

2022 toyota highlander xle manual

2022 Toyota Highlander XLE Manual: Exploring the Possibility and Alternatives

2022 Toyota Highlander XLE manual immediately sparks curiosity for enthusiasts and practical drivers alike who appreciate the control and engagement that a manual transmission offers. However, when it comes to the 2022 model year of the Toyota Highlander, particularly in the XLE trim, the question arises: does Toyota still offer a manual transmission option? Let's dive into what the 2022 Highlander XLE brings to the table, the reality of manual transmission availability, and how this midsize SUV stands out in its segment.

Is There a 2022 Toyota Highlander XLE Manual Transmission?

If you're hunting for a 2022 Toyota Highlander XLE manual, it's important to understand Toyota's current transmission offerings. The Highlander has long been a popular choice for families and commuters seeking reliability, space, and modern tech. Yet, in recent years, manual transmissions have become increasingly rare in SUVs, particularly in larger models like the Highlander.

For 2022, Toyota does not offer a manual transmission option for the Highlander in any trim, including the XLE. The entire Highlander lineup is equipped with an 8-speed automatic transmission paired to a 3.5-liter V6 engine, or in the hybrid variant, an electronically controlled continuously variable transmission (eCVT). This means the "2022 Toyota Highlander XLE manual" as a factory option is not available.

Why Has the Manual Transmission Disappeared?

Manual transmissions in SUVs and crossovers have been fading primarily due to market demand and technological advancements. Most drivers prefer the convenience and smoothness of automatic transmissions, especially in family-oriented vehicles like the Highlander. Additionally, modern automatics and CVTs now deliver better fuel efficiency and performance than manuals in many cases, making the manual less attractive from a manufacturer's perspective.

Toyota's focus on hybrid technology and fuel economy improvements also supports automatic and CVT transmissions, which integrate better with hybrid powertrains. So, while some sportier or compact vehicles may still offer manuals, the Highlander has transitioned fully to automatic-only gearboxes to meet consumer preferences and regulatory standards.

What Does the 2022 Highlander XLE Offer?

Even without a manual transmission, the 2022 Toyota Highlander XLE remains a compelling midsize SUV. This trim level strikes a perfect balance between affordability, comfort, and features, making it a favorite for many buyers.

Powertrain and Performance

The XLE comes standard with a 3.5-liter V6 engine producing 295 horsepower, paired with the smooth 8-speed automatic transmission. The power delivery is responsive, and the transmission shifts seamlessly, providing a comfortable driving experience whether you're navigating city streets or cruising on the highway. For those interested in fuel economy, the Highlander Hybrid XLE pairs a 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine with electric motors and an eCVT, offering excellent mileage without sacrificing power.

Interior and Technology Features

Inside, the Highlander XLE boasts a refined cabin with leather-trimmed seats, a power-adjustable driver's seat, and heated front seats—perfect for chilly mornings. The infotainment system includes an 8-inch touchscreen compatible with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, Bluetooth connectivity, and multiple USB ports to keep everyone connected on the go.

Safety is a significant highlight, with Toyota Safety Sense 2.5+ standard, including adaptive cruise control, lane departure alert with steering assist, and pre-collision system with pedestrian detection. These driver-assist technologies add peace of mind for families and daily commuters.

Alternatives for Drivers Who Want a Manual Transmission

While a 2022 Toyota Highlander XLE manual isn't available, those dedicated to owning an SUV with a manual transmission do have some alternatives worth considering.

Manual Transmission SUVs Worth Considering

- **Jeep Wrangler:** Renowned for its off-road prowess, the Jeep Wrangler still offers manual transmission options, delivering a rugged and engaging drive.
- **Subaru Crosstrek:** For those seeking a smaller crossover with all-wheel drive and a

manual gearbox, the Crosstrek is a strong contender.

- **Mazda CX-5:** While Mazda has been phasing out manuals, some earlier models offered a manual option paired with their sporty handling.

If the manual transmission is non-negotiable, these vehicles can provide the hands-on driving experience that the Highlander no longer offers.

Modifications and Aftermarket Options

For enthusiasts who absolutely want a manual, some car modifiers explore transmission swaps, but this is a complex and costly process. It involves custom fabrication, ECU reprogramming, and can affect warranty coverage. For a reliable, daily driver SUV like the Highlander, this route is generally impractical.

Why Choose the 2022 Toyota Highlander XLE Despite the Lack of Manual?

Even without the manual gearbox, the Highlander XLE remains a top choice for many. Here's why:

- **Comfort and Space:** With three rows of seating and ample cargo space, it's ideal for families and road trips.
- **Advanced Safety:** Standard Toyota Safety Sense features provide comprehensive driver assistance.
- **Technology:** User-friendly infotainment and connectivity options keep passengers entertained and drivers informed.
- **Reliability:** Toyota's reputation for long-term durability means fewer worries down the road.

If you prioritize ease of driving, fuel efficiency, and modern amenities, the XLE trim delivers an excellent package.

