

Wheels: Homer sent an E-mail message and asks how the idle can be reset after the battery was replaced on his 1991 Chevrolet Beretta. He read that the idle air control has to be reset through the diagnostic connector. Homer wants to know what type of computer is necessary to make this adjustment and how is the adjustment made?

Halderman: The idle speed is computer controlled on your Chevrolet Beretta and on almost every fuel-injected vehicle. Some General Motors' vehicles such as yours equipped with the 2.8L or 3.1L, V-6 uses the position of the idle air control valve to regulate fuel delivery. In other words, the engine will not idle or run correctly until the computer has "learned" the proper idle position after it was lost when the battery was replaced. The service information you read about that this idle air control can be reset through the diagnostic connector is correct. A relearn procedure is part of the Tech I General Motors Corp. scan tool. This expensive tool is not something that the average vehicle owner is likely to own but it is available at any General Motors Corp. dealership and many independent garages.

Wheels: Is there anything else that can be done to correct his idle problem without having the idle air control reset using a scan tool?

Halderman: Yes. The vehicle computer can relearn the correct idle speed by itself. The procedure outlined in the service manual for your vehicle specifies that the engine be at idle speed with the gear selector in the drive position for 5 minutes. In other words, the idle should return to normal if the vehicle is simply driven normally for a period of time.

