

Wheels: Tom writes, “I have a 2002 Ranger, 4.0, 4-speed auto transmission with 10,000 miles. Recently at start up, I’m experiencing a “jerk” only when the transmission is put into reverse. After the truck is driven to operating temps, the shift into reverse is as smooth as the shift into drive at any temperature. If the truck sets for a couple of hours after being driven, it sometimes jerks when shifting into reverse. I took the vehicle to the local Ford dealer who said the electric transmission diagnosis monitor parameter identification (PIDs) and line pressures checked OK and found no slop in the driveline. Do you have any suggestions?”

Halderman: The jerk you are feeling is called “garage shift” and is often a normal condition. The engine speed is higher when it is cold. Some vehicle manufacturers modify the valve body to create a slight slippage to occur when shifting into reverse. I have two thoughts on the subject: 1) Allow the engine to warm slightly when cold before shifting into reverse. 2) Applying lubricant to the splines of the drive shaft yoke may help.