Driving Experience Without a Manual

Many drivers find that the 8-speed automatic transmission in the Highlander XLE offers smooth and responsive shifts, which contribute to a relaxing driving experience. The V6

engine provides enough power for highway merging and passing, and the suspension balances comfort with composed handling. For those new to automatics or who prefer convenience in traffic, this setup can be a better fit.

Summing Up the 2022 Toyota Highlander XLE Manual Discussion

While it's understandable to seek out the 2022 Toyota Highlander XLE manual for the driving engagement that only a manual transmission can provide, the reality is that Toyota has moved forward with automatic and hybrid transmissions exclusively for this model. The 2022 Highlander XLE shines in many other areas, from safety to comfort and technology. For those who are set on a manual transmission SUV, exploring alternative models might be necessary. Nonetheless, the Highlander XLE remains a versatile and dependable choice that meets the needs of many drivers today.

Frequently Asked Questions

Does the 2022 Toyota Highlander XLE come with a manual transmission option?

No, the 2022 Toyota Highlander XLE does not offer a manual transmission option. It comes standard with an 8-speed automatic transmission.

What are the key features of the 2022 Toyota Highlander XLE?

The 2022 Toyota Highlander XLE includes features such as a 3.5L V6 engine, Toyota Safety Sense 2.5+, tri-zone automatic climate control, an 8-inch touchscreen infotainment system, Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, and leather-trimmed seats.

Is there a manual transmission available for the 2022 Toyota Highlander XLE?

No, Toyota does not offer a manual transmission for the Highlander XLE or any trim in the 2022 model year.

What engine does the 2022 Toyota Highlander XLE have?

The 2022 Toyota Highlander XLE is equipped with a 3.5-liter V6 engine that produces 295 horsepower and 263 lb-ft of torque.

Can I get a 2022 Toyota Highlander XLE with all-wheel drive and a manual transmission?

The 2022 Toyota Highlander XLE is available with all-wheel drive, but it does not come with a manual transmission option.

What is the fuel economy of the 2022 Toyota Highlander XLE?

The 2022 Toyota Highlander XLE with front-wheel drive has an EPA-estimated fuel economy of 21 mpg city and 29 mpg highway. The all-wheel-drive version gets about 20 mpg city and 27 mpg highway.

Are there any hybrid options for the 2022 Toyota Highlander XLE?

Yes, the 2022 Toyota Highlander XLE is available in a hybrid version that combines a 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine with electric motors for improved fuel efficiency.

What safety features come standard on the 2022 Toyota Highlander XLE?

Standard safety features include Toyota Safety Sense 2.5+, which offers pre-collision system with pedestrian detection, lane departure alert with steering assist, adaptive cruise control, and road sign assist.

How does the 2022 Toyota Highlander XLE compare to previous model years in terms of transmission options?

The 2022 Toyota Highlander XLE continues the trend of offering only automatic transmissions, as manual transmissions have not been available on Highlander models for several years.

Additional Resources

2022 Toyota Highlander XLE Manual: A Closer Look at the Unavailable Transmission Option

2022 toyota highlander xle manual—this phrase might catch the eye of driving enthusiasts eager for a hands-on experience behind the wheel of Toyota's popular midsize SUV. However, an immediate and essential clarification is that Toyota did not offer a manual transmission option for the 2022 Highlander XLE trim, or for any Highlander model in that year for that matter. This reality shapes much of the conversation around the 2022 Toyota Highlander XLE manual, as it highlights the ongoing industry trend toward automatic and continuously variable transmissions (CVTs) in family-oriented crossover SUVs.

Nevertheless, the 2022 Toyota Highlander XLE remains a compelling choice within the midsize SUV segment, boasting a well-rounded package of features, performance, and technology. This article will delve into the specifics of the 2022 Highlander XLE, analyze the implications of its transmission choices, and provide a comprehensive understanding of what this model offers to prospective buyers.

The 2022 Toyota Highlander XLE: Transmission Overview

Unlike some compact and sportier vehicles where manual transmissions still hold appeal, the Toyota Highlander lineup prioritizes convenience, efficiency, and comfort, steering clear of manual gearboxes. The 2022 Highlander XLE is equipped exclusively with an 8-speed automatic transmission paired with a 3.5-liter V6 engine or a hybrid powertrain option that uses an electronically controlled continuously variable transmission (eCVT). This setup is designed to optimize fuel efficiency and provide smooth acceleration, characteristics valued by the Highlander's target demographic.

The absence of a manual transmission option in the 2022 Highlander XLE trim aligns with the broader market trend where manual gearboxes are increasingly rare in SUVs, particularly in mid- to large-sized models. Consumer preference has shifted toward automatics due to their ease of use, improved fuel economy (thanks to advances like more gears and CVTs), and enhanced driver-assist integration.

Why No Manual Transmission in the 2022 Highlander XLE?

