

Wheels: An 3-mail from John says, “I have a 1993 Mercury Grand Marquis LS with about 108,000 miles and I just purchased it. I have two problems. First, the windshield wipers stay in the upright position when turned off. The wipers work perfectly while they are in use, but when I turn them off, they go straight up. Second, the car consumes about a quart or more of oil a week. There is no leak on the driveway.”

Halderman: The most likely cause of the wiper problem is a defective wiper motor assembly, which usually includes the electronic circuit board that controls its operation. While you may be able to get it repaired, it is more likely that the entire unit will need to be replaced. The oil usage could be due to several things including:

1. Worn valve stem seals
2. An internal intake manifold gasket leak where the oil can flow from the valley area of the block into the intake ports. Neither of these faults will be detected by a visual inspection.

