

Wheels: Wayne writes, “I have a 2001 Jetta TDI (diesel), which has an on going problem with AM reception. It started at about 20,000 miles and the antenna was replaced during warranty (just the mast I believe), but the problem continues. Many times it is like someone is turning a switch as reception will be fine and then so full of static you can hardly hear it, and then in a split second will be perfectly fine. FM is always good. It happens on all AM stations and the radio was replaced at 40,000 miles for another issue but the reception stayed the same. I suspect an antenna grounding/amplifier issue, but want your opinion as I don’t want to start ripping out the headliner with all associated costs until I’ve looked at other possible causes. The dealer is no help except to say it will be expensive to find.”

Halderman: I think you are correct that the problem is in the antenna. FM does not need an antenna like AM does and it must be grounded to the body. Sometimes just tightening the mast will help. If that does not work, I would try to add another ground wire from the base of the antenna to a good chassis or body ground.

