

Wheels: A recent e-mail says, "I own a 1995 Isuzu Rodeo with a V-6. It has 105,000 miles on it and for the last 10,000 miles or so, has become quite noisy with a loud ticking noise in the engine. I have done a little investigation on the Internet about this issue and it seems that many are doing this and the consensus is it is rocker arms needing replacement. I called the local dealer, thinking that this is a common problem, and they said it could be a "valve adjustment" needing done to the tune of \$600. I was not aware that a valve adjustment could be done on these. The car runs extremely well and it is only the noise that has become annoying. What do you think?"

Halderman: I did a search of the archives of the International Automotive Technician Network (www.iatn.net) and found several similar problems. Most of the cases I saw involved a lack of oil to the valve train (rocker arm shaft or rockers). Some cases involved replacing the oil pump to solve the problem, which is a major job on this engine. While the dealer may be right that an adjustment may take care of the problem, I tend to think like you that there must be wear somewhere to cause the noise and that these worn parts should be replaced. One case was fixed by flushing the engine and using Mobil 1 synthetic engine oil. Another case involved cleaning the oil passages in the cylinder head. Regardless, this problem will likely involve more expense that you may be willing to spend.

