

TECH TIPS

Here are the editors' choices for this month's **Tech Tips** prizes. Each winner will receive a gift certificate and a list of twelve special tools for various imports from **Schley Products, Inc.** The gift certificate is good for the tool of his choice.

This month's list of selections all dealt with electrical problems. For more tips on wayward electrons in specific vehicles, see our **Electrical Service** article in this same issue. Our thanks to all the contributors. Keep up the good work!

VOLKSWAGEN VOLTAGE STABILIZER

When installing a diode to protect an electrical circuit or component (**Electrical Service**, April 1990, page 21), a diode with a higher amperage and voltage rating can be safely substituted. This is one case where more really is better.

The 1 N 4006 diode recommended in your article to protect the Volkswagen dash gauge voltage stabilizer has a 2.5 amp, 1000 volt rating. A 1 N 5408 diode with a 6 amp, 1000 volt rating can also be used and will stand up better to random circuit overloads.

Editor's Note: Volkswagen specialists tell us the in-line diode's polarity mark or cathode end must be installed as shown to do its job.

Carl Williams
Augusta, Georgia

VOLVO ENGINE WIRING HARNESS

Many Volvo 240 electrical problems can be traced to the engine wiring harness where it passes under the crankshaft pulley. The harness carries wiring for the charging system, ignition, and oil pressure sending switch. Damaged wiring caused by engine vibration and heat can produce any or all of the following symptoms:

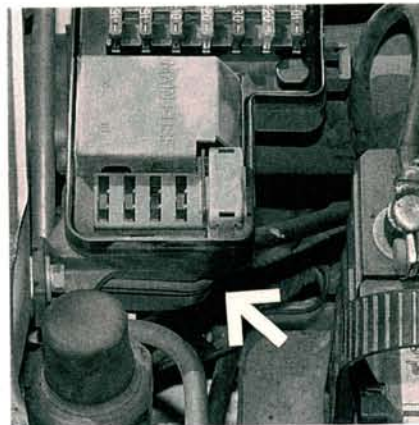
- Intermittent or no charging system operation
- Intermittent engine stalling or no start

- Incorrect oil pressure warning light operation

Peel back the harness covering and inspect the wiring for open or broken strands. Remove the damaged section of wire, then solder a new wire of the same gauge into place. Protect the solder joints with shrink tubing, then make sure the wiring harness is routed so that it can't rub against the engine.

Bob Howlett
The Swedish Solution
Orange Village, Ohio

WINKING HONDA HEADLIGHTS



A poor ground connection can cause either one or both of the hidden headlights on 1986-89 Honda Accords and 1985-90 Preludes to open and close at random. The problem is caused by a poor ground connection to the retractor motors and retractor relay. To correct this problem:

- Disconnect the negative battery cable.
- Remove the main fuse box bolts, then move the fuse box to one side.
- Locate the headlight retractor ground wiring in the right inner fender area.
- Remove the ground wiring, clean the terminal end and grounding surface, apply a dab of dielectric grease, then reinstall the ground wiring.
- Reinstall the fuse box.

Keith Doyle
Hondatronics
Las Vegas, Nevada