

**Wheels:** In an e-mail, Mike asks, “My friend has a 1993 Tempo. The car will start with no problem for a week, and then for 1-4 days it will just crank. The next day it will start. This has been this way for a year. We asked a guy that we have had work on our cars and he replaced the coil and gave it a tune up another time. Still, the same problem exists. I called the Ford dealer and they said it’s the mass air flow sensor. The guy that works on our cars says that cannot be the cause because the engine runs okay when it starts. If that’s what it was, then it would never start. We put some starting fluid in the throttle body and it started. I’m thinking that it’s the engine control module. If you have the time, can you give me your opinion?”

**Halderman:** A some ideas come to mind:

1. It appears that fuel is not reaching the engine, but it starts if starting fluid is used. This means the computer is okay, and that the problem is in the fuel delivery system, fuel pump, fuel filter, etc.
2. Replace the fuel filter first and see if that takes care of the problem.
3. If the new fuel filter doesn’t work, check or replace the fuel pump.
4. Often the rubber hose from the pump itself to the outlet gets a hole in it. The gas then just goes back into the tank. This hose can be easily replaced so it may be a simple and low cost repair.