Several factors contribute to Toyota's decision to omit a manual transmission for the Highlander XLE:

- **Market Demand:** The demand for manual transmissions has dwindled sharply in the SUV segment, especially in family vehicles where ease of driving is paramount.
- **Performance Optimization:** The 8-speed automatic transmission in the Highlander offers quicker, smoother shifts, better fuel economy, and reduced emissions compared to a manual.
- **Safety and Technology Integration:** Modern automatic transmissions better integrate with advanced driver-assistance systems (ADAS), which are increasingly prevalent in the Highlander XLE trim.

These reasons explain why the "2022 Toyota Highlander XLE manual" keyword is more of a curiosity or misconception rather than a representation of an actual vehicle variant.

Performance and Powertrain Options in the 2022 Highlander XLE

The 2022 Highlander XLE's powertrain lineup reflects Toyota's focus on balancing power, efficiency, and smooth operation. The standard engine for this trim is a 3.5-liter V6 producing 295 horsepower and 263 lb-ft of torque. This V6 is paired with the aforementioned 8-speed automatic transmission and is available with either front-wheel drive (FWD) or all-wheel drive (AWD).

Additionally, Toyota offers a hybrid variant of the Highlander XLE, combining a 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine with electric motors to generate a combined 243 horsepower. The hybrid model exclusively uses the eCVT system, which replaces traditional gear sets with a belt-driven system to provide seamless power delivery and maximize fuel economy.

Comparing Transmission Types in the Highlander XLE

- **8-Speed Automatic Transmission:** Known for its smooth shifting and quick response, this transmission enhances acceleration and highway passing performance. It contributes to an EPA-estimated fuel economy of approximately 21 mpg city / 29 mpg highway (FWD).
- **Electronically Controlled CVT (Hybrid):** The eCVT in the hybrid model prioritizes efficiency by continuously adjusting the gear ratio to keep the engine operating at optimal RPMs, resulting in EPA ratings around 36 mpg city / 35 mpg highway.

Both transmission types underscore Toyota's commitment to delivering reliability and fuel economy, but neither offers the tactile engagement of a manual gearbox that driving purists might seek.

Interior and Technology Features of the 2022 Highlander XLE

While manual transmission enthusiasts might be disappointed by its absence, the Highlander XLE compensates with a richly appointed interior and a robust suite of technologies. The model is known for its spacious three-row seating, accommodating up to eight passengers comfortably.

Key Interior Highlights

- Leather-trimmed seats with heated front seats for enhanced comfort
- Power-adjustable driver's seat with lumbar support
- Tri-zone automatic climate control for personalized comfort across all rows
- 8-inch touchscreen infotainment system with Apple CarPlay, Android Auto, and Amazon Alexa compatibility
- Multiple USB ports and a Wi-Fi hotspot capability

The Highlander XLE's interior design emphasizes user-friendliness and accessibility rather than sporty or driver-focused dynamics typically associated with manual transmission vehicles.

Safety and Driver Assistance Technologies

Toyota Safety Sense 2.5+ comes standard on the 2022 Highlander XLE, featuring:

- Pre-collision system with pedestrian detection
- Lane departure alert with steering assist
- Dynamic radar cruise control
- Road sign assist
- Blind spot monitoring with rear cross-traffic alert

These technologies complement the automatic powertrain systems, enhancing overall safety and convenience on the road.

Market Position and Competitors

In the midsize SUV category, the 2022 Toyota Highlander XLE stands out for its reliability, resale value, and hybrid option. However, rivals such as the Honda Pilot, Ford Edge, and Mazda CX-9 offer their own distinct features and transmission choices. For example, some competitors still offer manual transmissions in lower trims or smaller SUVs, but none in the midsize family SUV class that directly competes with the Highlander.

The Highlander XLE's focus on automatic transmissions reflects consumer preferences and Toyota's strategic positioning to attract families and commuters prioritizing ease of use and efficiency over manual control.

Pros and Cons of the 2022 Highlander XLE Without a Manual Transmission

- **Pros:**

- Seamless transmission shifts improve comfort for daily driving
- Better fuel economy and reduced emissions with automatic and CVT options
- Full integration with advanced safety and driver-assist features
- Spacious and tech-rich cabin designed for families

- **Cons:**

- Lack of manual transmission limits driver engagement for enthusiasts
- Some may find the hybrid eCVT less responsive than traditional gearboxes
- Higher trims can become costly with added features

Final Thoughts on the 2022 Toyota Highlander XLE Manual Query

While the search for a “2022 Toyota Highlander XLE manual” may stem from a desire for greater driver involvement, Toyota’s strategy clearly favors the practicality and efficiency of automatic transmissions in this segment. The Highlander XLE’s 8-speed automatic and hybrid eCVT powertrains deliver a compelling balance of power, economy, and smoothness, which aligns well with the expectations of its typical buyers.

For those prioritizing a manual gearbox, the Highlander XLE does not fulfill that niche. However, in terms of overall capability, comfort, and safety, the 2022 Highlander XLE remains a standout midsize SUV that meets the needs of families and commuters alike, proving that modern automatic transmissions can offer an engaging and reliable driving experience without the complexity of a manual shift.

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