

Wheels: Graham from England states in his e-mail, “I believe that the Honda model equivalent of my car is the Concerto. I’ve had this ’91 hatchback since July and it has always started well. As the colder weather started to move in, the car adopted a strange starting regime where it would not fire during cranking but may fire and run the moment I released the key. This weekend with even cooler weather, that has changed and it solidly refuses to fire under any conditions of cranking and pausing except it will fire and pucker straight away from a bump start!

I have had the battery checked both under external load and cranking conditions and it was declared good as it held 9.0 volts on the load test and about 9.5 volts on cranking. What things should I look at first?”

Haldeman: I think your problem with starting may include more than one cause. Because the engine starts when you “release” the key indicates to me that there is a fault in the ignition switch. You stated that the battery voltage tested at 9.0 volts under a load test and 9.5 volts during cranking. This is too low. The battery may be discharged or sulfated. Battery voltage should be above 9.6 volts during a high-discharge-rate battery test.

