

A taste of TaT
Typical front covers of the
latest and most useful
magazine for
the auto technician

Modern repair techniques
may save this car
– but who's going to save him?



TaT's a fact
problem solving

- What air mass meter sensor contamination did for this 2000 Toyota Prado
- Turn right and it changes gear – a real mystery on a 1999 Ford Laser BJ
- Two fuel pumps in three weeks – the diagnosis was very different on this 2002 VT Commodore
- How a routine service added to the oil warning system in this 2000 Holden Astra City





The Automotive Technician

The Automotive Technician (TaT) is the first magazine of its kind in Australasia, featuring practical solutions to every-day problems.

There might be plenty of auto manuals on the shelves, but nothing that will get you to the solution of a problem quickly - and train you at the same time.

TaT gets back to the basics with a magazine full of tested information which will help you resolve time-wasting technical issues.

There's important news about future vehicle technology and articles which are relevant to your everyday work as a technician.

TaT is a breath of fresh air for the technicians of Australasia, bringing to your workbench practical technical information and training aids which will prepare you for the ever-increasing, technically challenging problems of the modern vehicle.

The Automotive Technician is more than a magazine.

We are building the biggest and best database of aftermarket repair and maintenance techniques on our website.

Our information is credible because our own technicians, in specialised TaT workshops, do the research and the repair.

More importantly, the TaT philosophy is one of sharing, so we will be encouraging feedback and input from technicians who have a problem or a solution to share with their fellow technicians.

The TaT team believes technicians



Old 'dogs' will teach you new tricks.

are entering the most exciting era of automotive history.

The role of this magazine, and its associated website is to provide a solid platform for future skills development.

We invite technicians in all spheres of vehicle repair to join with us to celebrate and build on our specialist skills.

Meet the family



The main attraction - a never-ending database of vehicle specific solutions to everyday problems and time-wasting technical mysteries. Delivered in a consistent, well illustrated format. Designed for the computer terminal on your workbench - logged in to the biggest on-line problem solving database ever devised.



Training programs which can be used by wholesalers, associations or groups of interested technicians. Will eventually cover all sorts of vehicle training, accompanied by actual workshop experiences on DVD movies.



Special TaT workshops are already established and will eventually extend to a national network, where subscribers to the TaT program will be able to contribute their problems AND their solutions.



A resource centre devoted to collecting and publishing stories, trends, research, profiles and technical data for sharing with our TaT community.



A never-ending selection of technical tips, aimed at helping technicians with their diagnostic skills - stuff you won't read in the auto manuals to save time and reduce frustration without compromising the integrity of the job.

We'll show you how...precisely ...and even explode airbags





The Automotive Technician

A combination of top talent produces The Automotive Technician and the solutions to everyday problems in the automotive workshop.

Editor in chief is Ken Newton, an award-winning writer (International Automotive Media Award 2006 USA) and regular columnist for MACS Worldwide's MACS Action in the USA.



He is also a documentary maker, CEO of VASA (Vehicle Air conditioning Specialists of Australasia, incorporating the Australian

Association of Automotive Electricians - AAAE), head of the Gold Coast region's longest established public relations consultancy, former ABC senior journalist and newspaperman.

Technical editor and owner of a TaT research workshop in Sydney is Jeff Smit, for the past decade a leading light with AAAE and now a VASA board member.



Top talent tells it how it is

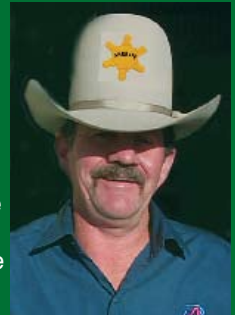
Jeff also heads up TaT's Training agenda, and is developing training content.

Most of the problem solving is performed at Deyan Barrie's extensive workshop and remanufacturing centre in Sydney.

Deyan is a RAAF trained aircraft electrical fitter who has established successful auto electrical workshops in NSW and is respected for his diagnostic and remanufacturing skills.



Holden College trainer Jack Stepanian (above right) is on the team, and so is international gymnastic champion and columnist Haley Windsor (above left). We even have our own sheriff, Ashley Teitzel of Toowoomba, Queensland, who rides shotgun on the sometimes bizarre work practices of the outback.



