

Wheels: A recent e-mail from Van says, “I have a 1993 Olds Achieva with a 2.3 QUAD 4, DOHC, D code. The engine will not idle correctly, but otherwise accelerates and runs good except at low idle when the engine dies. Could my problem be with the throttle position switch or MAP sensor? I have been told it might be my MAP sensor. Can you shed some light on my problem?”

Halderman: The most likely cause of your stalling is a dirty throttle plate. Gasoline fumes often condense on the backside (engine side) of the throttle plate, which can restrict the flow of air entering the engine. While there could be other faults, I suggest that the throttle plate be thoroughly cleaned before starting to replace parts. To clean the throttle plate, be sure the engine is off and remove the air inlet hose from the throttle body. Have an assistant depress the accelerator pedal all the way to the floor (remember, the engine is off) and use spray throttle body cleaner and a shop cloth to clean the throttle plate and surrounding area. Have the assistant release the throttle and reinstall the air inlet hose to the throttle body. Start the engine and drive for several miles so the computer can “learn” the idle speed. If the problem continues, see an experienced technician who can diagnose the fault using a scan tool.

