Wheels: An e-mail from Vittal asks, "Why use timing belts which need to be replaced, albeit infrequently, instead of timing chains, which seem to last for the life of a car?"

Halderman: The main reason is noise. A timing belt is lot quieter than a timing chain. Also, a belt cost less than a chain. Honda has moved from a belt to a chain and most others are also, due to this concern about belt life and what can happen if it fails.

