

Wheels: A reader asks, “I have a 1990 Ford F250 with a 351 engine. The truck idles okay except when I go on a highway at about 65 mph and then get off the highway. It then wants to stall for a while and then clears up. Could it be the fuel pump?”

Halderman: The most common cause is a dirty throttle plate. When the engine is operating at highway speeds, the idle air control is open. When the engine returns to idle, the IAC has to relearn the correct speed. While it could be a fault with the IAC itself, I would suggest that you clean the throttle plate first using throttle-body cleaner and a shop cloth after removing the air inlet hose from the throttle body. Use at least a half a can of cleaner. To relearn the IAC, disconnect the negative battery cable, and then depress the brake pedal. The brake lights will drain any charges in the computer and capacitors. Reconnect the battery cable and start the engine and allow it to idle for about 15 minutes to relearn the correct idle speed.