He is also the MTA NSW councillor of the Automotive Electrical Division and was President of AAAE until its merger with VASA in 2007. He now serves on the VASA board.

Automotive trainer and scan tool expert, Nick Murphy (left, with his diagnostic dartboard) will feature as a regular columnist.



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The Automotive Technician

magazine for the best technical problem solving service on the web.

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(see the sample on the back page)

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FORLA99215
FORD
LASER BJ
9-1999
4 cylinder



Customer complaint

Gear changing problems, even after gearbox overhaul. Worse when vehicle is turning right.

Problem summary

After extensive road testing and analysing of the problem, it was found the gearbox was violently down-shifting when turning right (indicator on) and when foot on brake (brake light on).

Diagnostic sequence

The main diagnostic tool was a more thorough investigative communication with the customer than might normally be required, followed by extensive road testing, trying many things to trigger the fault.

This case, due to previous repairs to the transmission, coupled with the customer's note that the condition was worse on turning right, pointed to a link which required detailed investigation.

Fault description

During road testing, it was discovered that the problem only occurred when the foot brake was applied, but worsened when the right hand indicator was activated at the same time.

After inspecting the driver side rear lamp assembly and testing its earth connections, it was discovered that the earth circuit had a poor connection to the vehicle body.

This was causing a voltage feed-back to the reverse light circuit back to the auto ECU.

This voltage was seen by the auto ECU as an indication that the vehicle was in reverse gear, therefore causing violent down-shifting.

Fault solution

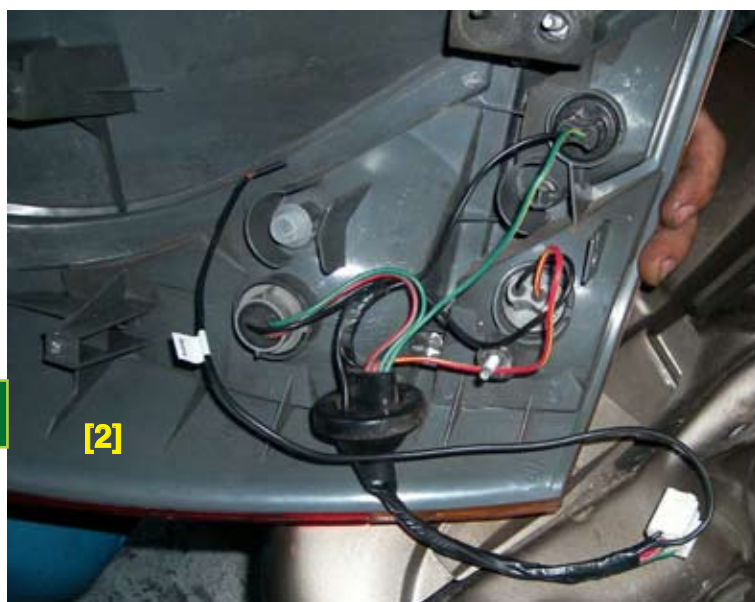
The removal of the driver's side rear lamp [1], and inspection of the wiring and globe holders [2].

An additional earth cable was run from the vehicle chassis to the globe holders.

Removal of the passenger side light and inspection of the connections is also recommended.

Recommended time

Total time was three and a half hours including customer liaison, extensive road testing,



research and actual time spent fixing the problem.



This is one of those cases where, on the surface, there would appear to be no link between a rear light fault and harsh transmission gear changing.

This highlights the need for technicians to always keep an open mind to the possible causes of what might appear to be a mechanical fault.

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Service light reset

Audi
Model A3 and A4
1998 till 2001

- 1 Turn off the ignition
- 2 Press and hold the trip reset button on the instrument cluster while switching on the ignition
- 3 Oil Service should appear on display
- 4 Pull out the clock set button on the instrument cluster and hold in position until the message 'oil service' is cleared from the display
- 5 To reset inspection service, press the trip reset again to call up the next service message which should read 'service INSP'
- 6 Pull out the clock set button again until the message is cleared
- 7 Turn off the ignition