

Wheels: We have a question from a Dayton reader who asks what could be wrong with his 1997 Chrysler Sebring. The check engine light is on, the speedometer does not work, and the automatic transmission stays in second gear. It will not upshift even at high speeds. Any ideas? Is a new transmission needed?

Halderman: While it is possible that a new transaxle is needed, it is likely that only the vehicle speed sensor is at fault. The vehicle speed sensor is typically located on the output shaft of the transmission or final drive unit on a front-wheel-drive transaxle. The voltage signal from this sensor is sent to the powertrain control module (PCM) where it is used to operate the speedometer and to control the shift points of the automatic transmission. Because the speedometer is not working, a problem with the vehicle speed sensor is indicated, and without this sensor working, the transmission will default to second gear only operation. I suggest you take your vehicle to an automatic transmission expert for a complete diagnosis of the sensor and the wiring associated with this sensor.

