

Wheels: A recent e-mail says, “If this problem has been in your column, I missed it. I own a 1999 Nissan Altima with remote keyless entry. Often when the lock button is pressed, the doors lock, but the car goes into panic mode. The flashing lights and blowing horn WILL NOT STOP as I am pressing the buttons, to no avail until the key is put in the ignition and the car is started. Why is this happening?”

Halderman: You have to think like a computer. A computer is programmed to act if the locks are moved mechanically without the use of a key or the remote keyless entry unit. The computer “thinks” that someone is moving the locks and will set off the alarm. I do this myself sometimes when the windows are down, yet the doors are locked. I reach in and simply unlock the door, but because I didn’t use my key in the door or the remote, the alarm was sounded. Before trying to have this problem repaired, try to figure exactly what you do to actuate the alarm. If in doubt, use the remote (or key) to unlock the vehicle, rather than using the door button.

