

**Wheels:** Ian writes, “Last year my mom found a car for me at the local auto auction and nothing with the car has gone right. Since I have gotten it, the headlight motors have gone out, the cruise control has been shot, as well as the traction control has gone out. Another problem was the driver’s side window motor going out. What might be wrong with the traction control and could all of these problems be related?”

**Halderman:** The traction control light indicates that there is a fault in one or more wheel speed sensors used by the computer to detect wheel spin during acceleration. All of these problems, except for the driver’s window motor, could be related, especially if they all share the same ground or wiring connectors. Because the other power windows work, the most likely cause of the driver’s window motor not working is a poor electrical connection or a defective motor. It would be wise to take the vehicle to a professional who can check for diagnostic trouble codes for the traction control and consult a wiring diagram to see if the cruise control and headlight motor problem could be related. In your letter, you didn’t state the brand or year of your vehicle, but on General Motors Corp. vehicles, if the high-mounted stop light bulb is burned out, the cruise control will not work. This could also cause the traction control warning lamp to be on in many cases.

