1987 F-250 Lariat XLT is a compelling proposition that continues to impress.

The 1987 Ford Lariat XLT F250: A Timeless Pickup with Enduring Appeal

The 1987 Ford Lariat XLT F250 stands as a notable chapter in Ford's legacy of rugged, reliable trucks, blending rugged utility with refined comfort in an era when American pickup culture was evolving. Designed as a mid-level variant of the F-Series, the Lariat XLT offered a unique balance of performance and style, particularly appealing to those who valued both function and a touch of sophistication on the road.

Building upon the foundational F250 platform, the 1987 Lariat XLT F250 introduced enhanced interior appointments, including upgraded upholstery, better sound insulation, and more thoughtful ergonomic layouts. While maintaining the robust mechanical core of its predecessors—typically powered by a durable 5.0-liter V8 engine—the truck delivered a smoother, more refined driving experience. Its chassis, engineered for tough terrain and heavy loads, remained up to the task, making it suitable for both rural work and urban commuting. The design emphasized practicality without sacrificing curb appeal, featuring clean lines and a distinctive grille that signaled Ford's commitment to both performance and class.

Key Features and Mechanics That Define Performance

At the heart of the 1987 Lariat XLT F250 was a powerful yet dependable powertrain. Most models came equipped with Ford's

5.0-liter OHV V8 engine, delivering ample torque and horsepower for towing and off-road capability. This engine, paired with a three-speed manual or optional four-speed automatic transmission, allowed drivers to engage the road with precision. The manual transmission option, in particular, appealed to enthusiasts and professionals who preferred direct control and a deeper connection to the driving experience.

Structurally, the Lariat XLT maintained a sturdy frame with front-wheel drive as standard and available four-wheel drive, enhancing traction in challenging conditions. Interior features such as a well-organized dashboard, optional power steering, and upgraded braking systems elevated both safety and comfort. Cabin space, while compact by modern standards, was thoughtfully laid out with room for essential tools and gear—making it ideal for tradespeople, farmers, and weekend warriors alike.

Applications and Real-World Utility

Owners of the 1987 Ford Lariat XLT F250 found versatility across diverse uses. Farmers and ranchers appreciated its towing capacity and durability, often outfitting it with utility beds or cargo carriers for hauling tools, livestock, or farm equipment. Urban and suburban users valued its balance of space and fuel efficiency, using it for commuting, weekend trips, or light commercial tasks. The truck's manual transmission option was especially prized by those who appreciated the direct feedback and responsiveness it offered, whether navigating city streets or rough country trails.

This model catered to a broad audience—from hardworking families

to independent mechanics—offering a dependable workhorse that grew with its owner’s needs. Its adaptability ensured it remained relevant beyond the 1980s, with many surviving decades as cherished vehicles restored or maintained with pride.

Benefits: Reliability, Simplicity, and Enduring Value

The enduring appeal of the 1987 Ford Lariat XLT F250 lies in its simplicity and strength. Without the complexity of modern electronics, it offered mechanical transparency—allowing owners to troubleshoot, repair, and maintain it with minimal professional help. This reliability, paired with low operating costs and strong resale value, makes it a favorite among collectors and restoration specialists. The manual transmission, though demanding more engagement, fostered a deeper connection between driver and machine, enhancing the driving experience with tactile feedback and real-time control.

For enthusiasts of classic American trucks, the Lariat XLT represents not just a vehicle but a piece of automotive history—one that embodies the spirit of rugged independence and practical innovation. Its blend of performance, comfort, and durability continues to inspire admiration, proving that quality engineering transcends time.

Future Outlook: A Legacy of Resilience and

Revival

As newer models enter the market, the 1987 Ford Lariat XLT F250 endures as a beloved icon among vintage truck aficionados. Its mechanical simplicity, robust build, and timeless design ensure it remains a sought-after platform for restoration and customization. With growing interest in retro aesthetics and mechanical authenticity, this model continues to inspire a new generation of owners who value proven durability and the joy of driving a piece of automotive heritage. Whether restored to showroom glory or kept in working condition, the 1987 Lariat XLT F250 stands as a testament to Ford's enduring legacy and the lasting allure of American truck culture.

The Enduring Appeal of the Manual

1987 Ford Lariat XLT F-250: A Trucker's Dream

In the pantheon of American pickup trucks, few hold the iconic status and enduring appeal of the Ford F-Series. Within that storied lineage, the 1987 F-250, particularly in its Lariat XLT trim and equipped with a manual transmission, represents a unique and highly sought-after specimen. This isn't just any old workhorse; it's a testament to a bygone era of robust engineering, raw capability, and a driving experience that connects the operator directly to the machine. For collectors, enthusiasts, and those who still value the utilitarian charm and mechanical integrity of a bygone era, the

manual 1987 Ford Lariat XLT F-250 remains a compelling proposition.

The late 1980s marked a significant transition for the Ford F-Series. The fourth generation, often referred to as the "bricknose" due to its distinctive front-end styling, was in full swing. The 1987 model year saw a significant refresh, bringing a more aerodynamic and modern appearance while retaining the rugged underpinnings that made these trucks legendary. The Lariat XLT trim, positioned at the upper echelon of the F-250 lineup, offered a blend of premium comfort and essential utility, making it the ideal choice for those who needed a truck that could conquer demanding tasks without sacrificing creature comforts.

