

**Wheels:** A question from John says, “I have a problem with my 1991 Honda Integra with a 1.8 liter engine with automatic transmission. When the weather turns cold and I put it into park, the red park light (the indicator that shows the gear selector is in the Park position) on the dash does not immediately come on. It's then locked into park; that is I can't move it out of the park position. I can turn the engine off but can't rotate the key back far enough to take it out. I've found if I sometimes jiggle the gear shift the red light will come on and I can then take my key out. Sometimes on a cold morning when I just move my car, this won't work and I just let it sit and run for 5 minutes. When I come back out, the little red light is on and I can turn the car off. If the day stays cold, even with continuous driving, this still seems to be a problem. The transmission fluid is fine and besides this the car runs and shifts great while driving. I understand that this is an electronic transmission. Have any ideas?”

**Halderman:** The problem seems to be in the shift linkage between the gear selector and the transaxle. Another possible place to check is in the steering column area because when the transmission is placed in the park position, the steering column is also locked. This is a common fault and is usually corrected by slightly wiggling the steering wheel when engaging or disengaging park. The steering shaft inside the steering column has many notches where a spring-loaded pin fits to lock the column as an anti-theft feature. Often, this pin is in between the notches and will not engage or disengage unless the steering wheel is turned. The same thing can happen when starting. The engine may not engage the starter unless the steering wheel is unlocked and this may require the steering wheel to be rotated slightly. If this does not seem to help, check with a professional service technician. It is possible that a worn engine or transaxle mount could be the cause of the linkage getting in a bind. If the engine or transaxle mount is worn, the engine may be sitting in the engine compartment at an angle. The shift linkage is also affected because it connects from the transaxle, which is attached to the engine, to the steering column, which is attached to the body of the vehicle.

