

**Wheels:** Mike writes in an e-mail, “My Camry has 127,000 miles and has been flawless other than the replacement of normal items such as battery, wipers, etc. I change the oil every 3 months with a new filter and manufacturer recommended 10W30 Castrol. One early morning recently, it didn’t start though the engine almost turned over. There is plenty of spark from a 2-year old Die Hard battery and a new starter installed just 3 months ago. After calling tow trucks and making an appointment at the dealer next week, I tried to start it again this morning and it started! There was thick exhaust smoke for 30 seconds, but otherwise it has started about 7 times since with no apparent problem. Do you have any ideas for this infrequent difficulty? Could it be a possible fuel pump problem?”

**Halderman:** The first thing that I thought about was that the fuel pressure regulator is defective, allowing fuel to flow into the intake manifold when the engine stops flooding the engine. Another possible cause includes a stuck open fuel injector. The fuel pressure regulator can be tested using a hand-operated vacuum pump to see if the diaphragm can hold vacuum. If it leaks, then the regulator needs to be replaced.

