

SECTION 10-B

ELECTRICAL TROUBLE DIAGNOSIS

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10-7 BATTERY AND CABLES—TROUBLE DIAGNOSIS

a. Quick Check of Battery and Cables

Whenever electrical trouble develops it is desirable to make a quick check of the battery and cables to make certain that this source of current is in good condition, securely connected, and is functioning properly. This check will also give a good check on the cranking system.

1. Turn on the lights. They should burn steadily and with normal brilliance.

2. With lights burning, operate the cranking motor. Either have the headlights shining on a wall so their brilliance can be noted, or have someone watching the headlights.

3. When cranking motor solenoid switch is closed, one of the following conditions will occur: (1) Lights will stay bright or will dim slightly if temperature is cold, and engine will be cranked at normal speed; (2) Lights will go out; (3) Lights will dim considerably; (4) Lights will stay bright but no cranking action will take place. The first named condition indicates that nothing is wrong with the battery, cables, and cranking system. The other conditions indicate trouble as follows:

4. *If lights go out* as cranking motor solenoid switch is closed, it indicates a poor connection in the circuit between battery and cranking motor. Check battery cables and clean and tighten loose or corroded terminals (par. 10-18).

5. *If lights dim considerably* as cranking motor solenoid switch is closed, it indicates that the battery is run down, or there is a condition in cranking motor or engine which causes an excessive current drain on the battery. A low battery will be indicated by a clattering noise in cranking motor solenoid because the battery cannot sustain the voltage required to hold solenoid plunger "in" after switch contacts close and the "pull in" winding is shorted out.

Test battery with a light load test (par. 10-16). If battery is found to be in good condition check cranking motor (par. 10-33).

6. *If lights stay bright but no cranking action occurs* when cranking motor solenoid switch is closed, it indicates an open circuit in cranking motor, switch, or control circuit. See paragraph 10-9.

b. Undercharge Failure of Battery

The most frequent trouble experienced with storage batteries is failure to maintain a state of charge sufficient to crank the engine and also furnish current to the ignition system, lights and accessories. Failure to maintain a proper state of charge may be due to one or more of the following conditions:

1. *Operating Conditions.* When determining cause of premature failure of a battery, consideration must be given to the conditions under which the car is operated.

In very low temperatures the capacity of a storage battery is considerably reduced and the energy required for cranking the engine is considerably increased.

Frequent starting, particularly in cold weather, accompanied by short runs may take more energy from the battery for cranking than the generator can replace in the limited running time. This condition is aggravated by night driving when lights are turned on, or by operation of an air conditioner in heavy traffic.

When the car is operated under these conditions, adjusting the voltage regulator to the high limit may allow enough increase to keep the battery at a safe state of charge. If the high limit setting does not maintain a safe state of charge an occasional booster charge should be given to the battery.

2. *Low Charging Rate.* In case of premature battery failure the charging rate of gen-

erator should always be checked and adjusted if below specifications. See paragraph 10-23 and 10-26.

3. *Internal Condition.* The internal condition of the battery may be such that it cannot hold a charge satisfactorily. Check electrolyte level and light load test the battery (par. 10-16).

c. Overcharge Failure of Battery

One of the most common causes of battery failure is overcharging, that is, continued input of excessive charging current after the battery has reached a fully charged condition.

One evidence that battery is being overcharged is the need for frequent addition of water to the battery in order to maintain the electrolyte level above the tops of the battery separators, since overcharging causes rapid water loss. When this becomes evident the charging rate of generator should be immediately checked and adjusted (par. 10-23 and 10-26) to avoid internal damage to battery.

Another evidence of overcharging when this has continued for an appreciable period of time, is the external appearance of battery. If the positive ends of cell covers are pushed up it indicates that the positive plates have swelled as a result of overcharging. A battery in such condition usually requires replacement to insure dependable service.

