

Ask Ronny

by Ronny Shaver @ Ronny's Garage

Answering Your Questions About Classic Car Care Service And Restoration

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Common Silver Cloud Issues

by Ronny Shaver

Brake problems:

1. Hard pedal with no power assist. Cause: wet servo.
2. Grabby brakes. Causes: Empty reservoir, sticky wheel cylinders, plugged old brake hoses, leaking wheel cylinders.
3. Low brake pedal. Causes: Servo adjustment, brake shoe adjustment, brake linkage adjustment and or problems.

Suspension problems:

1. Poor ride: Causes: leaking shock absorbers, worn sagging springs, frozen suspension joints.
2. Wandering rear end: Cause: Worn rear spring bushings, Z-bar broken or missing.

Steering problems:

1. Leaks. Common leaks are steering ram (under center of front bumper), steering box pitman and or input shaft seals, steering pump seals and hoses.
2. Looseness. Common problems are idler arm bushing, steering box adjustment and or steering rubber coupling worn out.

Engine problems:

1. Leaks. Six cylinder- common leaks are side covers and rocker cover (sometimes just loose), external oil pipe o-rings, oil level sending unit and cracked oil pan. Eight cylinder- valve cover gaskets, front engine cover sealing strip, valley cover gasket under intake manifold, oil level sending unit, loose oil pan bolts and block weep holes.
2. Noises. Six cylinder-most common noise is tappet noise caused by loose valve adjustments. Eight cylinder- lifter noise, piston slap and worn camshaft.
3. Performance. Common causes are points & condenser, carburetor floats and or adjustments, dirty carburetor dampers and damper fluid low.

Transmission problems:

1. Leaks. Common leaks are oil pan gasket, torus gasket and or front seal, side cover seal, extension housing gasket and seal.
2. Shifting. Common causes are band adjustment and throttle linkage adjustments.

Cooling system problems:

1. Leaks. Common leaks are water pump seals, hoses and radiator matrixes and tanks.
2. Overheating. Common causes are thermostats and plugged radiators. Sometimes head gasket leaks.

Electrical:

1. Lights. Common lighting problems are burnt bulbs, dirty bulb sockets and loose or dirty wiring connections. Turn signals have two flashers so if one side doesn't work, a flasher is the most common fault. Brake light switch contacts are the most common cause for brake lights not working.
2. Horns. Common horn problems are dirty relays, dirty horn vibrator contacts, bad wiring connections.

3. Wipers. Common faults are bad grounds, bad wiring connections and sometimes frozen wiper racks and wheel boxes.

4. Window lifts. Common causes are dirty switches. If you can hear the motor running but the window doesn't move, a broken chain and or motor coupling can cause the problem. Chains often rust and seize if not used for many years. If you window makes a popping noise when it gets to the top, a loose chain is the cause. Loose chains can be caused by broken a spring tensioner and also regulator adjustment.

Thank you for the questions and keep them coming. Please send your questions to Ronny at ronnyshaver@ronnysgarage.com.

Happy Motoring!
Ronny