

2CV BUYER'S QUESTIONS

Revision 5



Graeme Dennes

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What follows is an extensive, but arbitrary, set of questions which may assist a new 2CV buyer to decide to buy, or not to buy, a 2CV being offered for sale. The seller's answers may assist the buyer to better understand the details of the vehicle and its suitability, and to form a general opinion about the vehicle. The seller may not know all the answers but should be willing to assist with information where they can reasonably do so.

Most questions are suitable for a telephone discussion, but some are best answered by an on-site inspection.

Choose the questions appropriate to your needs, as some may not apply. Further, you may have additional questions to ask the seller.

1. While we are having our discussions about the vehicle for a possible sale, if another person should contact you and also show an interest in the vehicle, would you give me first option to buy it?
2. Is there any known rust in the vehicle? Areas such as floor pan, chassis, roof pillars, firewall, body, windscreen areas, boot areas, etc?
3. If no rust is present, is this the vehicle's original condition, or has rust been cut out and repaired?
4. Is the chassis original or a replacement?
5. If the chassis is a replacement, who did the replacement work?
6. Has the engine been rebuilt or replaced?
7. To your knowledge, has the vehicle previously been damaged in an accident?
8. What is the overall condition of the body panels? Paint work, dents, scratches?
9. Are the doors, bonnet, boot lid and all four guards fitting correctly?
10. Has the vehicle been repainted?
11. If so, is it painted in its original colour or a different colour (if known)?
12. What is the *true* year of manufacture of the vehicle?
13. Was it manufactured in left or right hand drive?
14. If imported in left-hand drive, who did the left-to-right conversion?
15. In what year was the vehicle imported into Australia?
16. What country was it imported from?
17. In which year was Australian compliance granted?

18. In which State was the vehicle located when Australian compliance was granted?
19. Does it have an Australian compliance plate fitted?
20. If so, what is the compliance number and date of issue?
21. In which Australian State was it first registered and in what year?
22. What was the first registration number?
23. In which State was the vehicle last registered, and when did it expire (if it has)?
24. What is the current (or the last) registration number?
25. When was it last driven on a public road?
26. What keys are provided with the vehicle? Door, Boot, Ignition? Fuel cap?
27. Does the engine start and run ok?
28. Are there any known problems with the engine and the gearbox?
29. Are there any known problems with the steering and brakes?
30. Are there any known problems with the suspension and the ride?
31. Are there any known problems with the electrical systems including wipers, lights, starter motor and alternator?
32. Do all the instruments operate correctly?
33. Is any maintenance or repair work needed before the vehicle could be safely and reliably driven to my home, such as for the brakes, steering, lights and tyres?
34. Where was the previous owner living when you bought it, and how long did the previous owner own it?
35. When did you purchase the vehicle?
36. Was it registered in your name?
37. Would you have any history of the vehicle's previous owners, locations, dates?
38. Are any spare parts included with the vehicle?
39. What was the odometer reading when you bought it?
40. What is the current odometer reading?
41. What is the estimate of distance travelled with the present engine if it was rebuilt or replaced?
42. What is the estimate of total vehicle kilometres?
43. Re the speedo housing. Is it the wider, horizontal style with the larger speedo dial, or the narrower, vertical style with the smaller speedo dial?
44. Does the car have electronic ignition fitted, and if so, what type?

45. Does it have disc brakes or drum brakes at the front?
46. Who did the service work on the vehicle, and how often was that done?
47. Are the service records available?
48. When was it last serviced and by whom?
49. Are rear seat belts fitted, and are they lap or lap-sash?
50. Has the car had door intrusion bars and headrests fitted?
51. For how many years have the tyres been on the car? (If not known, the tyres should show a four-digit date code in the form WWYY, such as 3715, ie, manufactured in the 37th week of 2015 .)
52. What is the condition of the wheel rims regarding paint, rust and damage?
53. What is the condition of the roof vinyl?
54. What is the condition of the windscreen, including cracks and chips?
55. Does it have a spare wheel?
56. Does it have its original jack, wheel brace and wheel chock?
57. Does it have its original owner's handbook?
58. Could you advise me the VIN number and the engine number. I can determine a number of vehicle details from these, such as the engine capacity, horsepower, carburettor type, wheel rim size, electrical system details, etc. The VIN number will also assist with gaining vehicle information and history from the UK's vehicle database if it was previously registered in UK.
59. Does the chassis show the VIN number? If so, where is it stamped?
60. Does the engine show the engine number? If so, where is it stamped?
61. Is there any known issue with the vehicle which could fail the roadworthy?
62. Would you be prepared to allow a mechanic to inspect the vehicle?
63. If the seller is in your home State, an option to discuss: If we did agree to proceed towards a sale, would you be prepared to obtain the roadworthy certificate? I would pay the roadworthy certificate cost.
64. If the seller is interstate and the car is not currently registered, an option to discuss: Because of distance, the seller may be prepared to assist you with the sale by obtaining the roadworthy certificate and the registration of the vehicle in their State as the vehicle owner, but at your roadworthy certificate cost and registration cost. After the purchase, register the vehicle in your own State, cancelling the interstate registration and receiving a pro rata credit on the interstate registration, as arranged between the seller and yourself.

