

**Wheels:** An e-mail says, “I have a 1992 Honda Accord with 215,000 miles and still a good running car. Last week it started getting a ping or knock under heavy acceleration with 93 octane gas or additives haven’t helped. There is no smoke or antifreeze in the oil. The compression is good for the mileage, so I think that maybe the head gasket might be blown. Is there any way to tell without taking it apart?”

**Halderman:** There are several things that could be causing the ping or knock including clogged exhaust gas recirculation (EGR) passages (very common) or excessive combustion chamber deposits. To check for a blown head gasket, which is less likely to cause ping or knock, use a combustion gas tester that can be purchased at most automotive parts stores or have other tests performed at most repair shops or dealers. I would recommend that the engine be de-carbonized and the problem evaluated afterward. According to the archives of the International Auto Technicians Network ([www.iatn.net](http://www.iatn.net)), the most common source of your problem is clogged EGR passages.

