

Wheels: An e-mail from Paul says, “My Acura has a 1.8 L DOHC with 193,000 miles. In the last 6 months, I have had a starting problem but only in hot weather. Sometimes it is after leaving the car in the sun for hours and sometimes when I just stop for gas. If I wait long enough or push it to a shady spot, I can get it to start. It seems to me that there is a sensor and for lack of a better word, a “HOT mode sensor” that is shutting off the fuel pump. What do you think? It’s happened about 20 times in the last 6 months.”

Halderman: I searched the archives of the International Automotive Technicians Network (www.iatn.net) and discovered that the main relay is the most likely cause. The heat causes an increase in electrical resistance reducing the amount of current that can flow through the relay to power the fuel injectors and other components. The main relay is usually located in a fuse panel under the hood.

