AUTOMOTIVE

Honda D 15b7 Specs

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The Definitive Guide to the Honda D15B7 Engine: Specs, Performance, and Legacy

When it comes to reliable, efficient, and tunable four-cylinder engines, few names resonate as strongly with automotive enthusiasts as the Honda D-series. Among the most celebrated variants in this family is the **Honda D15B7**, a powerplant that powered millions of Honda Civics and del Sol models throughout the 1990s. Whether you are a seasoned mechanic, a first-time car builder, or simply a curious owner looking to understand what lies under the hood, a deep dive into the **Honda D15B7 specs**reveals a fascinating story of engineering efficiency. This article provides a comprehensive breakdown of this engine, covering its displacement, cylinder head design, block characteristics, performance potential, and common upgrades. By the end, you will have a complete understanding of why the D15B7 remains a beloved choice for budget-friendly builds and daily drivers alike.

What is the Honda D15B7 Engine?

Before exploring the technical depths, it is essential to place the D15B7 in its proper context. Produced by Honda from 1992 through 1995, the D15B7 is a 1.5-liter, inline-four-cylinder engine belonging to the broader D-series family. It was primarily installed in the fifth-generation Honda Civic (EG and EH chassis codes) as well as the first-generation Honda del Sol. The engine was designed to offer a balance between respectable fuel economy and adequate power for daily commuting. While it was not the highest-performing D-series engine—that honor goes to the VTEC-equipped variants—the D15B7 garnered a reputation for its indestructible bottom end and surprising tuning flexibility. Understanding the exact **Honda D15B7 specs**is critical for anyone planning to maintain, rebuild, or modify this engine.

Detailed Honda D15B7 Specs: Core Technical Data

Below is a thorough breakdown of the official factory specifications for the Honda D15B7. This data serves as the foundation for all performance discussions and maintenance procedures.

General Characteristics

- Engine Code: D15B7
- Production Years: 1992–1995
- Configuration: Inline-4, naturally aspirated
- Displacement: 1,493 cc (1.5 liters)
- Valvetrain: SOHC (Single Overhead Cam), 16 valves
- Fuel System: Multi-Point Fuel Injection (PGM-FI)
- Firing Order: 1-3-4-2

Bore, Stroke, and Compression Ratio

- Cylinder Bore: 75.0 mm (2.953 inches)
- Piston Stroke: 84.5 mm (3.327 inches)
- Compression Ratio: 9.2:1

The modest 9.2:1 compression ratio on the **Honda D15B7 specs**sheet indicates that the engine was designed to

run safely on regular unleaded fuel while offering a good foundation for mild forced induction upgrades.

Power and Torque Output

- Horsepower: 102 hp at 5,900 rpm
- Torque: 98 lb-ft at 5,000 rpm

These figures place the D15B7 in the modest power category by modern standards, but for a lightweight chassis like the EG Civic, the power-to-weight ratio was more than adequate for spirited daily driving.

Engine Block Details

- Block Material: Cast iron, closed-deck design
- Main Bearing Journal Diameter: 50.0 mm
- Rod Journal Diameter: 42.0 mm
- Piston Pin Diameter: 19.0 mm

The closed-deck cast iron block is one of the standout features on the **Honda D15B7 specs**list. This design provides exceptional rigidity and resistance to cylinder wall deformation, making the engine a favorite for turbocharging projects.

Cylinder Head Specifications

- Head Material: Aluminum alloy
- Combustion Chamber Volume: 35.0–36.0 cc (varies slightly by casting)
- Intake Valve Diameter: 31.0 mm
- Exhaust Valve Diameter: 27.0 mm
- Valve Angle: 45 degrees

The SOHC 16-valve cylinder head is known for its efficient combustion chamber design, which promotes good swirl and tumble for complete fuel burning.

OBD Classification: OBD1 vs OBD2

A crucial detail within the **Honda D15B7 specs**is its On-Board Diagnostics (OBD) classification. All D15B7 engines were factory-equipped with OBD1 electronics. This means the engine uses a distributor with an integrated ignition control module, a separate engine control unit (ECU) with a standard 4-pin connector, and simpler sensor designs compared to later OBD2 systems. The OBD1 nature is significant for tuners because these ECUs are easier to reprogram (via chip tuning or standalone units) than their OBD2 counterparts.

