

**Wheels:** Charles from Xenia writes with an update from a previous column about a Honda using oil. “I just read your column and answer to the 1994 Accord with oil consumption. I worked on just Honda autos for more than 25 years. I saw this problem often. Usually, the customer will ask for valve stem seal replacement. Not once did this effect a repair. This problem is OLD OIL in the motor, which sticks the oil control rings in their grooves. Early on, the oil control rings free up as the pistons come to operating temperature. The noted symptom is oil smoke from the exhaust during warm up. Because the engine is now using oil, the owner adds oil but does not get it changed. This exacerbates the problem and adds to the ever increasing oil consumption. There are two solutions that I know of: The first is a re-ringing of the pistons after a complete cleaning of the ring grooves – very expensive repair. The second solution is 3 or 4 oil changes at the point when the oil is down 1 quart. The catch that makes the changes work is the use of RISLONE with the oil change. If for some unknown reason this does not work (it has always helped in my experience), what has been the cost? Almost nothing. Not once did I ever see completely plugged oil returns on a Honda engine.”

**Halderman:** Thanks for writing and for providing your experience on Hondas. While I normally do not recommend the use of oil additives because vehicle manufacturers do not recommend their use, in this case, I agree that it is certainly worth trying. Too bad that the owner failed to change the oil regularly. As you said, the fix could be very expensive and likely to exceed the value of the vehicle. As my father always told me “oil is cheaper than machinery.”

