

Wheels: Dennis writes, “I have 1995 Ford Windstar with a 3.8l engine. Over the time I've owned the vehicle, I have had to rebuild the transmission, replace the speed sensor, and transaxle range sensor. The current problem is the speedometer. It will go from 60 to 80 to 70, etc., but won't stay at an even speed. Any help will be appreciated.”

Halderman: The speedometer in your vehicle is electronically controlled. If there were a bad alternator, it could produce what is called ripple voltage, which is some alternating current that is being sent to the battery and all of the components in the vehicle. Have your service technician or shop check for excessive AC voltage. With the engine running and the lights on to provide an electrical load, the maximum AC voltage should be 0.4 volt. If over this amount, then the alternator should be replaced. I had a similar case where the speedometer would indicate miles per hour sitting at idle and when the engine speed increased, so did the reading on the speedometer. A new alternator solved that problem and I hope it solves your problem also.

