

**Wheels:** Brian of Amelia writes, “My wife owns a 1997 Honda del Sol, which we do our best to maintain regularly. The car has 53,000 miles on the odometer, but the dealership technicians who work on the car tell us we don’t need to replace the brake pads or shoes. While I’m not anxious to spend the money, how much longer should the factory original brakes be expected to last?”

**Halderman:** The brakes on some brand of vehicles do seem to last longer than the brakes on other brands. Many import brands of vehicles are designed to brake from high speeds commonly allowed in Europe. You are wise to have them inspected regularly and have them replaced when they have less than 0.060 inches of lining remaining. This measurement is about the thickness of a nickel and results in a saying in the automotive service industry, “You should always have at least a nickel’s worth of lining remaining.” Most disc brakes are equipped with a wear sensor that will make a grinding or chirping sound if the brake pads need to be replaced. The brakes on many Hondas last until over 70,000 miles and in many cases the rear brakes needed replacing first. It depends on how you use your vehicle and your driving habits.

