Wheels: Harry of Englewood asks about the new Bosch platinum +4 spark plugs that he has seen advertised and wants to know if they would work OK in his 1995 Mercury Grand Marquis.

Halderman: The Bosch spark plugs that you mention do have a unique design feature. The actual distance the spark travels is over 0.060 inches slightly longer than in conventional spark plugs. However, the unique aspect of this design is that about one-half of this distance that the spark is traveling over the porcelain is at the end of the plug. The research I have read on these plugs indicates that they perform well but I do not have any information on the long-term benefits or possible problems associated with these plugs. You can never go wrong using the spark plug recommended by the vehicle manufacturer.

