

Wheels: An e-mail from Gene asks, “I have a 1994 Taurus, 3.8 automatic with ABS brakes. I have attempted to replace the rear pads, which are disc brakes. I cannot get the caliper piston completely retracted. Using the special tool, I can only get it to go halfway in. The piston will rotate but not retract. I have removed part of the brake fluid, made sure the emergency brake is off, and the cable is disconnected from the caliper. Is this repair one that I should have a repair shop do or am I overlooking a simple step in the repair process?”

Halderman: I do not know exactly how the piston is retracted in your vehicle, but as I recall it is straight forward. I would recommend that the bleeder valve be opened to allow the brake fluid to flow out rather than being forced back up the system to the antilock brake hydraulic unit. Sometimes you have to rotate the piston counterclockwise instead of clockwise to retract the piston. On some vehicles, simply retract the piston using a C-clamp and the old pad to squeeze the piston back into the bore; again, with the bleeder open. If you do not feel comfortable opening the bleeder valve, I would recommend that you see a professional.

