

Wheels: Dee Dee of Huber Heights has idle problems and a gasoline smell from her 1994 Ford Tempo with 43,000 miles. The idle control valve was replaced yet the problems still occur. Any suggestions would be appreciated.

Halderman: In your long letter you also indicated that the engine seems sluggish at times and acceleration is weak. Because of your multiple problems, I checked the archives at International Automotive Technician Network (IATN) website (www.iatn.net) and found several examples of similar problems with your make, model and year of vehicle.

NOTE: The archives consist of over 87,000 technician E-mails sent in by service technicians (over 27,000 at the present time are members) from throughout the world. Before the Internet, this resource was not available and the archive is available to members for just a sponsor fee of \$10 per month.

According to the experience of these technicians who have successfully corrected similar problems on similar vehicles, the most likely fault areas include:

- **Wiring and connector problems** – Operate the engine and start gently wiggling wires and connectors. A fault due to corrosion could cause many of the problems you describe. If the engine operation changes when a wiring connector or harness is moved, then carefully inspect all wiring in that area for a fault.
- **A clogged fuel filter** behind the fuel inlet fitting on the throttle body. This is another simple and easy component that should be checked and replaced if necessary.
- **There was a recall for a faulty fuel injector** for your vehicle. Have your service technician check to see if the injector itself is working correctly or if the injector has been replaced. Again, a fault with the injector could explain all of your problems.
- Several service technicians reported that the Ford Tempo that they serviced was fixed by **replacing the stator assembly in the distributor** especially if it is black in color.

Other technicians reported repairing problems similar to yours by replacing the **throttle position sensor** or by repairing a **poor engine-to-body ground wire**.

