

Wheels: An e-mail from Greg says, “I have a 1994 Ford Ranger pickup with a 4-cylinder engine and 5-speed transmission. I have approximately 55,000 miles on it. I have had trouble lately getting it in gear if it has sat either overnight or sometimes at the end of the day when I leave work. It will pull out of first gear with no problem, but then I can’t get it into any gear without some difficulty. One thing I noticed was that if I can’t get it into gear, I can shut off the engine, restart it, and I can then put it in gear and won’t have any problems for a while. I don’t know what significance turning the engine off and then back on makes but it works. I don’t have this problem all the time, just occasionally. I’ve spoken to the dealer, but they have no idea what the problem is without me bringing it in and they would troubleshoot it, but only if it messed up while they had it. Any ideas?”

Halderman: The most common cause of this problem is a defective master and/or slave hydraulic clutch cylinder(s). I suggest that both be replaced at the same time to avoid future problems. It is very difficult to bleed trapped air from these systems, so I suggest you have this work performed by an experienced service technician.