10-8 GENERATING SYSTEM—TROUBLE DIAGNOSIS

When a complaint is registered regarding operation of the generating system, trouble diagnosis should be governed by the following points.

a. Battery Runs Down

1. Light load test battery to see if battery is actually low. If low, quick-charge battery. Test battery to see if it is defective (par. 10-17, a).

2. If battery tests okay, run engine at approximately 1500 RPM (accessories off) and check charging voltage at battery terminals. Voltmeter should read 14 to 15 volts. If out of limits, test generator (par. 10-23) and regulator (par. 10-26).

3. If charging voltage is okay, but battery is low, check for a continuous short or ground in car electrical system.

4. If there is no short or ground and charging voltage is okay, car operating conditions may be such that generating system cannot keep up with electrical loss from battery. An occasional battery charge or a trickle charger may be necessary.

b. Battery Needs Water Too Often

Battery is probably overcharging due to charging voltage being too high. Check and adjust generator regulator, using a regulator temperature gauge to make sure voltage setting is correct according to temperature.

c. Generator Indicator Light Comes On Above Idle

If generator indicator light comes on only at slow idle, generating system is normal. However, if light comes on with engine running faster than idle, generator is not putting out sufficient voltage. Test generator (par. 10-23) and regulator (par. 10-26).

d. Generator Indicator Light Never Comes On

Generator indicator light should come on when ignition is turned on and before engine is started. If light does not come on, check light bulb or complete indicator circuit as necessary (par. 10-55, c).

10-9 CRANKING SYSTEM—TROUBLE DIAGNOSIS

a. No Cranking Action When Accelerator Pedal is Pressed

1. Make sure ignition switch is turned on. On cars equipped with Dynaflo Drive, control lever must be in neutral (N) or parking (P) position.

2. Make quick check of battery and cables (par. 10-7). If battery is low the solenoid usually will produce a clattering noise, because a nearly discharged battery will not sustain the voltage required to hold solenoid plunger in after solenoid switch has been closed.

3. If cranking motor operates but drive pinion does not engage flywheel ring gear, drive assembly is sticking on armature shaft. If drive pinion engages ring gear but does not drive it, overrunning clutch is slipping. Remove motor to free-up or replace drive assembly.

4. If cranking motor does not operate, note whether solenoid plunger is pulled into solenoid when control circuit is closed. Ordinarily the plunger makes a loud click when it is pulled in. If plunger is pulled in, control circuit is okay and trouble is in solenoid switch or cranking motor. The cranking motor must be removed for repairs to switch or motor (par. 10-38).

5. If plunger is not pulled into solenoid when control circuit is closed, the control circuit is open, the relay is inoperative, or solenoid is at fault.

6. Use screwdriver to ground relay terminal to which light green wire is connected. If cranking motor then operates when control circuit is closed, the circuit from relay to ground through generator is open. Ground the "A" terminal of generator with jumper wire, and if cranking motor then operates look for dirty commutator, worn out brushes, or open field coils in generator.

7. If cranking motor does not operate with relay terminal grounded (step 6) connect a 12-volt test lamp between the small pink wire on relay and ground. If lamp lights when accelerator pedal is pressed, control circuit to relay is okay and trouble is in relay, ignition switch, or solenoid.

8. Connect jumper wire between positive battery terminal and terminal on solenoid switch relay to which black wire is connected. If cranking motor does not operate, remove motor for inspection and test of solenoid switch (par. 10-36).

9. If, in step 8, cranking motor operates satisfactorily, trouble is in relay or ignition switch. Connect jumper wire between positive battery terminal and terminal on relay to which large pink wire is connected. With ignition switch on, depress accelerator pedal. If cranking motor operates, relay is okay and trouble is in ignition switch. If motor does not operate, replace the relay.

10. If, in step 7, control circuit to relay was found open (test lamp did not light) check for loose connections or broken wires. Use jumper wire to bridge across terminals of accelerator vacuum switch and neutral safety switch (Dynaflow cars only) to check these units. If vacuum switch appears to be cause of open circuit, first make sure that throttle linkage and dash pot (Dynaflow) are correctly adjusted (par. 3-

9) since sticking or improper adjustment which holds throttle open will prevent the vacuum switch from making contact. If linkage and dash pot are properly adjusted check vacuum switch timing (par. 10-30).

b. Cranking Speed Abnormally Low

Abnormally low cranking speed may be caused by low battery or defective cables, defective solenoid switch, defective cranking motor, or an internal condition of engine.

