

Wheels: An e-mail from Debra says, “I have a 1997 Honda CRV. In the summertime, the key sticks in the ignition, and I have difficulty removing it. I was told by the Honda people that the problem is simply that the wheels are not straight, but that is not the problem. I often have to crank the car and move it multiple times before I can get the key out. I have noticed that even though the car is in park, after I partially turn the key, the green light appears on the D4 gear. What advice can you give me to avoid further problems of this nature?”

Halderman: The first thing I thought about was that the gear selector is not moving the transmission fully into park when the selector is moved. I would first try to engage park with a firm engagement. If that does not seem to work, then the selector linkage could be slightly out of adjustment. Other possible reasons include:

1. Lack of lubrication in the lock cylinder
2. A defective ignition switch
3. A defective or worn lock cylinder

I would try spraying WD-40 into the lock cylinder (where the key goes). If this helps, then you know that the problem is the lock cylinder.

