

**Wheels:** Don asks two questions, “1. I have a 1999 Grand Marquis with 50,000 miles which has developed a ping with any relative hard acceleration. I’ve tried using half-and-half middle grade/low grade gas and this helps some. I really don’t think this is a solution. Comments?  
2. With all the engine oil filters now available, how do you decide on which one to use, or should you stay with the car manufacturer’s recommendation?”

**Halderman:** You are correct that you should not have to use high-octane gasoline to prevent engine pinging noise during acceleration. The most likely cause of this concern is a lack of flow through the exhaust gas recirculation (EGR) system. Often, the exhaust passages get clogged and the only way to correct this problem is to take off the throttle body and clean the passages and tubes, as well as the EGR valve itself. This is usually not a do-it-yourself project.

Regarding the oil filter question, the research I have read indicates that while there may be some difference in the filtering ability of various oil filters, the most important thing is to replace it and the oil regularly. I use what the factory uses for all of my vehicles.

