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Author & Automotive Expert James D. Halderman

What's new with Jim?

Everything is organized for you!

As we approach the holiday season, take a look at the resources that are on the Halderman website. There are three main buttons on the home page and they lead to the following content:

- Book Resources- This button leads to the Pearson automotive textbooks where all of the resources are sorted by chapter making is easy to teach and supply students with the resources that make their learning easier. Also included are quizzes with answers making it easy for instructors.
- **Downloads-** Looking for an animation or a video? Use this button to get to these resources all sorted by ASE area to make it easy to find exactly what you need.
- **Pearson-** FREE resources are available to instructors through the Pearson website. The button also includes where to request an exam copy of any of the Pearson automotive textbooks.

FREE SAMPLE:

Send your name and contact information to the website manager for a free two-day trial. Send your request to Glen at glen@jameshalderman.com

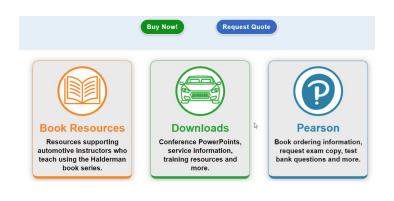
Where's Jim?

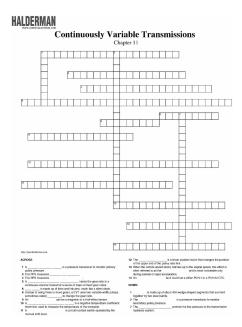
No trips planned for the remainder of 2021.

Keep up with me at:
www.jameshalderman.com
Email Jim
Facebook

Puzzle of the month

Find this month's puzzle of the month at this <u>link</u> and test your students knowledge on CVTs.





Auto Trivia

What year is this Z28 Camaro?

- a. 1967
- b. 1969
- c. 1971
- d. 1973



FAQ

Which Companies Build Automatic Transmissions?

Many larger automobile manufacturers make their own automatic transmissions, including General Motors, Ford, Chrysler, and Honda. However, several companies manufacture automatic transmissions and transaxles that are used in a variety of vehicles. These include:

- **ZF Friedrichshafen AG**. This German company manufactures manual and automatic transmissions and transaxles for many vehicle manufacturers, including Mercedes, BMW, Volvo, VW, Audi, Jaguar, Chrysler, Bentley, and Maserati.
- **Aisin AW**. This Japanese company makes automatic transmissions for many vehicle manufacturers, including Ford, Toyota, Nissan, Mazda, Mitsubishi, Subaru, Kia, and VW.
- JATCO (Japan Automatic Transmission Company). This is a Japanese manufacturer of

automatic transmissions and transaxles for many vehicle manufacturers, including Nissan, Mazda, Infiniti, VW, Mitsubishi, and Suzuki.

^{*}Answer at the bottom

Sample ASE certification-type question

A poor fuel economy concern is being diagnosed. A scan tool check indicates that the torque converter clutch is not being commanded on at highway speeds. Which is the most likely cause?

- a. Low ATF level
- b. Stuck open cooling system thermostat
- c. ATF level too high
- d. A defective torque converter

Answer/Explanation

The correct answer is b. When the temperature of the engine is cold, the computer prevents the operation of the torque converter clutch to allow the engine and the transmission to reach operating temperature as soon as possible. An engine thermostat that is stuck open would prevent the engine from reaching normal operating temperature especially in cold weather, and the computer would prevent the operation of the torque converter clutch, which improves fuel economy. Answers a and c are not correct because even though an incorrect level of ATF can cause transmission problems, it cannot cause the computer to not command the torque converter clutch to engage at highway speeds. Answer d is not correct because even though the torque converter could be faulty, it would not cause the computer to not command the application of the torque converter clutch at highway speeds.

Tech Tip

Magnetic Trays

Many shops use magnetic trays to help keep bolts and nuts organized. For example, one tray can be used just for the oil pan bolts and another for valve body bolts. When not being used, they should be stored attached to a metal workbench or tool box. If a magnetic tray is stored on a wooden workbench, the magnet can lose some of its holding power. Magnetic



trays are an excellent tool to help keep fasteners organized so they do not get misplaced. Some technicians use a separate tray for the fasteners from each major component such as the valve body bolts.

They are available at most auto parts stores.

Case Study

The Starbucks Syndrome

A BMW 520i (122,000 miles) came in with only second gear, limp-in mode. The customer said the car would operate normally one day and have only second gear the next day. The fluid level is correct and appears in good condition. The shop checked for fault codes and found two:

- 1. Gear position switch
- 2. Speed sensor

Testing revealed faults in the gear position switch and speed sensor circuits (called Starbucks syndrome). Starbucks syndrome is a name given to the results of coffee and food spills onto the center console control switches. Corrosion caused by the spills increases resistance at the wire connections. Replacement of these two components fixed the problem.

Summary:

- **Complaint**—Customer complained that the transmission would be stuck in second gear at times.
- Cause—Corrosion found at the electrical connections for two components.
- Correction—The gear position and speed sensors were replaced.

Straight Talk

Owner of a Hybrid Electric Vehicle Concerned About Battery Life

From the October 30 Wheels Section of the Dayton Daily News

Wheels:

Jack W. writes by email:

"I have a 2018 Toyota Avalon hybrid with a nickel-metal hydride (NiMH) battery. I generally keep cars for many years. I am concerned that the battery may give out before I may wish to replace the car. I understand that battery replacement would be very



expensive. In the event the battery did give out, is it possible that the car can be transformed to run on the existing 4-cylinder gasoline engine only? If so, how would the cost of transformation compare to replacing the HV battery? Thanks for your input. Enjoy reading your column".

Halderman:

Thanks for writing. Your high-voltage battery has a ten-year, 150,000 miles warranty. They are very reliable and I have known them to last over ten years and 300,000 miles. While the high- voltage battery does lose some capacity over time, this just results in slightly lower fuel economy.

Almost any shop or dealer can use a scan tool and check on the status of the battery by looking at the difference in voltage and internal resistance of individual modules. It is expensive to replace the high-voltage battery and many experts recommend purchasing a new high-voltage battery from a Toyota dealer if, or when, it has been proved to need replacement. Even though the high-voltage battery is degraded, the vehicle can still function by using the gasoline engine more than usual resulting in reduced fuel economy. I own two hybrid electric vehicles myself and one is ten years old and is still in good health. Don't worry about it and just enjoy it.



Answer To This Month's Trivia: D. 1973

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