But what truly sets the manual 1987 Ford Lariat XLT F-250 apart is its transmission. In an era where automatic transmissions were rapidly gaining popularity, opting for a manual gearbox in a heavy-duty truck like the F-250 was a statement. It signified a driver who appreciated control, engagement, and the inherent reliability that often came with fewer complex electronic components. Today, these manual transmission trucks are becoming increasingly rare, driving up their desirability among a discerning clientele.

The Fourth Generation F-Series: A Design Evolution

The 1987 F-Series represented a significant leap forward from its predecessors. The redesigned front fascia, with its flush headlights and a more integrated grille, gave the truck a decidedly more

contemporary look. The "bricknose" moniker, while sometimes used playfully, accurately describes the prominent horizontal lines of the grille and hood. This updated styling was not just aesthetic; it contributed to improved aerodynamics, a crucial consideration for fuel efficiency and highway cruising. The cab itself, while still embodying the utilitarian spirit of a pickup, offered improved ergonomics and a more spacious feel compared to earlier generations. The Lariat XLT trim further elevated the interior experience, featuring upgraded upholstery, better sound insulation, and more amenities like power windows and locks, making long hauls more comfortable.

Lariat XLT: Premium Comfort Meets Heavy-Duty Capability

The Lariat XLT trim level was Ford's answer to buyers who wanted their F-250 to be more than just a tool; they wanted it to be a comfortable and capable companion. For the 1987 model, this meant stepping up from the base XL or mid-range XLT trims. The Lariat XLT typically included features such as plush seating, often in velour or a high-quality vinyl, a more refined dashboard with additional gauges and a premium sound system. While these trucks were built for heavy-duty work, the Lariat XLT ensured that the driver and passengers wouldn't have to endure a spartan experience. This blend of luxury and ruggedness is a key reason why many 1987 Ford Lariat XLT F-250s are still cherished today, proving that a truck can be both a workhorse and a comfortable ride.

The Manual Transmission: A Driver's Connection

The heart of this truck's enduring appeal for many lies in its manual gearbox. While the exact transmission options varied, common pairings for the 1987 F-250 included robust four-speed or five-speed manual transmissions. These transmissions were built to handle the immense torque of Ford's legendary engines, such as the 7.5L (460ci) V8 or the 7.3L IDI V8 diesel. Driving a manual F-250 is an inherently engaging experience. It requires more driver input, demanding skillful clutch engagement and gear selection, especially when towing heavy loads or navigating challenging terrain. This direct connection to the drivetrain fosters a sense of mastery and control that is often lost in modern automatic vehicles. For those who appreciate the mechanical symphony of an engine and transmission working in harmony, a manual 1987 Ford Lariat XLT F-250 offers an unparalleled sensory experience. This mechanical interaction is a significant draw for truck enthusiasts and collectors who value authenticity and a tactile driving feel.

Powertrain Options: Built for the Haul

Under the hood of the 1987 Ford Lariat XLT F-250, buyers had access to some of the most powerful and reliable engines of the era. The gasoline options typically included the robust 5.8L (351W) Windsor V8 and the mighty 7.5L (460ci) V8. The 460, in particular, was a torque monster, perfectly suited for heavy towing and hauling. For those who prioritized longevity and fuel efficiency (relatively speaking for a heavy-duty truck), the 7.3L International Harvester

Diesel (IDI) engine was an excellent choice. Known for its durability and distinctive diesel rumble, this engine made the F-250 a true workhorse capable of racking up hundreds of thousands of miles with proper maintenance. The manual transmission was a natural fit for these powerful engines, allowing drivers to extract the maximum performance and control, especially when faced with demanding tasks like pulling a large trailer or navigating steep inclines.

The F-250's Undisputed Towing and Hauling Prowess

The F-250 designation itself signifies a higher payload and towing capacity than its F-150 sibling. When equipped with the right axle ratios and the robust manual transmissions, the 1987 Ford Lariat XLT F-250 was a true champion in its class. These trucks were designed to handle substantial loads, whether it was for commercial use, farm work, or recreational towing of boats, campers, or other equipment. The heavy-duty chassis, reinforced suspension components, and powerful braking systems all contributed to its impressive capabilities. The manual transmission played a crucial role in this, allowing drivers to precisely manage engine RPMs and torque, particularly when engaging in low-speed maneuvering or negotiating challenging towing scenarios. This inherent capability is a primary reason why many of these trucks are still sought after for their practical utility, even decades later.

The Collector's Market and Resale Value

In recent years, the market for classic and well-maintained trucks from the 1980s and 1990s has seen a significant surge. The manual 1987 Ford Lariat XLT F-250 is no exception. These trucks are increasingly appreciated for their:

1. **Mechanical Simplicity:** Compared to modern trucks, their mechanical systems are generally easier to understand and repair, making them attractive to DIY enthusiasts.
2. **Durability and Longevity:** The robust construction and reliable powertrains mean that well-maintained examples can continue to serve for decades.
3. **Authentic Driving Experience:** The manual transmission offers a tangible connection to the driving process, a feature highly valued by enthusiasts.
4. **Nostalgia:** For many, these trucks evoke fond memories of a simpler time and a different era of automotive design and engineering.
5. **Utility:** Despite their age, they remain highly capable for towing and hauling, making them practical for many users.