1. Make quick check of battery. If low battery is indicated, test battery (par. 10-16 and 10-17). If defective cables are indicated, test cables (par. 10-18).

2. If battery and cables are okay, test cranking motor and solenoid switch (par. 10-34).

3. If cranking motor and solenoid switch test okay, the trouble is due to an internal condition of engine. This may be due to use of engine oil which is too heavy for prevailing temperatures. NOTE: *In cold weather always depress clutch pedal when cranking engine to avoid the load caused by stiff lubricant in transmission.* Car owners should be given this instruction. Tight pistons or bearings also impose a heavy load on the cranking motor.

c. Drive Pinion Clash After Starting

If drive pinion clash occurs immediately following disengagement of pinion from flywheel ring gear after engine has started running, try starting engine by holding accelerator pedal to the floor until engine has reached a speed between 15 and 20 MPH. If clash occurs, check the following points.

1. Make quick check of battery (par. 10-7). If low battery is indicated, check electrolyte level and light load test the battery (par. 10-17). Replace low battery with fully charged battery and test for clash again. A low battery will cause drive pinion clash because the generator voltage, which builds up quickly to maximum, causes a momentary voltage between generator and battery great enough to cause solenoid switch relay to close again and operate the solenoid.

2. If clash occurs with properly charged battery, test closing voltage of generator cutout relay (par. 10-26). A high closing voltage will cause drive pinion clash.

3. If battery and cutout relay are up to speci-

fications, test cut-in and cut-out of solenoid switch relay (par. 10-35).

4. If source of trouble has not been found, check accelerator vacuum switch timing (par. 10-30). *Clash of drive pinion from this cause usually occurs while driving at low speed rather than on initial starts.*

d. Delayed Disengagement of Drive Pinion

Delayed disengagement of drive pinion from flywheel ring gear can be identified by a "zooming" sound as cranking motor is speeded up by the engine. This condition may be caused by dirty generator commutator and brushes, oxidized voltage regulator contact points, sticking solenoid plunger or cranking motor drive assembly, or by a weak shift lever return spring.

1. Inspect generator commutator and brushes and clean if dirty (par. 10-23).

2. Inspect voltage regulator contact points and clean if oxidized or pitted (par. 10-27).

3. If solenoid plunger or cranking motor drive assembly is sticking, or shift lever return spring is weak, cranking motor must be removed so that these parts may be properly inspected and cleaned. See paragraph 10-36 (b) for pinion clearance check.

10-10 IGNITION SYSTEM—TROUBLE DIAGNOSIS

If engine trouble has arisen which seems to be due to improper operation of the ignition system, it may be desirable to make a quick preliminary check of the ignition system before making a complete analysis, in order to determine whether the ignition system is actually at fault. The quick checks described in this paragraph may be used but it must be understood that they are no substitute for the complete ignition system inspection. The checks to be made depend on whether the engine will or will not run.

a. Engine Will Not Run

1. Make quick check of battery and cables (par. 10-7) if cranking motor does not turn engine at normal cranking speed.

2. Pull coil high tension cable from distributor cap and hold the lead terminal about

$\frac{3}{16}$ " from a clean ground point on engine. If a good spark occurs while engine is being cranked, the primary circuit and the secondary circuit to this point may be considered to be okay. Proceed with steps 3 through 6.

3. Remove distributor cap and check interior for moisture, corroded terminal segments, and check terminal sockets for corrosion. Check rotor for corrosion. Clean off corrosion and wipe distributor cap dry.

4. Inspect ignition cables for possible short circuits and corroded terminals. Remove and inspect spark plugs (par. 10-42).

