

Wheels: A question from Steve in Columbus asks, “My 1997 Mazda Protégé started making “clunk” and/or “pop” sounds from the right front when braking and/or steering to the right. Do you think it could be a brake caliper, a half-shaft universal or a suspension component?”

Halderman: I checked the archives of iatn (www.iatn.net) where I have access to the database for thousands of vehicle repairs and I found very few for Mazdas. The one that best matched your concern was due to a faulty right front wheel bearing. Of course, this noise could also be caused by a broken stabilizer link or defective bushing or many other items in the front of the vehicle. You do not have to know what is wrong. Your service technician should perform a test drive and confirm the noise, followed by a thorough visual inspection.

