

insider info.

Electrical Problems?

Check The Alternator

If you encounter a customer complaint of the speedometer needle jumping, dash warning light(s) on/glowing dimly, or an engine driveability problem, etc., check the alternator. One of the simplest ways to see if the alternator is causing the problem is to unplug it. The vehicle will/should run fine with the alternator out of the picture.

If the problem is gone with the alternator disconnected, then quite possibly you have found the source of the problem. It's now up to you to check the alternator/charging system more closely to determine the exact cause.

The battery is only used to start the vehicle and to back up the charging system when/as necessary. When the vehicle is running, it's the alternator's job to supply electrical energy. If the alternator isn't capable of supplying the correct voltage/amps (too much or too little), you can have a problem. It's a pretty simple test if you have the correct equipment. Many shops do, yet fail to utilize this equipment. This may save you and the customer, a lot of time.