5. If cause of trouble has not been found, check approximate ignition timing (par. 10-41).

6. If engine still fails to run, the trouble is probably due to causes other than ignition, such as lack of fuel, carburetion, or compression loss.

7. If spark did not occur at coil high tension lead (step 2 above) then connect 12-volt test lamp between distributor primary terminal and ground and crank engine. If test light flickers on and off as engine is cranked the primary circuit is probably okay. Check ignition coil (par. 10-43) and condenser (par. 10-44).

8. If test light remains on as engine is cranked, contact points are not closing properly; check point opening and ground connection in distributor (par. 10-45).

9. If test light remains off as engine is cranked, the primary circuit is open or the points are not opening properly. Check for loose connections, broken leads, defective switch, contact point opening, and primary circuit winding in coil. Visual inspection of points and the use of a test lamp or voltmeter will locate the source of this trouble.

b. Engine Runs, But Not Satisfactorily

1. When missing, loss of power, or hard starting is present a complete checkup of the ignition system is in order, since these conditions may result from anything from a low battery to defective spark plugs, or from other engine conditions not related to ignition. In this case, the complete inspection of ignition system should be used.

2. Detonation may be caused by improper timing (par. 10-41), improper operation of centrifugal or vacuum advance mechanism (par. 10-39, d), worn distributor bearings or a bent shaft, dirty or wrong heat range spark plugs (par. 10-42). It may also be caused by overheating, excessive carbon in cylinders, or by low octane fuel.

3. Overheating may be caused by one or more of the conditions which contribute to detonation, as well as by faults in engine cooling system.

10-11 LIGHTING SYSTEM—TROUBLE DIAGNOSIS

a. Thermo Circuit Breaker Vibrates—Lights Flicker

When the thermo circuit breaker vibrates and causes lights to flicker it indicates a short in one of the front lighting circuits, which may be traced as follows:

1. Pull switch successively to each lighting position.
2. If the circuit breaker vibrates in "parking" position only, look for a short in front parking lamp circuit.
3. If the circuit breaker vibrates in lower beam position only, inspect lower beam headlight wiring circuit and lamp assemblies. If both filaments in outer headlamps burn at same time, headlamp unit should be replaced.
4. If circuit breaker vibrates in upper beam position only, inspect upper beam headlight wiring circuit and lamp assemblies.
5. If circuit breaker vibrates in both lower and upper beam positions, inspect wiring between headlight switch and dimmer switch.
6. When tracing circuits refer to the appropriate chassis wiring circuit diagram in Section 10-J.

b. Lamps Fail to Burn

In general, failure of any lamp indicates a burned out bulb, an open circuit in the wiring, a defective switch, or a burned out fuse. See paragraph 10-47 for test of lighting switch. See wiring circuit diagrams in Section 10-J.

c. Lights Flare up Excessively when Engine is Speeded Up

This condition is caused by high voltage in electrical system due to one or more of the following:

1. Electrolyte in battery low or weak (par. 10-15, 10-16).

2. High resistance in circuit between generator and positive post of battery *due to loose or dirty connections* (par. 10-23).

3. Poor ground between battery and generator.

4. Voltage regulator adjusted too high or inoperative (par. 10-26).

10-12 SIGNAL SYSTEMS—TROUBLE DIAGNOSIS

a. Stop Lights

If only one stop light fails to burn, check lamp bulb, socket and wiring. If both stop lights fail to burn, also check stop light switch and "DIR. SIG." fuse on fuse block under cowl. If direction signal lamps flash, however, fuse is okay since it protects both these circuits. See chassis wiring circuit diagram in Section 10-J.

If stop light burns when brake pedal is released, check stop light switch, also check brake pedal clearance and check for dragging brakes. If the compensating port in brake master cylinder is plugged by foreign material, or is covered by the piston primary cup when brake pedal is released, high pressure will be maintained in hydraulic system and stop light switch will remain closed.

b. Direction Signal Lights

If signal lights are inoperative on both turns, look for blown "DIR. SIG." fuse or a defective flasher on fuse block under cowl. See paragraph 10-54 (c). If the stop lights burn, the fuse and rear signal lamp bulb are okay.

