

Attack Of The Stuck Distributor

BY TOM AND RAY
MAGLIOZZI

Dear Tom and Ray:
It was a rainy afternoon ... I had driven a couple of miles when the car stalled. I opened the hood and stared at the engine. What else is there to do? After 15 minutes and a few more tries, the engine started and I limped home. It was really wet a few days ago, and again the car just would not start. I decide to pop the distributor cap and have a look. In the process, the clip at the back of the distributor broke off. Of course, the friendly folks at my VW dealership say the clip is part of the distributor itself, not sold separately. Sigh. So I got another distributor on eBay, and went out to remove my old one. No luck. It's frozen to the block and won't budge. So far, I have tried repeated applications of PB Blaster and Liquid Wrench. I have tried prying it out with a crowbar. I got the engine running and let it run for a while, hoping the heat from the engine might help the goop work. I also tried tapping it with a hammer, and when I couldn't get a decent swing due to tight quarters, I moved up to an air chisel, and tried to rotate the base of the distributor with that. It is still stuck solid. Any suggestions for me? - **Jim**
TOM: Well, these all are things we would have tried, Jim. Our next step



Click & Clack

would have been to set the car on fire.

RAY: No, you've far from exhausted your options, Jim. If you haven't already chiseled Teddy Roosevelt's profile into the distributor with the air chisel, one option is to simply forget about the broken clip, and glue a new distributor cap to the base of the old distributor.

TOM: What we do is coat the bottom edge of the cap with a silicone adhesive, and then use the remaining clip and a couple of wire ties to secure it. And once that adhesive sets, the distributor cap won't go anywhere.

RAY: If it's already too late for that (I'm guessing it is), the next thing to try is, with the cap off the distributor and the remaining "good" clip folded out of the way, grabbing the distributor with an oil-filter wrench. An oil-filter wrench has a round metal strap

that you can tighten, and is specifically designed to turn a round object.

TOM: If that doesn't work, then you start double-teaming it. Engage a friend, and have him apply the oil-filter wrench while you work the air chisel. The air chisel also will create vibrations, which may allow the penetrant (the PB Blaster or Liquid Wrench) to work its way in. So keep squirting more of that stuff while you're chiseling and pushing.

RAY: If all that fails, you can attack it from underneath. If you get the car up on ramps, from underneath the car you can apply the air chisel to the bottom of the distributor. That may help work it loose.

TOM: But when you start getting frustrated, make sure you stop and take a break, Jim. It's easy to take out your frustration on the car, and become overzealous. Remember,

you're air-chiseling right near the engine block, and you don't want to accidentally get excited that you sense movement, and then realize you've just chiseled off a piece of the block!

RAY: Right. That'll result in what we call a "\$2,000 distributor clip."

TOM: So fight with it, but fight with it judiciously, Jim. And when you get to the point where you're stringing more than four curse words in a row before you get to the word "distributor," that's the time to wave the white flag and take it to a profession-

al. Good luck.

Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this newspaper, or e-mail them by visiting the Car Talk Web site at www.cartalk.com.
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Home and Personal Property AUCTION

Saturday, June 12 -- 11 a.m.

REAL ESTATE SELLS FIRST

LOCATION: 905 10th Street, 2 blocks north and 1/2 block west of Doug's Food Center, Springfield, SD

REAL ESTATE
Consists of a 1 story 3 bedroom home with full basement, 1 car attached garage and utility building. This very clean well cared for home features a nice floor plan, hardwood floors, 1 1/2 baths, electric heat and central air. This property offers a beautiful landscape complete with an underground lawn sprinkler system and a super location, close to Main Street, church, swimming pool and park. Howard and Dorris Wynia built this home in 1958 and since then this property has had the utmost care and maintenance, both inside and out. Here is one that is ready to move into.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: W1/2 of Lot 2 and all of Lot 3, Block 13

TERMS & CONDITIONS: \$10,000 non-refundable down payment day of auction with balance due upon delivery of Warranty Deed. Title Insurance will be used with a 50-50 cost split between buyer and seller. 2010 Real Estate taxes prorated to closing. Possession upon receipt of final payment. Announcements day of auction take precedence over printed material. Peterson Auctioneers are representing seller.



CAR: 2000 Mercury Grand Marquis LS, loaded and nice, 98,000 miles

ANTIQUES - COLLECTIBLES: Curved glass china; Oak settee with folding mirrors; Oak drop front desk; Cedar chest; Oak chairs; Approximately 35 Snow Village houses and accessories, new in box; Washington Drape Alladin lamp; Butter churn; Hamilton Beach 3 cup malt machine; German and Bavaria plates; Cups and saucers; Tom's Roasted Peanuts jar; Crock bowls and jugs; Pyrex; Miscellaneous collectible glass; Knick Knacks; Glass figurines; Large Curlee Clothes thermometer; Pitcher pump; Cream cans; Barn lanterns; Erector set; Buddy L truck; Texaco fire truck; Miscellaneous other toys, some new in box; Plus other small collectibles.

TOOLS - MISCELLANEOUS: JD LA 120 42" riding mower, 100 hours, nice; Toro 8-24 snowblower; 3.5 hp. shredded chipper; Craftsman 10" table saw; Portable air compressor; Rolling tool cabinet; Tool boxes; Air tools; Rechargeable drill; Battery charger; Socket and wrench sets; Miscellaneous hand tools; Floor jack; Shop vac; Propane heater; Vise; Wood clamps; Extension cords; Aluminum extension and stepladders; Leaf blower; Lawn sweeper; Bird bath; Patio table and chairs; Patio canopy; Gas grill; Lawn and garden supplies; Many golf clubs, bags, balls, etc.; Plus more.

HOUSEHOLD: Gibson refrigerator; Upright freezer; Whirlpool electric range; Whirlpool auto. washer; Modern round oak table and 6 chairs; Oak entertainment center; Near new sofa; Blue leather recliner; Glider rocker; King size bed w/large headboard; Queen size bed; 3 pc. bedroom set; Compaq computer, 5 months old; Epson printer copier; Telephone fax; Paper shredder; Computer desk; Modern roll top desk; Office desk; Files; DP treadmill; Folding tables; Drop leaf table; Various lamps; Stands and shelves; Electric sewing machine; Vacuums; KeroSun heater; Dehumidifier; Quilt rack; Queen size air mattresses; Coolers; Radios; Pictures and wall hangings; Bedding; Blankets; Rugs; Kitchen Aide mixer; Bread machine; Electric appliances; Pots; Pans, Dishes; Plus many more kitchen and household related items.

All items are very clean and well cared for

Howard & Dorris Wynia, Owner

Real estate may be viewed by appointment or attend open house Thursday, June 3 from 5-7 p.m.

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