Head Gasket and Cooling System

The factory head gasket on the D15B7 has an internal bore diameter of approximately 75.5 mm, slightly larger than the cylinder bore. This creates a minor quench area, which helps prevent detonation. The cooling system on the **Honda D15B7 specs**sheet is a standard pressurized setup with a thermostat opening temperature of 82°C (180°F). Proper cooling system maintenance is vital, especially when performance modifications are applied, as the closed-deck block retains heat more efficiently than open-deck alternatives.

Fuel and Ignition System Details

Fuel Injectors

- Injector Size: 190 cc/min (approximately 18 lb/hr)
- Injector Impedance: High (12–16 ohms)

Ignition System

- Distributor: Direct-fire with internal coil
- Spark Plug Gap: 0.039–0.043 inches (1.0–1.1 mm)
- Ignition Timing: 16° BTDC at idle (with jumper wire connected)

The factory fuel injectors on the **Honda D15B7 specs**are sufficient for stock power levels but become a limiting factor when adding a turbocharger or supercharger. Upgrading to 240 cc or 310 cc injectors is a common first step in building a boosted D15B7.

Oil Capacity and Specifications

- Oil Capacity (with filter): 3.8 liters (4.0 quarts)
- Recommended Oil Viscosity: 5W-30 or 10W-30 (depending on climate)
- Oil Pressure: 50 psi at 3,000 rpm (warm engine)

Maintaining proper oil pressure is critical for the longevity of any D-series engine. The oil pump on the D15B7 is gear-driven and durable, but high-mileage engines may benefit from a pump replacement during a rebuild.

Performance Potential and Common Upgrades

One of the most compelling reasons to study **Honda D15B7 specs**is the engine's remarkable performance potential. Despite its humble output from the factory, the D15B7 can be transformed into a surprisingly potent powerplant with the right modifications.

Naturally Aspirated Builds

For those who prefer to stay naturally aspirated, the D15B7's cylinder head responds well to porting and polishing. Matching the intake and exhaust ports, upgrading to a higher-flowing camshaft (such as a Crower or Bisimoto unit), and installing a larger throttle body (from a D16 or B-series) can yield significant gains. A full bolt-on package—including a 4-1 header, high-flow catalytic converter, cold air intake, and a tuned ECU—can push output to approximately 125–130 hp at the flywheel.

Forced Induction: The D15B7 Turbo

This is where the **Honda D15B7 specs**truly shine. The closed-deck cast iron block can handle up to 8–10 psi of boost on a stock bottom end, provided the fuel system is upgraded and tuning is performed properly. A common budget turbo setup includes a T25 or T3 turbocharger, a top-mount or sidemount intercooler, a blow-off valve, and a set of 310 cc injectors paired with a tuned ECU or a standalone engine management system like a MegaSquirt or Hondata S300. With proper tuning, a turbocharged D15B7 can reliably produce 160–180 wheel horsepower, transforming a modest Civic into a genuine street performer.

Transmission Compatibility

The D15B7 was typically mated to either a **Cable-Operated S20 Transmission** or a **Hydraulic S40 Transmission** , depending on the vehicle chassis. The final drive ratio on most D15B7-equipped cars was 4.25:1, offering a good balance of acceleration and highway cruising. Enthusiasts often swap in a transmission from a D16 or B-series for shorter gearing and improved acceleration.

Common Issues and Reliability Concerns

While the D15B7 is widely regarded as a robust engine, no powerplant is without its weaknesses. Understanding these issues will help owners maintain their engines for years to come.

- Timing Belt Replacement: Honda recommends replacing the timing belt every 90,000 miles. Failure to do so can result in catastrophic engine damage, as the D15B7 is an interference engine.
- Distributor Failure: The factory distributor is prone to internal failure, particularly the ignition control module. Symptoms include misfiring, stalling, and no-start conditions.
- Valve Seal Leaks: As the engine ages, valve stem seals harden and crack, leading to blue smoke on startup and oil consumption.
- EGR System Clogging: Carbon buildup in the EGR passages can cause rough idle and poor fuel economy. Regular cleaning is recommended.

Comparing the D15B7 to Other D-Series Engines

To fully appreciate the **Honda D15B7 specs**, it helps to compare it against its sibling engines.

Engine	Displacement	Compression	HP	VTEC
D15B7	1.5L	9.2:1	102	No
D16Y8	1.6L	9.6:1	127	Yes
D16Z6	1.6L	9.2:1	125	Yes
D15B8	1.5L	9.8:1	92	No

The D15B7 sits in the middle of the D-series lineup. It lacks the VTEC variable valve timing system found on the D

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