An inoperative *right* indicator light may be caused by a burned out bulb at *right* indicator or a *right* signal lamp. The opposite applies for inoperative left indicator light.

If bulbs are found okay, look for open circuit or defective switch. See chassis wiring diagrams in Section 10-J.

c. Horns

1. *Horns Will Not Blow.* Break circuit at connector on steering column jacket and ground the wire. If horns now blow, horn control circuit in steering column jacket has an open circuit. Reconnect wire at jacket connector. Check horn button contacts and contact adjustment.

If horns still do not blow when wire at steering column jacket is grounded, substitute a known good relay. If horns will now blow, old

relay is defective and horn relay and terminal block assembly must be replaced.

If horns still will not blow with new horn relay, check wiring connections throughout horn circuit. See figure 10-92 or 93 for chassis wiring diagrams.

2. *Horns Will Not Stop Blowing.* Break circuit at connector on steering column jacket. If horns now stop blowing, horn control circuit in steering column jacket is continuously grounded. Check horn button contacts and contact adjustment.

If horns still do not stop blowing when wire at steering column jacket is disconnected, substitute a known good relay. If horns now stop blowing, old relay contacts are sticking and horn relay and terminal block assembly must be replaced.

If horns still do not stop blowing with new horn relay, control circuit is grounded between relay and connector on jacket.

3. *Horn Tone is Poor.* If either horn blows only part of the time, or tone is poor, adjust current draw at horn (par. 10-52).

4. *Voltage Test at Horn.* An improperly operating horn and its wiring circuit can also be tested by connecting a voltmeter between the horn terminal and ground and noting the voltage while the horn button is pressed. The voltage at the horn gives an indication of the cause of trouble, as follows:

(a) *No voltage* indicates trouble in horn button, relay, wiring, or ground.

(b) *Less than 7 volts* indicates trouble in wiring or excessive current draw due to short circuit in horn.

(c) *Voltage between 7 and 11* indicates that wiring is okay. Look for sticking or improper adjustment of horn (par. 10-52).

(d) *Voltage above 11* indicates improper adjustment (par. 10-52) or open circuit in horn due to broken coil lead.

10-13 INSTRUMENTS AND CLOCK— TROUBLE DIAGNOSIS

a. Gasoline Gauge

If gasoline gauge shows *full under all conditions* look for an open circuit in line between dash and tank units. If gauge shows *empty under all conditions* look for ground in wiring between dash and tank units. See chassis wiring circuit diagrams in Section 10-J.

If check of wiring does not disclose cause of trouble, test dash unit, wiring circuit, and tank unit (par. 10-57).

b. Electric Clock

If clock gains or loses time it may be regulated as described in paragraph 10-56.

If clock does not run, check for blown "CLOCK" fuse on fuse block under cowl. If fuse is blown check for short in wiring; if fuse is not blown check for open circuit. See chassis wiring circuit diagram in Section 10-J.

With an electric clock, the most frequent cause of clock fuse blowing is low voltage at the clock which will prevent a complete wind and allow clock contacts to remain closed. This may be caused by any of the following: discharged battery, corrosion on contact surface of battery terminals, loose connections at battery terminals, at junction block, at fuse clips, or at terminal connection on bottom of clock. Therefore, if in reconnecting battery or clock it is noted that the clock is not ticking always check for blown fuse, and examine the circuits at the points indicated to determine and correct the cause.

c. Speedometer

If speedometer registers neither speed nor mileage look for broken cable. If it appears to be noisy, speed indicator wavers or does not properly indicate changes in speed, test overall operation as described in paragraph 10-58.

If speedometer speed and mileage readings are not accurate first check tires for proper size. If tires are of correct size check speedometer driven gear for correct number of teeth (par. 4-7). If tires and driven gear are correct, remove speedometer head and have it checked by an authorized AC Speedometer service station.