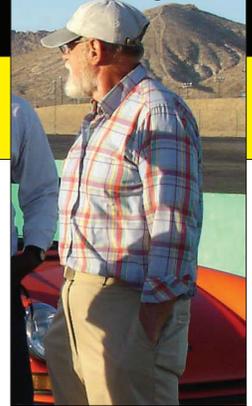


# Book Reviews for Porschephiles

by Bruce Herrington, Orange Coast Region

**PORSCHE 997 2004-2012: The Essential Companion**  
by Adrian Streather, Published May 2016 by Veloce Publications

Bruce Herrington



This is the fourth in a series of Porsche Companion books by Adrian Streather, starting with the 911SC. It is not a shop manual, but the mechanic will find much of value in this book, including a very complete table of error codes (29 pages worth!). The book is directed at the owner/operator of one of these superb vehicles, who will find it to be considerably more informative than the factory's Owner's Manuals. Everything a 997 owner needs to know plus a lot more is contained within the covers. Every model and version of the 997 is described in incredible detail (63 pages discuss just the year by year changes) wrapped in a text that is quite pleasantly readable for what might be erroneously considered merely a reference book.

For the owner with a Certificate of Authenticity, this book provides translation for all the Option Codes. The level of detail is mind blowing and includes a page and a half tabulation of the specifications for the 63 wheel (model/axle) setups involved in the series.

Any owner or potential owner who wants detailed information about the configuration of a car (by option number) or who wants to know the why of all the scheduled maintenance items, will find this book invaluable. A what-and-why book, not much of a how-to, it devotes more space to descriptions of glass panes than to IMS failure and RMS leaks.

Numerous tables provide incredible detail. You may not be anxious to know the difference in axle loading between a Carrera 4S Coupe with 6-speed manual, with 5-speed Tiptronic S, or a 7-speed PDK transmission, but if you come up with similarly arcane questions, you will no doubt find the answer in this book. Meticulous and detail-oriented as is Porsche AG, one wonders if even they have at their fingertips, all the data presented in this book.

*PORSCHE 997 The Essential Companion* is very thoroughly illustrated (albeit in black and white). The section on *power steering* has separate illustrations of filler and dipstick locations for M95.05/ M97.01, M97.76 and MA1.02 engine families. However, most of the illustrations are small; a magnifying glass can be helpful to fully understand the information being presented.

It is not a book that one will read like a novel, but it is so filled with information, and well enough written, that one can get hooked and read more than intended. This reviewer was even fascinated by the discussion of the three stage system for protecting the PDK clutch from overheating!

Twelve chapter headings include the usual, Engines, Transmission, Running Gear, Body etc., but also Systems, Troubleshooting, DIY Home Mechanic, and Enhancing Performance. Four appendices deal with: Identification data, Option codes, Diagnostics, and What does it all mean?

*PORSCHE 997 The Essential Companion* is paperback, printed on reasonably heavy, semi-gloss paper. Shop manual sized at 8-1/4 x 11 inches, it contains 704 pages, including 3, 4-column pages of intensive index. It should now be available for \$140 from your favorite bookseller

(ask for it) or from [www.motorbooks.com](http://www.motorbooks.com) (which comes up as a "Quarto Knows" page). Search for "997 2004"

The title says it all. If you are a current or potential 997 owner, this book is essential. Not something to read cover to cover, not a book to check on every day, but when you want specific information about some aspect of a 997, this book is the most efficient and effective resource available.

