

Wheels: An e-mail from ex says, “Last year I purchased a 1990 Toyota with the V-6, automatic, and all the power accessories for my son. The car has 168,000 miles on it. It is a very strong running car and the third Camry I have owned. After owning the car for 6 months or so, electrical problems started to occur with many of the options ceasing to function. The order in which they quit working was:

1. the bulb behind the tach burned out
2. the speedometer/odometer
3. the driver’s side power window
4. the driver’s side auto seat belt
5. the driver’s side power door locks
6. all windows, seat belts, and locks
7. the dashboard gear selection display. (The odd thing is that when driving, the “O/D” display flashes on and off in consistent intervals.)

The clock, radio, tach, heater, and the A/C still function. The usual fuses and relays have been checked. Could you please tell me what may have been overlooked? Any insight or advice?

P.S. My son plans on enrolling in Sinclair’s automotive program upon graduation this coming year.”

Halderman: I asked Rex Kent, an assistant professor in the Automotive Technology Department at Sinclair Community College, for his opinion because he used to teach at the Toyota Training Center in Cincinnati. His opinion is that a fault must be present in a major wiring harness due to the number of circuits that are affected. He suggested that the vehicle be checked for signs of any body repairs that would indicate a collision. Maybe the wiring was damaged and not checked because everything functioned okay for a while. A water leak from around the windshield could also cause wiring problems.

