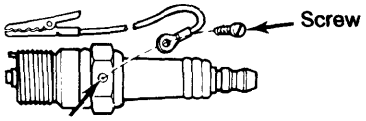
Ignition Systems

TROUBLE SHOOTING

SECONDARY



Visually inspect spark plug wires, coil wire, plug wire boots, rotor and distributor cap for damage.

- NO → Repair or replace damaged components as necessary.
- OK → For testing, modify spark plug by attaching ground wire to plug body and widening gap to 1/4-3/8". Disconnect spark plug wire and insert test plug. Ground plug, crank engine and check for spark.
  - Plugs Spark → If plug sparks, problem is most likely not in the ignition system. Check the fuel system or engine for mechanical problems.
  - No Spark → Remove coil wire from distributor and attach modified spark plug. Ground plug, crank engine and check for spark.
    - No Spark → Proceed to Ignition Primary Quick Check Chart.
    - Plugs Spark → If plug sparks, problem is in spark plug wires, distributor cap or rotor. Replace components as necessary.

PRIMARY

Inspect all ignition secondary wiring for broken, frayed, split or cut wires. Also check for loose, corroded or disconnected connectors.

- NO → Repair or replace components as necessary.
- OK → Check battery voltage. Should be at least 11.5 volts.
  - NO → Replace or recharge battery.
  - OK → Check for battery voltage at positive terminal of coil.
    - OK → Check air gap of pick-up coil in distributor.
      - OK → Check pick-up coil resistance for correct value.
        - NO → Replace pick-up coil if not to specification.
        - OK → Check control module for good ground connections.
          - OK → If vehicle still fails to run, turn to appropriate article in this manual for complete primary ignition checks with specifications.
      - NO → Adjust or replace as necessary.
    - NO → Check resistance of ballast resistor (if used) for correct value.
      - OK → Check wires from battery/ignition switch to coil. Also check coil primary and secondary resistance.
      - NO → Replace ballast resistor is value is not to specification.

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