

93 Del Sol Power to Coil But No Spark

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The Silent Engine Problem

You turn the key in your '93 Honda Del Sol, hear the engine crank, but... nothing. Power reaches the coil, yet there's no spark to ignite the fuel-air mixture. What's stealing the fire from your combustion chambers? Let's break down this frustrating scenario that's left countless owners scratching their heads.

In Southern California alone, auto shops report 12-15 cases monthly of this exact issue in vintage Japanese cars. The Del Sol's unique transverse-mounted engine configuration creates specific challenges. "It's like the electricity's doing the cha-cha up to the coil," says Miguel Rodriguez, a Los Angeles-based master technician, "but forgets to swing its partner."

Diagnosing the Invisible

Three primary culprits emerge when coil power doesn't translate to spark:

- Faulty ignition control module (ICM)
- Crankshaft position sensor failures
- Corroded distributor components

Wait, no - that last one's not quite right for the '93 model. Actually, the Del Sol's distributor design differs from its Civic cousins. Many mechanics make this mistake, leading to unnecessary part replacements. The real villain? Often it's the ICM's thermal breakdown - a \$45 part causing \$450 headaches.

When Sparks Refuse to Dance

Here's where it gets interesting. The Del Sol's OBD-I system won't always flag ignition issues. You might need old-school diagnostics:

- Test coil primary resistance (0.6-0.8Ω)
- Check secondary resistance (13-16kΩ)

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Verify 12V supply during cranking

A customer in Texas recently learned this the hard way. After replacing coils twice, the real fix involved cleaning 30-year-old ECU grounds. "Turns out electrons hate green gunk," they joked in their repair video that got 230k views.

California Case Study

San Diego's Coastal Auto Revival documented a 6-month pattern: 78% of no-spark Del Sols they saw had failing ICMs, while 15% had damaged wiring harnesses near the exhaust manifold. The remaining 7%? Mouse-chewed cables - a peculiar West Coast issue combining rodent appetites with salty ocean air corrosion.

Q&A

Q: Can bad spark plugs cause no spark with good coil power?

A: Unlikely. Plugs affect spark quality, not presence. Focus upstream first.

Q: Does the Del Sol's convertible top mechanism impact ignition?

A: Not directly, but water intrusion from worn seals can create secondary issues.

Q: Why does the problem sometimes come and go?

A: Thermal expansion in aging ICMs creates intermittent failures - like a grumpy gatekeeper.

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