As a result, well-preserved examples of the manual 1987 Ford Lariat XLT F-250, especially those with lower mileage and in excellent condition, can command significant prices in the collector market. They represent a tangible piece of automotive history that is still functional and desirable.

Common Considerations for Buyers and Owners

When considering a manual 1987 Ford Lariat XLT F-250, potential buyers and current owners should be aware of several key points. Rust, particularly in the common areas like wheel arches, cab corners, and frame rails, is a primary concern for any truck of this vintage. Thorough inspection is crucial. The manual transmission, while generally robust, will require regular maintenance, including clutch checks and fluid changes. Engine maintenance is also paramount; these older engines thrive on regular oil changes, tune-ups, and attention to cooling systems. The IDI diesel engines, while durable, can be prone to glow plug issues or injector problems if not properly maintained. For Lariat XLT models, checking the functionality of power accessories, climate control, and the premium sound system is also important. Sourcing original or period-correct parts can sometimes be a challenge, but the strong aftermarket support for the Ford F-Series often mitigates this.

Conclusion: A Timeless Machine

The manual 1987 Ford Lariat XLT F-250 is more than just a used pickup truck; it's a piece of automotive heritage. It represents a perfect storm of iconic design, exceptional capability, and a driving experience that resonates with a specific, appreciative audience. The Lariat XLT trim level ensured it was a comfortable and well-appointed machine, while the manual transmission provided the raw, engaging connection that many purists crave. Whether it's for heavy-duty work, classic truck shows, or simply the joy of driving a true

American icon, the manual 1987 Ford Lariat XLT F-250 continues to hold its ground, proving that some things, like well-built trucks and a solid manual gearbox, only get better with age.

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Questions & Answers About manual

1987 ford lariat xlt f250

N o	Question	Answer
1	What are some common issues with the manual transmission in a 1987 Ford F250 Lariat XLT?	Common issues can include worn clutch components (like the throw-out bearing or clutch disc), synchronizer wear leading to grinding gears, and potential leaks from the transmission or transfer case seals. Regular fluid changes are crucial for longevity.
2	Is the manual transmission in a '87 F250 Lariat XLT known for its reliability?	Yes, the manual transmissions offered in the 1987 F250, particularly the common 4-speed and 5-speed options, are generally considered very robust and reliable when properly maintained. They were built for heavy-duty work.
3	What kind of manual transmissions were available for the 1987 Ford F250 Lariat XLT?	The 1987 F250 Lariat XLT typically came with either a 4-speed manual (like the NP435 'Granny Gear' transmission) or a 5-speed manual (like the ZF S5-47). The 4-speed is known for its low first gear, ideal for towing.
4	How can I identify the specific manual transmission in my 1987 F250 Lariat XLT?	You can often identify the transmission by its shifter pattern and the number of gears. The NP435 has a distinctive 'dogleg' first gear, while the ZF S5-47 has a standard 5-speed pattern. VIN decoding can also sometimes provide this information.

5	What's the recommended fluid type and change interval for the manual transmission in a 1987 F250?	Most manual transmissions from this era recommend a high-quality GL-4 or GL-5 gear oil. Refer to your owner's manual for the precise specification. A general interval for changing the fluid is every 30,000 to 50,000 miles, or more frequently if used for heavy towing.
6	Are parts still readily available for the manual transmissions in these trucks?	Yes, parts for the common manual transmissions like the NP435 and ZF S5-47 are generally still available. Clutch kits, bearings, seals, and even some internal components can be found from specialty truck parts suppliers and online retailers.
7	What's the 'Granny Gear' on the NP435 transmission, and why is it desirable?	The 'Granny Gear' is an extremely low first gear ratio (often around 6.69:1). It provides immense torque multiplication, making it exceptionally good for starting heavy loads from a standstill, steep inclines, and off-road crawling without bogging down.
8	How does the manual transmission affect fuel economy in a 1987 F250 Lariat XLT compared to an automatic?	Generally, a manual transmission from this era could offer slightly better fuel economy, especially with the 5-speed option, as it allowed the driver more direct control over engine RPMs. However, the difference might not be significant in such a heavy-duty truck.
9	What are the advantages of having a manual transmission in an older heavy-duty truck like a 1987 F250?	Advantages include greater driver control, especially for towing and off-roading, potentially higher reliability and simpler mechanics compared to older automatics, and often a more engaging driving experience. They are also generally easier and cheaper to repair.

10	Is it possible to upgrade the manual transmission in a 1987 F250 Lariat XLT?	While possible, it's less common and can be complex. Some owners might swap a stronger ZF 5-speed if their truck originally had a 4-speed. This usually involves modifying or sourcing a new driveshaft and clutch linkage. Swapping to an automatic is also an option but requires significant work.
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