By this means, the seller is taking on the responsibility for making the vehicle roadworthy in their State which should minimise any additional roadworthy work required by yourself to obtain a roadworthy in your State. It also saves you having to arrange a temporary driving permit for an unregistered vehicle. Determine these arrangements with the seller.

65. For Victorian buyers, the procedure which follows is offered as a suggestion only. There'll be similar arrangements in other States. Keep in mind that if it's a private sale, the vehicle is not protected by the Licensed Motor Car Trader laws, so as the buyer, you need to be satisfied with all the relevant details and records about the vehicle and its legal status. The receipt is the ideal document to formally record the key details of the vehicle and its status, including the transaction arrangements agreed by the parties.
- a. Obtain a receipt from the seller which includes the following information as a minimum: a heading stating Receipt for Purchase of Motor Vehicle, the seller's full name, address, phone number, driver's licence number and State of issue, the stated sale price of the vehicle, full vehicle details including the year of manufacturer, the vehicle model, body type, the vehicle colour, the VIN or chassis number as applicable, the engine number, the registration number and State (if current or expired) or the last registration number and State if no plates fitted (if known), the current odometer reading (in miles or kilometres as applicable), a statement by the seller that the seller holds title to the vehicle, a statement by the seller that there are no encumbrances on the vehicle (financial or otherwise), the purpose of your payment as being either *deposit*, *balance of payment*, or *payment in full*, as applicable, the reason for the payment, being for the purchase of the vehicle, the amount of the payment in words and in figures, your full name, address, phone number, driver's licence number and State of issue as the buyer, the seller's signature and the date of the payment in words. You may also wish to include statements such as "The seller agrees to register the car as ... etc, return of unused registration fee, etc, ..." or any other procedural or financial arrangements for which both parties agree. If a deposit on the vehicle is paid, you'll have more than one receipt for the transaction. VicRoads will later need to sight the original signed receipt(s) as your proof of purchase and ownership.
 - b. If the vehicle is unregistered, you will need to obtain a temporary permit commencing on the day you receive the vehicle to allow the vehicle to be legally driven on the road during the formal ownership transfer process, up to and until such time as the vehicle is registered in your name with VicRoads.
 - c. Suggest taking out full comprehensive insurance cover on the vehicle which starts on the day you receive the vehicle.
 - d. Check that the vehicle comprehensive insurance policy covers you while driving on a temporary permit, up to and until such time as the vehicle is registered in your name with VicRoads.

- e. Contact VicRoads to determine what documents you need to bring with you for the registration of the vehicle and the details of the procedure involved. Let them know if the vehicle is from interstate or from Victoria, its current registration status and if the vehicle is to be transferred to the Club Permit Scheme.
- f. Obtain a Victorian roadworthy certificate.
- g. Confirm with VicRoads if a VicRoads vehicle inspection is required. If it is, make an appointment, then take the vehicle and all documentation for the inspection.
- h. If the vehicle is being transferred to full registration status, take all documents to VicRoads and cancel the current interstate registration (if applicable) and register the vehicle.
- i. If the vehicle is being transferred to the Club Permit Scheme, contact your Club Secretary in the first instance to confirm the procedure. Cancel the current interstate registration (if applicable).

In summary, the answers to the questions above should assist a buyer to form a very good understanding of a vehicle being offered for sale, which will hopefully assist any purchase decision.

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Citroen Classic Owners' Club of Australia: [Technical Articles](#)

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28. 2CV Workshop
29. Better Fuel Hose Clamps – **applies to all vehicles**
30. Better UHF CB Car Radio Performance – **applies to all vehicles**
31. Ignition Coil Ballast Resistors – **applies to all vehicles**

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